

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star  Courier

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

Volunteers urgently needed for Crosby Cleanup this Saturday

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY — The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce is calling on residents, families and community groups to volunteer for the Crosby Cleanup this Saturday, Oct. 17.

The communitywide effort will take place from 9 a.m. to noon, with volunteers gathering behind Crosby Middle School in the stadium parking lot. Organizers plan to send teams to roadways, storefronts, parks, medians and other public areas—but they need more volunteers to make the cleanup successful.

Families, churches, youth groups, businesses and civic organizations are encouraged to participate. Anyone planning to help must visit the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce website to sign up and complete the required paperwork before the event. Registering online will help organizers prepare assignments, coordinate supplies and place volunteers in appropriate cleanup areas.

Velma Ellison, board chairman of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce, said the cleanup is about more than collecting litter. It is an opportunity to remind residents and businesses that maintain-

ing the community is a shared responsibility.

“The Chamber is the one organization that can bring people together for a common purpose,” Ellison said. “The purpose of our event is just to clean up the streets and to cause awareness for the public and groups that might want to participate to become better citizens and want to give back to their community in the future.”

The chamber previously hosted an annual cleanup day, and organizers hope this weekend’s event will revive that tradition of community service. Ellison said litter is visible throughout the area, although residents may not

recognize the extent of the problem until they take a closer look.

“It’s everywhere,” Ellison said. “You don’t realize how bad it is until you get out and walk around and look close.”

Volunteers will be assigned according to the needs of each area and the makeup of their group. Families with younger children may be directed to safer locations such as parks, while other teams may work along larger roads. Trash bags, gloves and water will be provided, and churches are expected to help provide lunch afterward.

Some participating organizations already have

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CHCC
CROSBY HUFFMAN
Chamber of Commerce

CLEAN-UP DAY

CLEANER SPACES • STRONGER NEIGHBORS • A BRIGHTER CROSBY

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17TH**

**9:00 AM –
12:00 PM**

**CROSBY
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
14703 FM 2100
Crosby, TX

Join businesses, schools, churches, civic groups, and neighbors
as we work together to keep Crosby clean and beautiful.



**VOLUNTEER
SIGN UP HERE:**


 **281-328-6984**

 **crosbyhuffmancc.org**

specific responsibilities. Bostick Services is expected to remove bandit signs from utility poles and collect filled trash bags. Harris County Precinct 3 is providing a roll-off container at its maintenance barn for the collected debris.

Even with that support, the chamber still needs people willing to give a few hours Saturday morning.

“We need volunteers,”

Continued. See **VOLUNTEERS
URGENTLY NEEDED**, Page 6

IN THE STARS

Highlands Methodist Church to Celebrate Centennial

Highlands Methodist Church invites the community to celebrate its 100th anniversary 1926 - 2026

Saturday 17

Live and silent auctions | Fish Dinner | Bake sale | Historical displays.

Sunday 18

Centennial Worship
Celebration begins at 10:30 a.m. | followed by a catered lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Community Events

PUMPKIN PATCH

The Kipper Koffee is hosting a pumpkin patch at 5815 FM 2100 across from Crawfish Shack through October. Photos this Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., mini photo session for \$35 and one print for families, friends, and more with the option to buy more. On Saturday, October 24, they will host Pups and Pumpkins with 30 unique vendors from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. It will also include a haunted trail and pumpkin patch fun! Pumpkins for sale all during the month beginning this Sunday, October 11. For more information, email at kipperkoffee@icloud.com.

BINGO NIGHT

The American Legion Hall at 14890 FM 2100 is sponsoring a **Bingo Night** every Tuesday. The doors open at 5 p.m. for social hour and games begin at 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. The bar will be open and Blue Line barbecue will be selling tacos at the event for Taco Tuesday. An ATM will be on the property for cash. For more information, call Melissa McBride at 832-922-3418.

Chamber to Host Election Luncheon

CROSBY – The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Election Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90.

The event features a catered meal for 40 Acres of Soul Southern Food and desserts by a Celebrity Mystery Chef. All members in good standing are entitled to one vote per membership.

Tickets are \$25 for early birds (by Oct. 9) and \$30 at the door. **To register, visit** Crosbyhuffmancc.org or call 281-328-6984.

Broken screen pushed Crosby water system to the brink during drought

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY — A failed computer display at Crosby Municipal Utility District’s surface-water treatment plant forced the district to rely for several weeks on a backup groundwater well, creating a potentially dangerous water shortage as drought conditions drove up demand across Harris County.

The control-panel screen failed Sept. 10, leaving operators unable to run the surface-water plant. The district asked customers to sharply curtail water use while it waited for a replacement, prohibiting outdoor watering, swimming-pool filling and other nonessential uses.

Everyday household water use could continue, but district officials warned



that the backup well was not designed to meet Crosby’s full demand for an extended period.

“The backup part for the computer going out on the surface water was that we have a well,” Crosby MUD President Eddie Foster said. “We went to the well, but the well can only produce so much water.”

The breakdown came at a particularly difficult time. Dry weather had residents watering lawns and washing vehicles, Foster said, while drought conditions

were affecting much of Harris County. Federal drought data show that September was the county’s 42nd-driest September in 132 years, with rainfall 1.54 inches below normal. About 70 percent of Harris County’s population was affected by drought conditions in the latest federal assessment, according to Drought.gov.

As usage continued, Foster said, the well was being drawn down nearly to its limit each day.

“People were watering their yards, washing their cars, and the well was getting to the bottom every day,” he said. “If we had a fire or something like that, or a big water leak, we would actually have run out of water in Crosby.”

The risk prompted the

Continued. See **FAMILY OF SLAIN
HOUSTON FATHER**, Page 6

Gilbert “Gil” Hoffman Leaves a Legacy of Service, Community, and Progress in East Aldine

For more than two decades, Gilbert “Gil” Hoffman has been part of East Aldine’s story — first as a community publisher telling the stories of its residents and later as a member of the East Aldine Management District (EAMD) Board of Directors, helping shape its future.

For Hoffman, the two roles were never separate.

“My roles as a publisher and as a board member have gone hand-in-hand, because oftentimes the issues that appear on the agenda that EAMD debates and develops solutions to are the same topics being covered in the newspaper,” Hoffman said. “Each one informs the other.”

After 17 years of service on the EAMD Board, Hoff-

**A Legacy of
Leadership & Service**

For more than two decades, Gilbert “Gil” Hoffman has been part of the story of East Aldine — helping residents stay connected to their community through local news and lending his time, perspective, and professional experience to the East Aldine Management District.



GILBERT HOFFMAN
Board Member of the
East Aldine District

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ALDINEDISTRICT.ORG



man recently submitted his resignation from his Position 8 seat, citing serious

health concerns.

In his resignation letter, Hoffman reflected on his

years of community service.

“It has been my pleasure to serve the citizens of East Aldine for the past 22 years,” he wrote. “I am pleased to have participated in the progress we have made in the quality of life in the district.”

Although his EAMD Board service spanned 17 years, Hoffman’s involvement in the community began earlier. He said serving on the EAMD Board brought him closer to the community his newspaper, the Northeast News, represents and continued a long-held commitment to public service.

“The previous newspaper publishers [Donna and Vic Mauldin] were retiring, and in taking over for them, I was fortunate to inherit a well-established relation-

ship with the community,” Hoffman said. “Getting more and more involved was a natural extension of my work as a reporter and publisher.”

From Designing Spaces to Connecting People

Hoffman’s path from architecture to community publishing may seem like a career change. Still, for him, the two have always shared a common purpose: understanding a community and helping shape the places and connections that make it stronger.

After retiring from architecture in 1995, Hoffman turned his attention to community publishing. He believed newspapers played an important role

Continued. See **GILBERT HOFFMAN
LEAVES LASTING**, Page 2

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Gilbert Hoffman leaves lasting East Aldine legacy,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in helping people feel connected to the place they called home.

That belief grew from a lifelong interest in community journalism.

“As a boy, I would write articles about the goings-on in my neighborhood, then print them on a small press at home, and my younger sister and brother would help me distribute them to everyone on the street,” Hoffman said. “I have a natural curiosity about how things work, which is satisfied through investigation and documentation. These are of course the foundation of journalism.”

When Hoffman eventually became publisher of the Northeast News, that curiosity became a way of life — and his involvement with East Aldine grew naturally from it.

That connection between community journalism and community development became a defining thread of Hoffman's career in East Aldine. Through the newspaper, he helped residents stay informed about the issues, projects, and people shaping their community. Through his work with EAMD, he helped shape some of those projects himself.

His architectural training provided another important connection.

“I think that my background as an architect has lent itself well to community development,” Hoffman said. “At its core, architecture is about understanding a problem and then arriving at an elegant solution.”

He saw a similar process in the work of EAMD.

“My training allowed me to bring methodical, step-by-step thinking to each project, to help the board design a good plan of action — like a blueprint,” he said.

Helping Build East Aldine's Future

One of Hoffman's proudest accomplishments came through his leadership on the facilities committee responsible for designing and developing the East Aldine headquarters building.

“I am especially proud of heading the facility committee that was responsible for designing and developing the East Aldine headquarters building,” Hoffman said. “It is a key-note structure that represents the accomplishments of the community.”

His architectural expertise also played an important role in developing East Aldine Town Center.

Carlos Silva, chairman of the EAMD Board of Directors, said Hoffman's professional experience provided a perspective that was both practical and aesthetic.

“Gil was always the consummate professional and treated everyone with respect,” Silva said. “He was fair and genuinely tried to consider all perspectives before making decisions.”

Silva said Hoffman's years as a professional architect gave him a unique understanding of form and functionality, particularly during the planning and design of Town Center.

“Gil's understanding of these elements ensured we were getting something not only practical, but also aesthetically pleasing and valuable,” Silva said.

As chair of the Architectural Review Committee during the Town Center project, Hoffman helped guide the development of a destination designed to serve the community for generations.

Silva said Hoffman's influence extended to the arts as well.

His support and vote for the Spirit of East Aldine sculpture at the Town Center roundabout helped the project move forward. Silva said Hoffman was a vocal supporter of the commission and brought an appreciation for visual arts



Gil and his wife Mei-Ing Hoffman

to the discussion.

“His eye for design and broader appreciation of the visual arts allowed the EAMD to build a landmark for generations to come!” Silva said.

Silva also credited Hoffman with supporting artistic initiatives during the early days of the EAMD Arts Council.

A Newspaper and a Community

While Hoffman helped shape East Aldine through his Board service, he also helped tell the community's story through the Northeast News.

His goal was straightforward.

“I hope that the newspaper serves the people of Aldine by keeping them informed about current events and important issues happening within the community,” he said.

Silva said the newspaper gave Hoffman another important way to stay connected to East Aldine.

“Director Hoffman spent years publishing the neighborhood paper, which allowed students, families, politicians, and community members to see their stories told in print,” Silva said.

That connection between journalism and public service was important to Hoffman.

Through his newspaper work, Board service, and other community involvement — including serving as president of the Highlands Rotary — Hoffman said each role expanded his skills, leadership, and understanding of the people he served.

“You get what you give,” Hoffman said. “Through my involvement with the newspapers and the people they serve, I have grown immensely.”

A Thoughtful Approach to Service

Those who served alongside Hoffman remember him not only for his professional knowledge but also for the way he approached decisions.

Silva said Hoffman was willing to listen, ask questions, and reconsider his position when presented with additional information.

“I always admired his ability to ask a sincere question regarding an item up for consideration and allow a response to either inform his opinion on the spot or outright change his mind to support a cause now that he had a fuller picture and more context,” Silva said.

Silva said Hoffman was guided by what he believed was best for East Aldine.

“Director Hoffman was very fair and honest in that way,” Silva said.

Hoffman's commitment to the community was both ambitious and practical, Silva said. He was willing to support projects he believed were needed while remaining mindful of how EAMD resources were used.

Silva described Hoffman's commitment to East Aldine as “deep and unwavering.”

“He was guided by his polestar of serving East Aldine for the best, and if he thought it was a good idea, he would support it full stop,” Silva said.

For Hoffman, the reward was seeing plans become accomplishments.

“Like any community, East Aldine has its share of challenges, but I find it very rewarding when we

set goals and then accomplish them,” he said. “To play a part in that kind of forward motion is fulfilling, and makes me want to keep going.”

Looking Back — and Ahead

When Hoffman looks back at his years of involvement in East Aldine, he said he is most proud of the progress made for residents from the time he first became involved in 2001 through 2026.

Silva said that progress will be part of Hoffman's lasting legacy.

His contributions included support for public safety, sidewalks, water and sewer projects, community partnerships, arts initiatives, and the development of Town Center.

“The progress our community saw under Director Hoffman's guidance while he served on the Board of Directors will be felt for decades to come,” Silva said.

Hoffman hopes the work continues.

“My hope for the future of East Aldine is that the EAMD continues to be a leader in improving the quality of life for everyone who lives here, and that they continue to gain respect from the Harris County community at large,” he said.

Away from the Board and newspaper office, Hoffman describes himself as “quiet and studious” at home. He enjoys reading, listening to the radio and watching television. He and his wife, Mei-ing, spent weekends traveling around Texas to visit galleries and museums, and he now enjoys supporting her second career as a painter and fine artist.

And then there are the details that might surprise people who know Hoffman primarily as an architect, publisher, and Board member.

He collects model trains and nice pens. He once owned a sailboat. And, as a boy, he was already publishing his own neighborhood newspaper.

Those details offer a glimpse of the curiosity that has followed Hoffman throughout his life.

After years of asking questions, gathering information, building relationships, and helping shape the community around him, Hoffman leaves his formal role on the EAMD Board with a simple message for others considering community service.

“Serving on a board like the East Aldine Management District is a lifetime privilege, and I encourage others to get involved in whatever ways they can,” he said.

Silva echoed the sentiment on behalf of the Board.

“Thank you for your curiosity, your fairness, your expertise, and your willingness to support new and novel ideas in the service of East Aldine,” he said.

For Hoffman, building a community has always been about more than structures, projects, or newspaper stories.

It has been about understanding the community, listening to its people and helping turn ideas into something lasting.

And after more than two decades of service, East Aldine is a little more connected — and a little more shaped by his blueprint. (Source, EAMD website)

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Event Details

Srixon Fitting Day
Friday, October 16, 2026
Visit Eagle Pointe from
Time: 12 PM - 3:30 PM on
Friday,
Get the fit you've been
looking for.
Location: Eagle Pointe
Golf Course
12440 Eagle Pointe Dr
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523
Sign up online

Men's Chipping Clinic
Saturday, October 17,
2026
Improve Your Chipping
Game!
Join us for a men's golf
clinic focusing on Chip-
ping. Whether you're strug-
gling with short-game
accuracy or just want to
fine-tune your technique,
this clinic is perfect for you!
Location: Eagle Pointe
Golf Course
12440 Eagle Pointe Dr
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523
Time: 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
\$50 per golfer
[https://bit.ly/Chip-
ping1017](https://bit.ly/Chip-ping1017)

Kids Golf Clinic
Saturday, October 17,
2026
Location: Eagle Pointe
Golf Course
12440 Eagle Pointe Dr
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523
Time: 12:00 PM-2:45 PM
Get your young golfer
started with the fundamen-
tals!
\$35 per student
Join us Saturday, October
17 for a Kids Golf Clinic de-
signed to introduce and re-
inforce the basics of the
game in a fun, age-appro-
priate setting. With sepa-
rate sessions for each age
group, kids can learn
alongside golfers close to
their own age while build-
ing skills and confidence
on the course.
Whether they're picking
up a club for the first time
or could use a little prac-
tice with the fundamentals,
this is a great place to start.
Clinic Schedule:
Ages 10-12: 12:00 - 12:45
PM (<https://bit.ly/4z0Ni3p>)
Ages 7-9: 1:00 - 1:45 PM
(<https://bit.ly/4d12VE3>)
Ages 4-6: 2:00 - 2:45 PM
(<https://bit.ly/4Asohol>)
Space is limited. Register
your junior golfer and get
them ready to tee it up!

Clock is ticking: Get your tickets for 'Cinderella'

Salt Dome Theatre and
Barbers Hill High School
Choir bring the magic of
Rodgers and Hammer-
stein's "Cinderella" to the
Travis Poe Center for the
Performing Arts.

Showtimes are Thursday,
Oct. 15 at 7 p.m., and Satur-
day, Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7
p.m.

Leading the cast are se-
niors Molly Aslin as Ella
(Cinderella) and Cody Tan-
amal as Toph (Prince
Charming). The talented
company of over 80 stu-
dents also features seniors
Luca Trousdale (Lord
Pinkleton) and Kaley Fran-
cis (Madame/Stepmother),
along with juniors Emily
McKay (Marie / Fairy God-
mother), Karys Kaderli
(Charlotte), Madi Bree-
land (Gabrielle), Connor Mc-
Kithern (Jean-Michele) and
Leonidas Perez as the sto-
ry's villain, Sebastian.

Tickets are now available
online, with a small number
available at the door, for
\$15. For an extra-special
experience, a \$5 Meet &
Greet add-on will be of-
fered at the end of both ma-
tinee performances (Oct. 10
and Oct. 17).

Grab your tickets and get
ready to believe in a little
magic! Tickets can be pur-
chased online at
[https://finearts.bhisd.net/
ticketing/event-tickets](https://finearts.bhisd.net/ticketing/event-tickets)

GCCISD Family Wellness Festival Brings Community Together

Story by: Nancy Bonds
GCCISD Director of
Communications

Goose Creek CISD (GC-
CISD) welcomed approxi-
mately 1,400 attendees to
its Family Wellness Festi-
val on Saturday, October 3,
at Goose Creek Memorial
High School. The free com-
munity event brought fami-
lies together for a morning
focused on healthy living
and physical activity.

The festival featured in-
teractive activities and
wellness resources, with 45
community and health or-
ganizations participating.
Families enjoyed fitness
sessions, carnival games,
and opportunities to learn
about healthy habits, while
students entertained at-
tendees through perfor-
mances.

"The students and fami-
lies seemed to really enjoy
the event. They were en-
gaged, had fun participat-
ing in the activities, and
appreciated the opportuni-
ty to spend time together
while learning about well-
ness and healthy living.



GCCISD Superintendent Dr. Joe Rodriguez joins Baytown Junior School students and their mascot at the 2026 Family Wellness Festival. (by: Amanda Kennington, Coordinator of Healthy Community Schools & SHAC Facilitator)

The overall feedback was
very positive," said an
event partner.

A highlight of the festi-
val was a proclamation
from Baytown Mayor
Charles Johnson declaring
October 3, 2026, as GC-
CISD Family Wellness Fe-
stival Day. The procla-
mation recognized the im-
portance of promot-
ing family wellness and cre-
ating healthier commu-
nities.

The official ceremony
also honored 15 GCCISD
schools recognized as

America's Healthiest
Schools for 2026, reflecting
the district's ongoing ef-
forts to prioritize student
health and wellness.

Throughout the morn-
ing, families participated in
activities ranging from kite
crafting to Zumba and Gen-
eration POUND fitness ses-
sions. School mascots also
competed in a dance com-
petition, adding to the fes-
tivities. Charlayne
Johnson, an eighth grader
at E.F. Green Junior
School, won the kite craft
competition, and her design

will be incorporated into
next year's event branding.

The festival brought to-
gether representatives
from 20 GCCISD campus-
es and 13 district depart-
ments, with 171
volunteers, sponsors, and
student leaders contribut-
ing to the event. Organiz-
ers also distributed 200
meals to children ages 18
and younger and provided
16 vaccination services.
Organizers distributed
nearly 900 giveaways and
wellness incentives to at-
tendees.

"Together, GCCISD is
growing healthy Giants
and building a healthier
community. It takes a coor-
dinated effort, with en-
gaged families and involved
community partners, to
meet the needs of the whole
child. The festival is an op-
portunity to make wellness
fun, accessible, and family-
centered," said Amanda
Kennington, Coordinator of
Healthy Community
Schools & SHAC Facilita-
tor.

The event was support-
ed by Be Well Baytown, an
initiative of The Universi-
ty of Texas MD Anderson
Cancer Center sponsored
by ExxonMobil, along with
Anchor Printing Services,
United Way of Greater
Baytown and Chambers
County, and Delta Sigma
Theta Sorority.

The Family Wellness
Festival reflects GCCISD's
commitment to supporting
students' and families' well-
being through commu-
nity partnerships. GCCISD
extends its appreciation to
everyone who contributed
to the event's success.

Dayton ISD Named a CTE District of Distinction by CTAT

By Melanie Nunez
Dayton ISD Communica-
tions Coordinator

Dayton, TX, October 9,
2026- The Career and
Technical Association of
Texas (CTAT) has named
Dayton ISD a CTE District
of Distinction, recognizing
the district for high-quality
career and technical edu-
cation programs that
prepare students for col-
lege, careers and the work-
force.

CTAT's CTE District of
Distinction program recog-
nizes Texas school districts
that demonstrate strong
CTE leadership, innova-
tive programming, align-
ment with workforce needs
and positive student out-
comes. Districts are select-
ed based on established
criteria that include indus-



try-based certifications,
career pathways, industry
partnerships and other
practices that strengthen
student preparation for
high-demand careers.

"Being named a CTE
District of Distinction is a
tremendous honor and a
testament to our district's

commitment to preparing
students for success be-
yond the classroom," said
Dayton ISD Superinten-
dent, Dr. Travis Young.
"Our goal is to ensure ev-
ery student graduates with
the knowledge, skills, and
real-world experiences
needed to pursue their fu-

ture with confidence. This
recognition reflects the
dedication of our CTE edu-
cators, the hard work of our
students, and the valuable
partnerships that continue
to create meaningful op-
portunities for our Bron-
cos."

Dayton ISD offers CTE

programs designed to con-
nect classroom learning
with postsecondary educa-
tion and workforce oppor-
tunities. Dayton ISD
collaborates with industry
partners to provide an in-
novative career day expe-
rience for students, offers
students the opportunity to
earn industry recognized
certifications, and strives
to provide advanced learn-
ing opportunities aligned
with career and technical
education programs.

The Career and Techni-
cal Association of Texas
created the CTE District of
Distinction program to re-
cognize districts demon-
strating excellence in
career and technical educa-
tion and to highlight prac-
tices that can strengthen
CTE programs across the
state.

Baytown Chamber celebrates TriStar Group Development with ribbon cutting

BAYTOWN, TEXAS —
The Baytown Chamber of
Commerce Ambassadors
and staff recently joined
TriStar Group, City of Bay-
town Mayor Charles
Johnson, City of Baytown
Councilwoman Sarah Gra-
ham and local business
partners for a ribbon cut-
ting ceremony celebrating
TriStar Group's new devel-
opment in the Baytown
community.

The Baytown Chamber
of Commerce congratulates
TriStar Group on its in-
vestment in the area and
the addition of a develop-
ment that brings together
a variety of businesses and
services for local residents.

"We want to leave every
community better than we
found it and are proud to
be a part of this one!" said
Shezad Kapadia, CEO of



TriStar Group along with their family, colleagues, Mayor Charles Johnson, District 2 City Councilwoman Sarah Graham and the Baytown Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors

TriStar Group. New devel-
opments such as this con-
tribute to the continued
growth of the Baytown
business community by

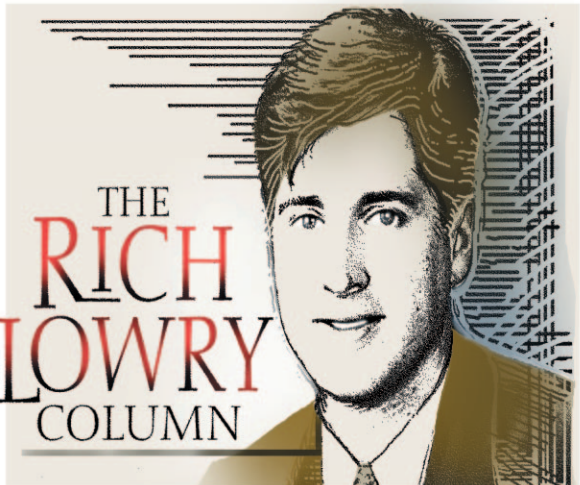
creating opportunities for
businesses to establish
themselves, serve local res-
idents and contribute to
the local economy.

The development is lo-
cated at 220 N. Main Street
in Baytown and is current-
ly home to: Golden Chick,
Bay Area Barbers College,

Shell Gas Station, Big Bub-
bles Washateria and Big
Bottle Liquor Store, with
Gym One coming soon.

The Baytown Chamber
of Commerce encourages
the community to visit the
development, explore the
businesses that call it
home and continue sup-
porting businesses invest-
ing in the Baytown area.
Congratulations to TriStar
Group and all of the busi-
nesses within the develop-
ment. The Baytown
Chamber of Commerce is
pleased to celebrate their
investment and continued
commitment to the growth
of our community.

For more information
about the Baytown Cham-
ber of Commerce and up-
coming events, please visit
the Chamber's website at
www.baytownchamber.com.



The system worked in the Cornell 7 case

We’ve heard it from politicians, celebrities and influencers — the system failed the accuser in the Cornell 7 case. This near-universal view is advanced with great certainty and a sense of outraged righteousness, but mistaken nonetheless. Based on the information available to them at the time, the authorities handled the matter in keeping with the facts and the law.

This isn’t to defend anything that occurred during that debauched night at the Chi Phi fraternity, which was “Lord of the Flies” meets “Eyes Wide Shut.” Nor does it foreclose the possibility that Jane Doe was the victim of crimes. But the critics of the school and the district attorney who declined to prosecute the case fail to account for a central element of the case — a sworn statement by Jane Doe herself in November 2024 that appears to fail to allege any crime.

After getting slammed for his handling of the case, Tompkins County district attorney Matthew Van Houten publicly defended his office. He quoted extensively from Jane Doe’s statement. These excerpts do indeed describe her actions that night, in the words of the DA, as “voluntary, conscious and consensual.”

By her own account, she drank heavily before heading to the fraternity. She danced flirtatiously with a friend she was interested in, and then agreed to a threesome because of “how attracted” she was to him and “drunken curiousness.” This was before she ingested any drugs. The assignation stopped when her friend dropped out because of drowsiness, while the other male began to dry heave. She periodically checked on her sleeping friend, while “consoling” the other male. This was a squalid scene, but not one where she was unconscious or refusing.

Another male entered the room, and he began making out with her, with Jane Doe apparently lodging no objection. Her friend then woke up and made another lewd proposal that she declined. More males piled into the room. It was suggested she take “more ketamine,” and vaguely recalling she had already snorted some at some point, she figured “why not do it a second time.”

When the guys, who behaved abysmally, asked if they could snort the drug off her body, she said, “Sure.”

Finally, another young man entered the room and said he was shutting down “whatever the f*** this is.”

Still, her so-called friend persisted and took her to another room with another male to begin having group sex again. She said she was tired and plaintively asked her friend, “What happened to just you and me?” But she apparently didn’t say “no.” Finally, around 5:45 a.m., she said she “was tired and needed to turn in.”

This isn’t a hostile version of events concocted by a defense attorney — it’s what she attested to weeks after the night of Oct. 19. The DA didn’t disbelieve her, or decide he couldn’t prove her allegations; he correctly determined that she described no actual crime.

It’s not the job of a DA, obviously, to get an alleged victim to change her story after she’s sworn to it in writing, or to make prosecutions based on vibes.

For its part, Cornell didn’t sweep the matter under the rug. The school carried out 50 interviews involving 32 witnesses. It expelled two of the students; suspended two others; banned from campus one who had already graduated; and allowed two others to remain, provided that they completed various trainings, including writing “reflective essays” (this is the source of the erroneous idea that essay-writing was the only consequence for the young men).

Both the DA and Cornell did their job. It’s not that the system failed Jane Doe but, rather, that she changed her version of events two years after the fact in a civil lawsuit against the men and the university, among others.

The risk now is that the system, with New York Attorney General Letitia James leading a politicized investigation, will be perverted to produce a predetermined outcome.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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EDITOR’S NOTE: *Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5832 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Voter snafu highlights difficulty in registering

A Texas backlog of at least 200,000 voter registration applications and updates was caused by a state error. Now election officials are scrambling to respond before voting begins.

Texas is one of only eight state that doesn’t have universal online voter registration. The state Department of Public Safety’s web portal is the only option for registering online or update a voter registration. That option was ordered by a judge after a six-year legal battle.

Votebeat and The Tribune recently reported a flaw in the system where DPS failed to send counties thousands of voter applications and updates submitted through its web portal, dating back to October 2025. There have been bipartisan calls for an investigation into what went awry. State officials so far have provided few details.

“We live in a system that has been designed to make things harder for voters,” said Sarah Chen, the senior supervising attorney at Texas Civil Rights Project. “We don’t have online voter registration, except for this teeny little carveout, and because of the teeny little carveout, now we have these technical glitches resulting in this backlog.”

CRUZ SCORES WIN ON COLLEGE SPORTS BILL

The U.S. Senate passed a major bipartisan bill last week that would overhaul the college sports industry — a bill heavily backed by Senate Commerce Chair Ted Cruz, Politico reported.

The bill was backed by members of both parties and President Trump. It



would replace a patchwork of state laws governing student-athlete pay, transfers and eligibility with a single federal set of rules.

“Today the Senate has the opportunity to protect the half-million college athletes and the millions more who follow in their footsteps,” Cruz said in a floor speech last week. “Students are transferring three or four times. Pros are trying to play ball against college kids. Conflicting court decisions have created a fragmented system — one that no one intended.”

The measure passed 77-22 but faces an uncertain future in the House, where Republicans oppose some of its provisions.

ABBOTT LIFTS RESTRICTIONS ON DYED DIESEL

Gov. Greg Abbott has lifted restrictions on dyed diesel usually allowed only in off-road and industrial equipment in order to lower diesel prices, the Houston Chronicle reported.

He issued a disaster proclamation last week expanding its use. Dyed diesel is exempt from fuel taxes. Abbott also requested a waiver to the Clean Air Act from the Environment Protection Agency to get around fed-

eral limits on which diesel can be sold.

“Texas agriculture and freight run on diesel,” Abbott said in a statement. “Record prices put both industries at risk and raise costs for every Texas family. Farmers and truckers can now use dyed diesel on Texas roads, and fuel, crop, and timber loads can move at a higher weight.”

The three-term governor is locked in a close reelection contest in a midterm election dominated by cost-of-living concerns. His Democratic opponent, state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, had earlier called for suspending all diesel taxes, which Abbott said is not in his power to unilaterally do.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS COULD LOSE \$227M TO STUDENT VOUCHER EXODUS

Rural school districts in Texas could lose millions of dollars in funding this year after thousands of students turn to using vouchers to leave for private and home schools, the Houston Chronicle reported. A new analysis of state data indicates at least 28,200 public school students took a voucher instead, resulting in a loss of at least \$227 million in state funding for their public schools.

While large urban school districts have seen the most students leave, the loss could be felt more acutely by smaller school districts, where losing a handful of students can dramatically affect their budgets.

Of the 725 school districts that saw at least one student take a voucher and leave, 514 — or 70% — have fewer than 2,000 students. Most of those districts don’t have a private school within their boundaries, meaning the children are either being homeschooled or are attending a virtual private school.

Public schools are state funded based on student attendance. The average loss for each student who takes a voucher is \$8,200 on average, though it varies depending on the students and where they live.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.



A Letter in the Mail



We had a family reunion this past week.

My mother and uncle were the only representatives from the older generation. Everyone else was a cousin of mine—except Grace. Grace is the daughter of my cousin, Mary.

Grace is getting married in Ireland soon, but she took time off work to be with relatives, telling family stories and building puzzles at the dining room table. I don’t think I’d have driven across the country when I was her age to spend time with people so much older than myself. But Grace is a special person, and somehow Grace and I got to talking about the round-robin.

The round-robin was a circulating letter that began when my mother was still in college. Before email, when long-distance telephone calls were still expensive, my family would read the letters from everyone on the list, take out their old letter, and send the robin on with a new letter. This went on for years and years, and the list grew longer and longer as more of my cousins joined the list.

Then email became commonplace, and the family started a private Facebook page, and everyone knew what was going on pretty much when it happened. The robin seemed to have outlived its usefulness. It was lost on several occasions, only to be discovered months later in a pile of mail or under a bed. Finally, it disappeared for good. No one knew who had the final batch of letters in their possession. The round-robin never resurfaced, and that was several years ago.

“Why don’t we start it again?” Grace asked.

“Do you think people would want to write?” I said.

“I would.”

And I realized that a person Grace’s age may never have received a letter in the mail. Bills and birthday greetings and news and gossip are all delivered digitally.

“The news was always so old by the time it arrived,” my cousin Jill complained.

“I don’t think it’s about news,” I tried to explain.

“I think it’s about getting to know each other better,” my cousin Susan said.

I think she nailed it. Because we are good about letting one another know about the big stuff—the births and deaths and weddings and moves. What the robin did was provide an excuse to simply share what we were doing that day. It was always a little late and incomplete. But somehow, because it was, it made more of an impression.

“Should we ask if people would like to restart it?” I asked Grace. And Grace said we should.

So that night after dinner, Grace stood up and asked if anyone would like to write in the round-robin again. A few people said no, they didn’t want the stress of having that pile of letters show up. A couple said they already knew what was going on and didn’t need it. But a surprising number raised their hands and said yes, they’d like to have the old bird flying again.

I wrote a letter, put it in a big envelope and sent it to Grace. We will see what happens. There are no guarantees that this old form of correspondence will survive.

But I am hopeful. I am hopeful—not because my remaining aunts and uncles will enjoy it (although I’m sure they will) and not because all my cousins will participate (I’m sure many of them won’t). I am hopeful because there are now a lot of us who, once again, believe it is a very special thing to get a letter in the mail.

Till next time,
Carrie

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 7

Texans season could be on line in London against Jacksonville: Big games dot the college schedule this weekend, especially in SEC

Needless to say, the Texans are a desperate team. DeMeco Ryans' team fell to 0-4 two weeks ago after their 34-30 loss at home to Dallas and this week they head to London to take on Jacksonville, a team that got out of the gate with a 3-1 mark.

The Texans had high hopes prior to the start of the season, but a defense that was one of the best in 2025 has been shredded thus far this season. That unit has to get its act together, or Houston could be looking ahead to next season. The offense has been decent, but they have an inept running game, which is due to a suspect offensive line.

While the Texans will be playing for their season on Sunday in Jacksonville, Week 6 of the NFL season starts on Thursday Night Football with a good one as Seattle visits Denver. There's also a big one on Sunday in the AFC North as Baltimore visits one of the surprise teams thus far, the Cleveland Browns, who won three of their first four games.

Week 6 concludes with Dallas visiting Green Bay and a rematch against their former defensive star Micha Parsons, who is expected back after missing his team's first five games recovering from an



ACL injury sustained in December of last year.

This weekend's college schedule is loaded with big games, especially in the SEC as No. 1 Texas hosts No. 16 Florida, while No. 6-ranked Alabama visits No. 15-ranked Tennessee and No. 14-ranked Mississippi State visits No. 10-ranked LSU.

There's also a big one in the Big 10 as No. 5-ranked Ohio State travels to No. 7-ranked Indiana, in a meeting of last year's conference championship game. I witnessed the Buckeyes up close and personal two weeks ago in their 31-14 win at Iowa and let me tell you, Ryan Day's team is very good, especially super star wide receiver Jeremiah Smith.

The No. 22-ranked Houston Cougars have a tough test at home against No. 18-ranked Oklahoma State and their explosive

offense. Willie Fritz's defense will get tested by OSU QB Drew Mestemaker.

In District 14-6A play, Aldine visits Dekaney on Thursday night at Randall Reed Stadium, while MacArthur hosts Spring on Thursday at 7 p.m. in Thorne Stadium. On Friday, Eisenhower takes on Nimitz at Thorne Stadium in a key game for both teams' playoff chances. The biggest game of the league schedule this weekend will take place on Saturday at 2 p.m. as Westfield visits Davis. Both teams have won their first two league games and both have a good chance of earning playoff berths.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 9-3 week brought the season record to 44-14 (76%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Alabama at Tennessee - No. 6-ranked Alabama heads to Knoxville to take on No.14-ranked Tennessee with a key SEC contest for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Crimson Tide put up 56 points in its blowout win over previously undefeated Mississippi St. 'Bama is led by sophomore QB Keelon Russell (1,414 passing yards, 11 TDs/184 rushing yards, 4 TDs), running back Daniel Hill (247 yards, 4 TDs) and wideouts Ryan Coleman-Williams (20 receptions, 376 yards, 4 TDs) and Lotzeir Brooks (21 receptions, 352 yards, 1 TD). The Vols are led by freshman QB Faizon Brandon (697 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Mike Matthews (18 receptions, 318 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the 'Bama defense to rattle the freshman QB as the Tide picks up a big road win. My pick, Alabama 31, Tennessee 18

Ohio State at Indiana - No. 4-ranked Ohio State visits No. 7-ranked, and defending national champion, Indiana is a huge Big 10 game. Two weeks ago, the Buckeyes took care of business against No. 14-ranked Iowa as wide receiver Jeremiah Smith (44 receptions, 823 yards, 9 TDs) had a monster day with 11 catches for 206 yards and two TDs. Smith is not a one-man offense as OSU has a solid QB in Julian Sayin (1,530 yards, 13 TDs) and productive running backs Bo Jackson (353 yards, 2 TDs) and Ja'Kobe Jackson (278 yards, 6 TDs). The Hoosiers have a pretty fair signal caller as well in Josh Hoover (1,101 yards, 15 TDS), two solids runners in Turbo Richards (587 yards, 5 TDs) and Lee Beebe Jr. (520 yards, 4 TDS) and wideout Charles Becker (27 receptions, 477 yards, 8 TDs). This one will come down to the wire and I'm going with the Buckeyes who know they are on a mission after losing in Week 2 at Texas. My pick, Ohio State 27, Indiana 24

Mississippi St. at LSU - No. 17 Mississippi State heads to Baton Rouge to take on No. 10-ranked LSU in a key SEC contest for both teams. Each squad has one league loss and can't afford another if either hopes to earn a spot in the SEC title game. Two weeks ago, the Bulldogs saw their undefeated season come to an end with a 56-23 home loss to Alabama, while Lane Kiffin's team had the week off. MSU has one of the top dual-threat QBs in the country in Kamario Taylor (1,450 passing yards, 17 TDs/159 rushing yards, 1 TD). He also has some other weapons in running back Fluff Bothwell (403 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Anthony Evans III (40 receptions, 574 yards, 5 TDs). The Tigers have a pretty solid dual-threat QB in Sam Leavitt (1,220 passing yards, 8 TDs/220 rushing yards, 6 TDs). He also has help from running back Dilin Jones (437 yards, 5 TDs) and wideout Winston Watkins Jr. (23 receptions, 354 yards, 2 TDs). I think LSU has the better defense, which will be the difference maker in this game. My pick, LSU 26, Mississippi St. 220

Florida at Texas - No. 16-Florida heads to Austin to take on No. 1-ranked Texas in

another big SEC contest. The Gators won their first four games before getting curb stomped at Missouri, 45-17, two weeks ago. Florida will look for a big day from QB Aaron Philo (1,114 yards, 8 TDs), running back Jadan Baugh (613 yards, 11 TDs) and wide receivers Dallas Wilson (18 receptions, 302 yards, 3 TDs) and Vernell Brown III (17 receptions, 271 yards, 2 TDs). They will be facing a stout UT defense led by defensive end Collin Simmons (7.5 sacks). The 'Horns will look for a big day from QB Arch Manning (862 passing yards, 7 TDs), running backs Hollywood Smothers (198 yards, 2 TDs) and Ralek Brown (196 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receivers Ryan Wingo (19 receptions, 239 yards, 2 TDs) and Cam Coleman (12 receptions, 208 yards, 4 TDs). My pick, Texas 30, Florida 22

Oklahoma St. at Houston - No. 18 Oklahoma State visits No. 22-ranked Houston in prime time on Saturday night on FOX (6:30 p.m.). After losing their season-opener to Tulsa, Eric Morris' team won its next three games, while UH won four of its first five games. This is a big game for both team's Big 12 title game chances. The Cowboys are led by gunslinging QB Drew Mestemaker (1,271 yards, 11 TDs), running back Caleb Hawkins (441 yards, 2 TDs) and wideouts Wyatt Young (22 receptions, 410 yards, 3 TDs) and Justin Bowick (20 receptions, 344 yards, 4 TDs). The Coogs have a good dual-threat QB in Conner Wegman (1,185 passing yards, 11 TDs/156 rushing yards, 6 TDs). But Wegman is not a one-man offense. He gets help from running backs Re'Shaun Sanford II (314 yards, 2 TDs) and Makhhi Hughes (310 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Amare Thomas (27 receptions, 330 yards, 4 TDs). UH needs this game to remain in the Big 12 race and with a trip to No. 12-ranked Utah looming next week, look for Willie Fritz's team to get a nice home win on Saturday night. My pick, Houston 34, OSU 30

NFL

Seattle at Denver - Week 6 begins with a good one on Thursday Night Football as Seattle visits Denver. The Seahawks have starting QB Sam Darnold (560 yards, 6 TDs), but have lost rookie running back Jadarian Price. Darnold will look to make plays down field to star wideout Jaxon Smith-Njigba (32 receptions, 481 yards, 6 TDs). The 'Hawks offense will be challenged by a solid Denver defense, but so will the Broncos offense when it takes on Seattle's stifling defense. Denver QB Bo Nix (819 yards, 5 TDs/3 interceptions) has struggled thus far. He will look to make plays to wide receiver Jaylen Waddle (16 receptions, 185 yards, 1 TD). I think the Seattle defense will make one or two more plays than will Denver's defense as the Seahawks pick up a big road win. My pick, Seattle 23, Denver 17

Houston vs. Jacksonville - DeMeco Ryan's Texans head across the pond to take on AFC South rival Jacksonville in London. Houston's

season got off to a disastrous start with four straight losses, while the Jags have looked like one of the top teams in AFC by winning three of their first four games. The Texans defense must play better than it has thus far and that unit will get a stern test from Jags QB Trevor Lawrence (843 yards, 8 TDs), running back Bhayshu Tuten (277 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Parker Washington (16 receptions, 228 yards, 2 TDs). Houston QB C.J. Stroud (1,141 yards, 5 TDs) has played well thus far and now has big-play wideout Nico Collins (14 receptions, 193 yards, 3 TDs in two games) back. That's huge for this offense, which still struggles to run the football. It could be another long day for the Texans, this time over in Europe. My pick, Jacksonville 26, Houston 23

Baltimore at Cleveland - This is a big one in the AFC North as the Ravens visit the surprising Browns on Sunday in Cleveland. Two weeks ago, the Browns improved to 3-1 with a division win over the Steelers, while the Ravens defeated the Titans at home. In that game, star QB Lamar Jackson (967 passing yards, 6 TDs/144 rushing yards, 1 TD) sustained an ankle injury, but should be ready for this one. He will get help from running back Derrick Henry (374 yards, 7 TDs) and big-play wideout Zay Flowers (18 receptions, 352 yards, 2 TDs). The Browns have gotten a decent start from maligned QB Deshaun Watson (855 yards, 6 TDs), running back Quinshon Judkins (177 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Denzel Boston (13 receptions, 284 yards, 4 TDs). I think the Ravens send the Browns a message that they are the team to beat in the division and will escape with a tough road win on Sunday. My pick, Baltimore 27, Cleveland 23

Dallas at Green Bay - The Cowboys head to Green Bay for a meeting on Sunday Night Football. This game should feature the return of Packers star pass rusher Micah Parsons, a former Cowboys. Parsons sustained an ACL injury last December and has penciled in this game as his return date. The GB defense will need him back when it takes on a high-powered Cowboys offense led by QB Dak Prescott (1,065 yards, 8 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (231 yards, 6 total TDs) and big-play wide receivers CeeDee Lamb (37 receptions, 498 yards, 4 TDs) and George Pickens (18 receptions, 225 yards). While the Dallas offense has been humming, the defense is still an issue, as it was a year ago. That might be good news for the Packers offense, while has struggled thus far due to a porous offensive line. QB Jordan Love (1,041 yards, 8 TDs) to look to attack a suspect Cowboys secondary with strikes to wide receivers Christian Watkins (26 receptions, 331 yards, 4 TDs) and Matthew Golden (18 receptions, 274 yards, 2 TDs) and tight end Tucker Kraft (15 receptions, 148 yards, 1 TD). This should be a fun game to watch, but look for Prescott to outduel Love come Sunday night. My pick, Dallas 31, Green Bay 27

Public invited as Rotary dedicates peace tower,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

symbols recalling the club's history, including imagery connected to Rotary themes from 1999-2000 and from Nino's 2024-25 term as president.

"There's a lot of thought that went into this," she said.

The tower also commemorates the North Shore club's 25-year relationship with its sister club in Torreón, Mexico. The partnership began after Rotary district governors John Painter and Celso Reyes met in 1999-2000. Reyes is expected to travel to the North Shore area for Saturday's dedication, and Painter also plans to attend.

Nino said the tower's design incorporates details inspired by a prominent tower in Torreón, whose name translates to "tower" in English. The monument connects that international friendship with Rotary's broader commitment to peace.

The project began during Nino's presidency and took more than a year to complete.

"I was president in 2024-25," she said. "I started pushing hard in early 2025, and now it's completed and done."

Following the ceremony, participants will take an easy half-mile peace walk along the park's sidewalks near the pony baseball field. Signs bearing messages about peace will line the route. Water, fruit and custom commemorative medals will be available.

"The whole community is invited," Nino said. "We're just going to do a little peace walk."

The event is free, although organizers are asking participants to register in advance to help provide a headcount.

At night, energy-efficient LED lights illuminate the tower automatically through a

photocell. Nino said the club also plans to submit professional photographs and the tower's coordinates to an international database of peace poles and towers.

Based on currently registered Rotary monuments, she said, the North Shore structure is expected to be the tallest Rotary Peace Tower in the world.

Beyond its height and distinctive design, Nino hopes the tower will become a lasting gathering place for prayer groups, churches, walkers and other visitors seeking a quiet moment.

"Just give a pause for a moment and kind of think," she said. "That's what we're hoping."

For Nino, the dedication is intended to keep the focus on a simple message.

"It's not a political day," she said. "It's a day about peace and the community coming together."

Paxton, Talarico Trade Blows Over Gas Tax as Prices Soar

By Gerardo Hernandez STAFF WRITER

The race for U.S. Senate in Texas heated up last week as Republican nominee Ken Paxton and Democratic nominee James Talarico clashed over rising fuel costs, offering dueling visions for how to provide relief at the pump.

The exchange, first reported by The Texas Tribune, highlights the growing pressure candidates face as Texas drivers contend with average prices of \$3.94 per gallon for gasoline and \$5.90 for diesel, according to AAA.

The conflict began when Talarico staged an event at a gas station in Carrollton, calling on his opponent to condemn the conflict with Iran and join his push to suspend federal fuel taxes.

"Ken Paxton supports this disastrous war in Iran that's driving up our costs," Talarico said during the event. "Today, I am calling on him to oppose this war and support my plan to suspend the federal gas tax and the federal diesel tax so we can provide Texans some necessary relief."

Talarico has been advocating for a pause on the federal gas tax since April, originally proposing the



suspension last until prices fall below levels seen in February, when joint U.S.-Israeli air strikes against Iran began. He has repeatedly urged Paxton to join the call, framing the war as a "disaster" that is exacerbating affordability issues for Texas families.

Hours after Talarico's appearance, Paxton fired back with a counterproposal, stating that he supports eliminating the gas tax—permanently.

"Repealing those taxes would put money straight back into drivers' pockets every time they fill up," Paxton said in a statement. "And Washington should fund roads by cutting waste, not by taxing Texans at the pump."

The federal gasoline tax currently stands at 18.4 cents per gallon, while the diesel tax is 24.4 cents per

gallon. Nearly all revenue collected from these taxes is directed into the Highway Trust Fund to finance federal highway and mass transit projects.

The sharp exchange underscores the economic anxiety gripping voters ahead of the November election. While Talarico frames the tax suspension as emergency relief tied to foreign policy, Paxton is pitching a broader fiscal overhaul, arguing that wasteful spending in Washington, rather than fuel taxes, should be on the chopping block.

As of last week, the average price for a gallon of regular gasoline in Texas was \$3.94, while diesel averages sat at \$5.90, placing a heavy burden on commuters and the state's vital trucking industry alike.

To all persons claiming an interest in: 1997-21'-D&C INC-DAC00128A797-1997-250HP-YAMAHA-S250TXRV-61AUL100496

TRIKIET NGUYEN

Apply to SCDNR for title on watercraft/outboard motor. If you any claim to the watercraft/outboard motor, contact SCDNR at (803) 734-3699. Upon thirty days of the last advertisement if no claim of interest is made and the watercraft/outboard motor has not been reported stolen, SCDNR shall issue clear title.

Case No: 20240827980602.

STAR-COURIER FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Barbers Hill, **BYE WEEK**
Baytown Lee, **BYE WEEK**
Beaumont United 24, Goose Creek Memorial 21
Beaumont West Brook 55, Baytown Sterling 23
Crosby 37, Humble Kingwood 29
Huffman Hargrave 48, Bridge City 33

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCT. 15
Baytown Lee vs. Galena Park, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium

FRIDAY, OCT. 16
Barbers Hill vs. Dickinson, 7 p.m., Eagle Stadium
Baytown Sterling vs. La Porte, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium
Crosby, **BYE WEEK**
Goose Creek Memorial at New Caney, 7 p.m., Randle Reed Stadium
Huffman Hargrave vs. Lumberton, 7:30 p.m., Falcon Stadium



Volunteers urgently needed for crosby cleanup,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ellison said. The cleanup is sponsored by LyondellBasell. Ewald Kubota is sponsoring T-shirts, Crosby Fence is sponsoring trash bags and Trusted Insurance is sponsoring gloves. Ellison said a cleaner Crosby protects the environment, supports local

businesses and strengthens community pride. “It looks like people don’t care when they don’t take care of their front door and their front yard and their parking lot,” she said. “We all want to do business with people that care.”

Volunteers should go to the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce website now to register and sign the required paperwork before Saturday. For additional information, call the chamber at 281-328-6984 or email debra@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

Broken screen pushed Crosby water systemto the brink during drought,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fire department to fill its trucks and place them on standby, Foster said, because the system might not have been able to provide enough water during a major fire. “It could have been devastating,” he said. Crosby MUD primarily serves the downtown Crosby area, extending generally from the railroad tracks toward Highway 90 along FM 2100. According to their own website, the district has provided drinking-water and sewer service to the northeast Harris County community since 1965. The outage lasted about three weeks, prolonged by difficulties obtaining the specialized replacement equipment. Foster said the manufacturer initially told the district the computer would be delivered within a week, but the district later learned that the replacement unit’s screen had been broken.

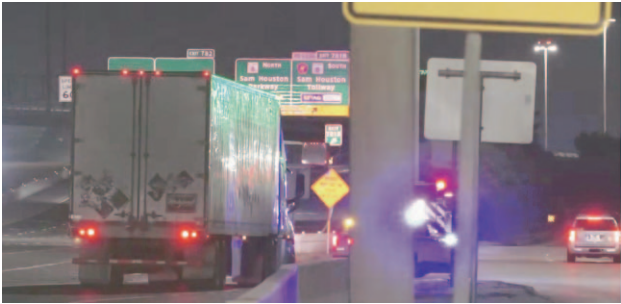
Surface-water service was restored on Monday after the replacement equipment arrived. The district also purchased a second unit to keep as a spare, although Foster declined to provide a cost, saying only that the equipment was “very expensive.” The district has since lifted the mandatory outdoor restrictions. A notice on Crosby MUD’s website confirms that customers may resume normal use and thanks them for cooperating during the emergency. Foster said the public’s response was critical to preventing the equipment failure from becoming a full-scale water crisis. “I’m just wanting to thank the public for helping us out by saving water,” he said. “We are back in service. We are back on surface water.” The incident also underscored the vulnerability of

automated utility systems when a single specialized component fails during a period of high demand. Crosby MUD maintains a drought contingency plan and provides conservation resources for customers, but the backup well’s limited production left little room for another emergency while the surface-water plant was offline. Foster said the district is preparing for major construction, the result of a bond passed two years ago, at both its surface-water and wastewater treatment plants as part of a broader program of infrastructure improvements. For now, however, district officials say the immediate danger has passed — due in large part to residents who stopped watering lawns, filling pools and using water for other non-essential purposes when the system needed relief most.

Motorcyclist Killed in East Freeway Truck Crash

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

NORTH CHANNEL — A motorcyclist was killed Sunday evening after colliding with an 18-wheeler on the East Freeway feeder road near Beltway 8, according to the Harris County Sheriff’s Office. The crash occurred around 6:20 p.m. on Oct. 11 in the 14300 block of the East Freeway eastbound feeder road. Investigators said Vasily Daranutsa was driving a Freightliner truck tractor towing a semi-trailer eastbound when he attempted to turn right onto Redmond Street. As



The crash happened around 6:20 p.m. Oct. 11 in the 14300 block of the East Freeway eastbound feeder road, near Beltway 8.

he turned, a Harley-Davidson motorcycle driven by Angelo Mendez struck the semi-trailer. Mendez suffered life-threatening injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. Daranutsa remained at the scene and cooperated with authorities, officials said. The Harris County Sheriff’s Office Vehicular Crimes Division is investigating the crash. The case remains open. The roadway was closed for several hours following the incident.



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Paul Bettany stars in "VisionQuest." (Photo Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

“VisionQuest”

“VisionQuest” (TV-14) — The second spin-off series from 2021’s “WandaVision,” which followed former Avengers members Wanda Maximoff (aka Scarlet Witch) and Vision, is set to premiere its first two episodes on Oct. 14! “VisionQuest” follows the resurrected White Vision from “WandaVision,” who has all of the original Vision’s memories but lacks “his virtue.” Vision spends his time in the “Mind-space,” where Tony Stark’s past creations live, including the main villain in the second “Avengers” film - Ultron, played by James Spader (“The Blacklist”). It isn’t long, however, before a bounty is placed on Vision’s head, forcing him to go on the run alongside a peculiar teenager named Thomas Shepherd (Ruaridh Mollica). The remaining six episodes will be released every Wednesday following its premiere. (Disney+)

“Coyote vs. Acme”

(PG) — This comedy film takes us back to the universe of “Looney Tunes” to get reacquainted with a long-beloved villain: Wile E. Coyote. But this time around, Wile E. gets to tell his story! After failing to catch his nemesis the Road Runner for the umpteenth time, Wile E. decides to speak with a personal injury attorney about his issues with Acme and its faulty products. (He could’ve thought of this sooner.) He teams up with a meek lawyer named Kevin Avery (Will Forte), who quickly realizes that this will be quite a memorable case for him when Wile E. refuses to settle. Not to mention, Kevin’s rival from law school, Buddy Crane (John Cena), is the acting lawyer for Acme and determined to shut them up with money. After a successful run in theaters, it’s out now to rent! (Fandango at Home)

“Masterplan” (PG-13) — Stanley Tucci (“The

Devil Wears Prada 2”) leads this heist film co-starring Simona Tabasco (“The White Lotus”) and Victor Belmondo (“Bastion 36”). In the film, Tucci portrays a former master thief named Roger who’s decided to come out of retirement for the job of a lifetime. (Where have I heard this before? Maybe every heist film ever?) But this job, which isn’t your average heist, requires the expertise of two specific people: an Italian cyber-crime expert named Chiara and a French explosives specialist named Jay. Why them? Chiara and Jay are also Roger’s children — long-lost siblings who have never met before. Now they get to reunite with their father and bond as thieves in a family dynamic that they’ve never experienced. Should be easy enough! Did I happen to mention that they’re stealing the Mona Lisa? Check it out on Oct. 16. (Amazon Prime Video)

“Below” (TV-MA) — This supernatural thriller miniseries is the only spooky pick for this week’s titles, but trust me, the hair-rising vibes are real with this one! Led by a trio who are used to horror — Josh Hartnett (“Trap”), Mackenzie Davis (“Speak No Evil”), and Charlie Heaton (“Stranger Things”) — this six-episode series takes place in Snook’s Arm, Canada, a remote town by the sea. When a large iceberg suddenly appears by the town’s harbor, mysterious things begin occurring throughout the town, with signs pointing toward a sea creature in the water. But one fisherman, Calvin (Hartnett), is unwavering in his resolve to protect his family and his town. All episodes are out now to binge! (Netflix)

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Q: Who’s the new judge on “The Voice” with the mustache? I’ve never seen him before. — D.D.

A: That’s country music singer-songwriter Riley Green, who is the newest member of the panel on the NBC singing-competition series “The Voice.” He joins Kelly Clarkson, Adam Levine and Queen Latifah as a coach. Green knows exactly what the contenders and their nerves are going through. He won the reality competition show “Redneck Island” back in 2014. He later played small venues while working in construction, before hitting it big a few years later.

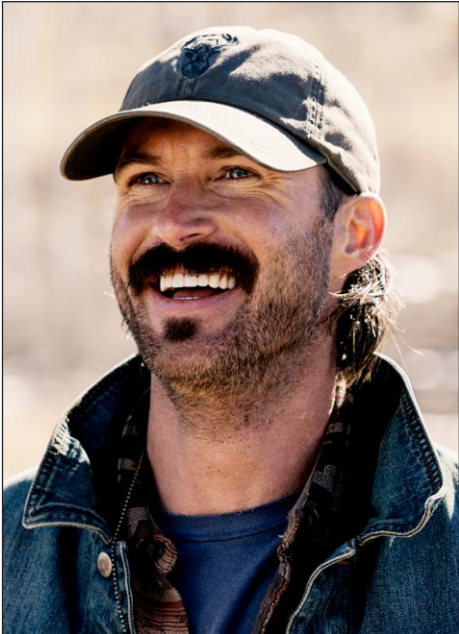
Green credits his grandfather for introducing him to classic country artists at a young age. His first single to hit the charts was titled “There Was This Girl,” and he followed this with “I Wish Grandpas Never Died.” He would go on to win an Academy of Country Music Award for Single of the Year for his duet “You Look Like You Love Me” with Ella Langley.

He released his fourth studio album “That’s Just Me” this past September. You might also recognize him in his recurring acting role as a former Navy SEAL in the “Yellowstone” spin-off “Marshals,” which airs on CBS.

Q: When’s the TV show “Landman” coming back? Have they started filming yet? — W.C.

A: After multiple delays, production is currently underway for season three of “Landman.” The season two finale left Billy Bob Thornton’s character heading in a new direction. Off camera, there’s been some concern about the show’s future after its creator, Taylor Sheridan, secured a new deal with NBCUniversal. Fortunately, “Landman” will live to see another season on its current home of Paramount+. (Sheridan’s deal with Paramount doesn’t end until late 2028.)

New episodes of “Landman” likely won’t be available until at least mid-2027, but the majority of the cast will be returning, including Thornton, Ali Larter, Demi Moore, Sam Elliott and Michelle Randolph. Several recurring characters have also been upped to series regulars, and character-actor ex-



Riley Green as Garrett in “Marshals”

traordinaire Michael Kelly (“Lioness” and “House of Cards”) will join season three to play the “leader of the largest oil management firm in the world.”

Q: Now that there’s one less late-night host (Stephen Colbert) who’s leading in the ratings now? — J.B.

A: Before its cancellation, CBS’ “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” held the top spot for almost a decade against his peers Jimmy Kimmel on ABC and Jimmy Fallon on NBC. According to TV Insider, “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” has shown “the largest year-over-year growth among late-night shows for the 2025-26 season,” while “The Tonight Show” with Fallon has achieved “moderate growth.” “Late Night with Seth Meyers,” which airs at 12:30 a.m. on NBC, is up 2% in total viewers.

If you turn to cable, Fox News’ “Gutfeld!” is the highest on the ratings leaderboard with 3.01 million total viewers, but it airs earlier at 10 p.m. ET and is down 13% when compared to where it ranked last year.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

8	6		7		5	3		
	1	7	2	5	6	4		
	4	5						2
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3x3 square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm to distance. 2. Saw blade is longer. 3. Hat is different. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Log is moved. 6. Hat is different.

October 12, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Havana's land

5 High tennis shot

8 Pitt of "Moneyball"

12 Spoken

13 Shock partner

14 Shakespearean villain

15 Military groups

17 Bar fight souvenir

18 Order by classes

19 Vehement protest

21 High school subj.

22 Poi base

23 Likely

26 Small battery

28 Cowboy in "Toy Story"

31 Indy winner A.J.

33 Away from SSW

35 Peevish fit

36 Seized vehicles

38 Business mag

40 Punker

41 Shacks

43 Cyclades Isle

45 1912 Olympic legend

47 Relatives of loons

DOWN

1 Club in a Manilow song

2 Web addresses

3 Sheepish remarks

4 Choir members

5 From Ventiane

6 Personal

7 Make drunk

8 Casual eateries

9 Masked mammals

10 Lab gel

11 "Finding Nemo" fish

16 Killer whale

20 Motor City labor org.

23 Ghana's cont.

24 "The Belis" writer

25 Violent storms

27 Blackbird

29 Nero's 502

30 Since Jan. 1

32 Sightseer

34 Bafflers

37 NASCAR advertiser

39 Business abbr.

42 1965 march site

44 Capital of South Korea

45 "I did it!"

46 Med. plan options

48 — fide (genuine)

49 Oklahoma city

50 Bygone jets

53 Cleric's tunic

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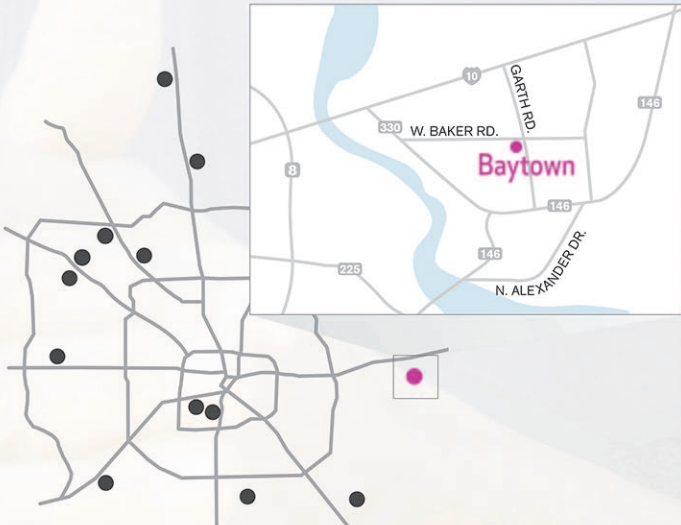
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