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IN THE STARS

Community Events

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.

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.

Preccint 2 Job Fair

Wednesday, Oct. 28
Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Event: Preccint 2 Job Fair,
Where: 8103 Wade Road, Baytown 77521. Info. 713-274-2337
6:30 p.m. North Channel Toastmasters International Interst Meeting.
Info. 832-896-1633

Pumpkins, a little sparkle, and a cup of fall: Kipper Koffee hosts harvest market and more

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY — A pumpkin for the porch, a little glitter in the hair and a cup of something autumn-inspired: Kipper Koffee is putting together a Saturday evening with plenty of ways to settle into fall.

The Pups and Pumpkins Fall Harvest Market, sponsored by Kipper Koffee, will run from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at the coffee shop on FM 2100 in Crosby across from Crawfish Shack. Admission is free, and the evening will bring together vendor shopping, pump-



Nicholas Whiddon, owner of Kipper Koffee, is inviting the public to the coffee shops Pups and Pumpkins Fall Market on Oct. 24 from 5 p.m. To 9 p.m. at the Crosby location on FM 2100. There will be a variety of vendors, movie night for kids, and lots of pumpkins! The coffee shop will be open during the event.

kin-patch pictures and children's Halloween movies on the lawn.

For owner Nicholas Whiddon, the gathering is a chance to give the com-

munity more than a quick coffee stop.

"It's going to be a vendor market," Whiddon said. "We're going to have people come in and setting up, and we'll have lots of vendors to be able to shop."

The pumpkin patch will offer a seasonal backdrop for photographs, with pumpkins also available for purchase. Visitors can take home a little fall color after capturing a memory or two.

As the evening unfolds, an inflatable screen will turn the lawn into an outdoor movie spot. Families can bring chairs and coolers and settle in for children's Halloween movies

without paying admission.

"It's completely free," Whiddon said.

Shopping will share the spotlight with hands-on fun. A face-painting booth and glitter hair bar are among the attractions planned, giving younger visitors something to do while families browse.

"There'll be a lot of interactive things for people to do," Whiddon said.

The owner said he selected vendors with variety in mind, reaching out to makers whose products

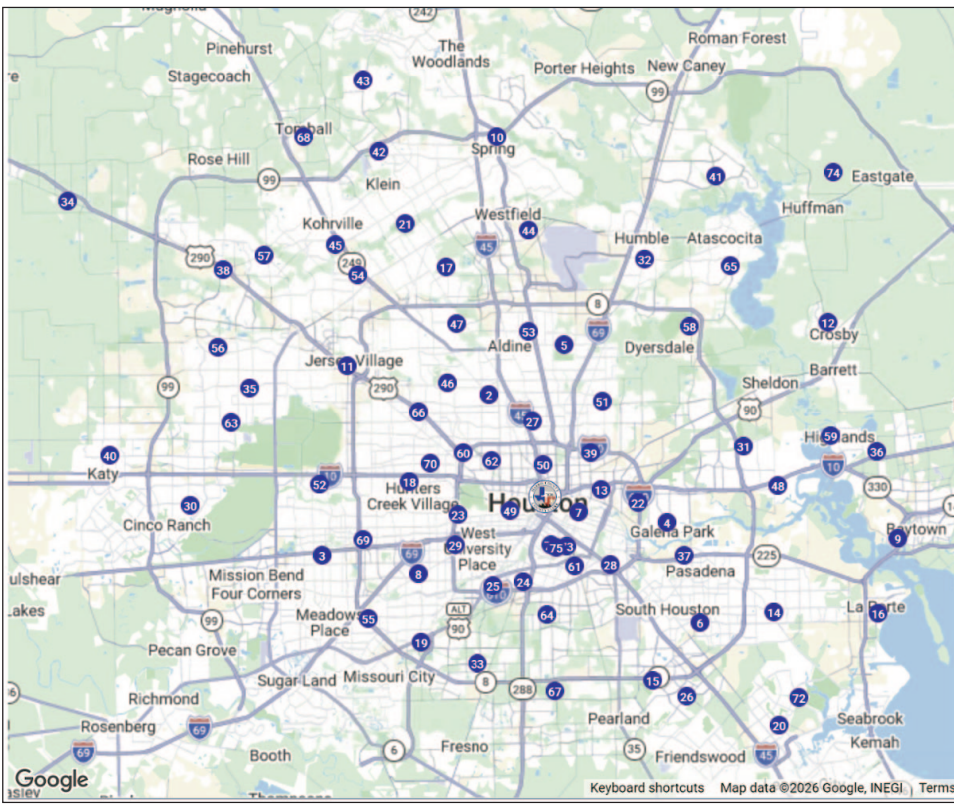
Continued. See CELEBRATE FALL AT KIPPER KOFFEE'S, Page 2

By Bill King

Early voting for the November 3 election starts today. It will continue through October 30. Polling places are open every day from 7AM to 7PM except for Sunday, October 25, when they will open at noon.

You can vote at any one of sixty-eight early vote locations spread throughout the county. You can use the **interactive map** in this article to find a location near you and get directions. Be sure that the toggle switch is set to "Early Voting."

On Election Day, there will be 621 polling locations open. You can visit this website <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Vote-Centers> to find the nearest one to you. Just



remember to set the toggle switch to "Election Day." If you vote on Election Day, it is important to remember that you can vote at any polling location. You do not have to vote in your home precinct.

Also, while it is a good idea to have your voter registration card with you, it is not necessary. You can confirm your voter registration and change your address on this website <https://www.hctx.net/Voter/Search.cshtml> However, if you change your address this late, your new address will not show up until the next election.

The ballot in Harris

Continued. See EARLY VOTING KICKS OFF IN HC, Page 2

Crosby-Huffman chamber holds board election, brings volunteers together for cleanup

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY — The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce focused on leadership and community service this month, holding its annual board election at the October luncheon before bringing volunteers together for Crosby Cleanup Day on Saturday, Oct. 17.

The luncheon at Crosby Church on U.S. 90 featured candidates seeking six available seats on the chamber's board. Toni Handley introduced the nominees in alphabetical order, giving each one minute to discuss their business and interest in serving.

"We have some wonderful candidates, and I truly wish we had a seat for every single one of you," Hand-

dley said.

The chamber has 18 board members, along with representatives from Crosby ISD and Huffman ISD. Board members serve three-year terms, with six seats coming up for election each year, chamber Chairman Velma Ellison said.

The 2026–2027 board members present includes Pastor Keenan Smith, Lee Ann Lockwood, Tiffany Mueller, Toni Handley, Traci Galyean, Chelsey Long, Isabella Dion, Billy Bostick, Travis Mann, Patrick Randell, Ed Hardy, Velma Ellison, Bryan Shultz and Loren Bruning.

Handley encouraged members to remain active regardless of the election results, emphasizing that volunteering is not limited to those on the board.

"You don't have to be a



New board members for 2026-2027 are Pastor Keenan Smith, Lee Ann Lockwood, Tiffany Mueller, Toni Handley, Traci Galyean, Chelsey Long, Isabella Dion, and Billy Bostick. The back row, from left, is Travis Mann, Patrick Randell, Ed Hardy, Velma Ellison, Bryan Shultz, and Loren Bruning.

board member to make a difference in our chamber," she said. "We have so many opportunities

throughout the year to get involved, volunteer, and share your time and talents."

That call for involvement carried into Saturday's cleanup, which brought businesses, community or-

ganizations and individual volunteers together to collect litter along local roads.

Ellison said organizers were pleased with the turnout and sponsorship support as the cleanup returned after an extended absence. The event was scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon, with volunteers gathering behind Crosby Middle School in the stadium parking lot.

Cleanup areas included FM 2100 from U.S. 90 to Hare Road, along with portions of side streets. Ellison identified Reedland, Wall and Church streets and Ulrich Lane among the areas volunteers covered.

Participating businesses and groups included

Continued. See 7 CROSBY-HUFFMAN CHAMBER, Page 2

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Crosby Chamber elects new board members for 2026-2027, hosts successful Crosby cleanup day,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Volunteers for the annual Crosby Cleanup Day gathered behind the stadium on FM 2100 and received their assignments for cleanup for the day.

Celebrate fall at Kipper Koffee’s Harvest Market: Pumpkins, glitter, and free fun!,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



There’s still plenty of places on the Kipper Koffee property for fall photos with pumpkins.

caught his attention rather than filling the market with similar booths. The planned selection includes art, etched glass, quilts, wreaths and gifts for family members.

The fall market’s vendor spaces are already full, he said.

Kipper Koffee will also keep its coffee truck open during the event, offering walk-up service from 5 to 9 p.m. rather than drive-through service. Its sea-

sonal drink menu includes maple flavors, pumpkin spice and an apple orchard drink.

“We’ll be able to have all that available to the customers,” he said.

A bonfire may round out the night, weather permitting. Parking will be available next door at the gun range and at Dr. Stevens’ office, according to Whiddon.

The fall gathering may

also be the start of another seasonal tradition. Whiddon said he plans to hold a Christmas market closer to the holiday, with Christmas trees and a photo setup. Details are expected to begin coming out in early November.

For now, the invitation is to pull up a lawn chair, browse the makers’ booths and make an evening of it — with a pumpkin to carry home and perhaps a little sparkle along the way.

Message from Sheriff Ed Gonzalez:

As part of our commitment during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I promised that we would go after the people hurting their own families. Our deputies have been delivering on that promise. Working with our state and federal partners, they went door to door across Harris County in a multi-agency domestic violence warrant roundup, targeting people wanted for some of the most serious offenses. In all, the roundup cleared 154 warrants and led to 117 arrests, including 79 for domestic violence.

Our Special Victims Unit, CAID, and Major Offenders Section, with help from our District CRU units, focused on people showing signs that the pattern of violence was getting worse. One man is accused of choking a pregnant woman until she nearly lost consciousness, then pushing her into a table and threatening to kill her with a large knife. Another was wanted after a woman was slammed against a patio table and beaten with an iPad. His victims were so afraid that they fled the state. A third is accused of using a chair to hurt the people in his home. The suspects in these three separate cases are now in custody.

The warning signs are often there long before violence turns deadly. In intimate partner violence cases, 80% involve at least one significant encounter with law enforcement, and half involve five or more. Each one of



those moments is a chance to break the cycle, and we intend to use it.

Every survivor in these cases has been connected with one of our victim advocates. An arrest is only part of the job, and helping survivors heal is the rest of it. The work doesn’t stop there. We’re still looking for domestic violence offenders. If that’s you, you already know it. Turn yourself in.

We’re also changing how we respond. Thanks to funding from Commissioner Lesley Briones, we’re setting up a new SMART unit that will send a specially trained deputy and a victim advocate out together. When the call involves a partner or an ex, the team will complete a lethality assessment, a set of questions that tells us if someone is at real risk of being killed.

We also want every survivor to know where to go for help. Earlier this month, I joined AVDA (Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse), CEO Maisha Coulter, and Clear Channel Outdoor at City Hall as new billboards went up

across our area. Some people can’t search for help because the person hurting them checks their phone, but they can remember a number they saw on a billboard. AVDA has been helping survivors here for 46 years, from finding a lawyer for a protective order to simply having someone to talk to.

Now I want to speak to anyone who is being hurt at home. It’s not your fault. You don’t need to have it all figured out to pick up the phone. And if you’re worried about someone you know, a friend, a coworker, your sister, check on them. Help them make that first call.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911. You can reach AVDA at 713-224-9911, or the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 24 hours a day, at 1-800-799-7233. You can also text START to 88788.

Every warrant we serve, and every case we bring closer to resolution, makes our community safer. We can’t do this alone, and I’m grateful to have you with us.



Around 15 of the students and parents with the Taylor Music Academy participated in the Crosby Cleanup Day. The students adopted Church Street from the corner of First down to US 90, about 1.2 miles and met at the church to begin their work.

Alliance Properties, Boss Tech Services, Edward Jones, Crosby Fencing , Taylor Music Academy, and the Leos, the junior Lions Club group. Individual residents also joined the effort.

LyondellBasell served as the event sponsor. Other financial sponsors identified by Ellison included

Ewald Kubota dealership, Trusted Insurance and Crosby Fencing.

Crosby Church of Christ provided Subway boxed lunches for volunteers after they finished cleaning, while Churches United In Caring supplied water.

“It was just really exciting to see so many people step forward and compa-

nies sponsor the event, volunteers come and participate,” Ellison said.

Organizers are planning another cleanup in March, with hopes of continuing the effort in the years ahead.

“It’s a project that we look forward to doing many years to come,” Ellison said.

Early voting kicks off in HC,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

County is very long because of all of the judicial races. You can look at a sample of what your ballot will look like when you go to vote at this site <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/Whats-on-my-Ballot> to plan whom you want to vote for. If you are unfamiliar with using the voting machines, particularly how to insert and deposit your paper ballot please visit this site <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/Election-Information> that will walk you through how to use it.

Remember that you will need to show one of the **photo IDs allowed by the State**. Of course, your driver’s license is acceptable.

I always strongly encourage people to vote early. It is almost always more convenient than voting on Election Day, and it is just too easy to get busy on Election Day and not get around to voting. Also, ignore any of the knuckleheads who tell you your vote will not be counted unless you vote on election day.

Sometimes you will find long lines at popular voting locations, like West Gray. If you run into that situation, you can use the voting location map on your phone to find another nearby location. So, be flexible about where you vote.

One last request. Please thank the election workers at the polls. They are paid very little for being at the polls for long hours. Our elections would not be possible without those who volunteer for this duty.

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 70 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on November 04, 2026 at 6:30 PM at 2935 Foley Rd. Crosby, Texas 77532. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:

Anthony Shane Young, David Findling, Matthew Holland, Randall Keith Adams and Richard Vega

AGAINST the proposal:

None

PRESENT and not voting:

None

ABSENT:

None

	Last Year	This Year
	\$0.400000 / \$100	\$0.600000 / \$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$0.200000 / \$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	50.000000%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$301,288	\$299,078
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$60,257	\$59,815
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$241,031	\$239,263
Tax on average residence homestead	\$964.12	\$1,435.57
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if		
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		+\$471.45
and percentage of increase (+/-)		+48.899514%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Wheeler & Associates, Inc. 713-462-8906

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Saturday, Oct. 24, Barbers Hill Fall Fest

Fall Fest Promises Fun, Family, and a Drug-Free Message

The annual Barbers Hill Fall Fest returns this Saturday, October 24.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., thousands of students, parents, and community members will gather to celebrate a lifestyle free of drugs and alcohol, with a fun-filled day of carnival games, delicious food, and creative surprises.

Now in its 37th year, the event is a collaboration between Barbers Hill ISD and the Mont Belvieu Area Chamber of Commerce. This year's theme, "All-American Fall Fest," celebrates the nation's 250th anniversary.

Held at the BHISD Bus Barn and visitor parking lot behind Eagle Stadium, Fall Fest continues its mission to promote drug awareness and education. Proceeds from the event will support field trips, campus reading programs, social emotional learning and Project Graduation, all of which aim to foster positive choices among students.

Wristbands, available for \$20, allow for unlimited access to carnival games. Wristbands can be purchased with cash or card at campus front offices or in car rider lines (cash).

Additionally, the popular Fall Fest T-shirts are on sale for just \$5 at each campus.

With its combination of entertainment, volunteerism, and a powerful message, Barbers Hill Fall Fest is set to be a memorable event for the entire family. Don't miss the chance to be a part of this community tradition!

For more information, visit [Fall Fest - Barbers Hill Independent School District](#)

Also during the Fall Fest, there will be no parking allowed at the Community Election Center behind the Leadership Support Center because of early voting on Saturday. The parking lot area needs to be left open so voters can access the polls and curbside voting.

District Clerk's Anahuac Office to Relocate

The Chambers County District Clerk's Office in Anahuac will close Oct. 19-23, 2026, while it moves to the Chambers County Justice Center.

During the closure, in-person services will be available at the Mont Belvieu office, 10616 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX 77523; 409-267-2666.

The office thanks customers for their patience during the transition.

BH Eagle Parents

This week is Red Ribbon Week on The Hill and we'd like to invite you to please join us for a special presentation titled, "Growing Strong Minds: Brain Based Parenting in The Age of Addiction", presented by Drew Dutton of Phoenix House Texas.

When: Thursday, October 29 at 6:00pm

Where: Justin Jenson Conference Room, BHISD Admin Building (Leadership Support Center) 9600 Eagle Dr.

Chambers County Early Voting Underway

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

CHAMBERS COUNTY — Voters heading to the polls will see several key district races contested locally, alongside major state and federal contests.

In the U.S. Congress race, incumbent Republican Brian Babin will face a challenge from Democrat Rhonda Hart.

For State Senate District 4, Republican nominee Sen. Brett Ligon will face Democrat Ron C. Angeletti. The two previously met in a special election last May, which Ligon won. Senate District 4 includes Chambers County, as well as portions of Harris, Jefferson and Montgomery counties.

In the race for House District 23, Republican incumbent Terri Leo Wilson



is being challenged by Democrat Cheryl Lynn Clark. The district encompasses Chambers County and portions of Galveston County.

With several seats in play, the two major political parties have stayed busy pushing voters to get out and cast ballots up and down the ticket.

While the Republican Party has long held a stronghold in Chambers

County, the local GOP has remained active by hosting events throughout the year.

Meanwhile, local Democrats are ramping up their own efforts and will host an event at G.W. Carver Park in Anahuac on Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Locally, candidates on the ballot are running unopposed, with Republicans up and down the ballot:

253rd state District Judge – Josh Fitzgerald
County Judge – Ryan Dagley
County Court-at-Law Judge – Cindy S. Price
District Clerk – Patti L. Henry
County Clerk – Heather H. Hawthorne
County Treasurer – Nicole (Nikki) Whittington
J.P. Precinct 1 – Celia Devillier Baker
J.P. Precinct 2 – Michael "Mike" Wheat
J.P. Precinct 4 – Blake Sylvia
J.P. Precinct 5 – David Hatfield
J.P. Precinct 6 – Jimmy Smith

Locations and Hours
Early voting by personal appearance for Chambers County voters is currently conducted at five branch polling locations.

Early Voting Locations:
· Anahuac: Chambers Health & Wellness Center, 102 Airport Road, Anahuac 77514
· Cedar Bayou: Judge Larry Cryer Annex, 7711 HWY 146, Baytown 77523
· Cove: West Side Complex, 8138 FM 3246, Baytown 77523
· Mont Belvieu: Barbers Hill ISD, Community Election Center, 9650 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu 77523
· Winnie: Winnie Stowell Community Building, 335 S Park Street, Winnie 77665

Dates and Hours (All Locations):
· Oct. 19 – Oct. 23: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
· Oct. 24: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
· Oct. 25: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
· Oct. 26 – Oct. 30: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

CCSO Joins Mont Belvieu for a Night of Community & Treats

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

MONT BELVIEU — The Chambers County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) traded in their patrol duties for an evening of Halloween fun, joining residents in Mont Belvieu for a festive Trunk or Treat event.

Deputies had a great time mingling with friends and neighbors during the community gathering, which was filled with creative costumes, plenty of treats, and a strong sense of local camaraderie.

The CCSO extended its gratitude to everyone who stopped by to say hello and helped make the evening a resounding success. "A



night full of treats, costumes & community!" the department shared following the event, highlighting the importance of connecting with the residents they serve.



BARBERS HILL ISD SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Comptroller selects district for financial review

We have been informed that we are one of four selected districts to be reviewed by the Comptroller, and we welcome the chance to once again demonstrate our academic and financial excellence.

The Governor has charged the Comptroller with ensuring that taxpayer dollars are being used appropriately and that those investments lead to academic success.

I know the Comptroller to be a staunch conservative who will realize this is a district he would want his grandchildren to attend.

Ultimately, we can and

we will demonstrate that our taxpayers, staff and students are well-served by the actions of our school board and Barbers Hill leadership.

Last week, we were notified that we are one of the largest school districts in the Houston area — and one of just a few districts statewide — that did not lose any students to vouchers. We earned a 93 on the state accountability rating system, the highest score in the state among districts comparable to ours. Our accountability score was the fourth highest in the state, behind only other premier



Dr. Greg Pole
Barbers Hill ISD Superintendent

districts — Highland Park, Lovejoy and Eanes — whose cumulative at-risk student population is less than one-third of Barbers Hill's at-risk student population.

We are one of the few

school districts continuing to grow because parents want their children in a conservative, safe environment that has high expectations in all things. These parents have obviously done their homework on Barbers Hill and have not bought into the political noise our district has been experiencing.

Furthermore, we are one of an elite group of Texas public school districts with the highest bond rating from S&P, and we have earned a Superior rating on the state's financial accountability rating system every year since its inception in 2001.

We have not raised the tax rate in 23 years and have given teachers 4 to 5 percent raises for more than 20 years. Our district is conservative and prioritizes the taxpayer.

Our School Board grants the highest optional over-65 exemption in the state and the maximum optional homestead exemption of 20 percent to all other eligible homeowners.

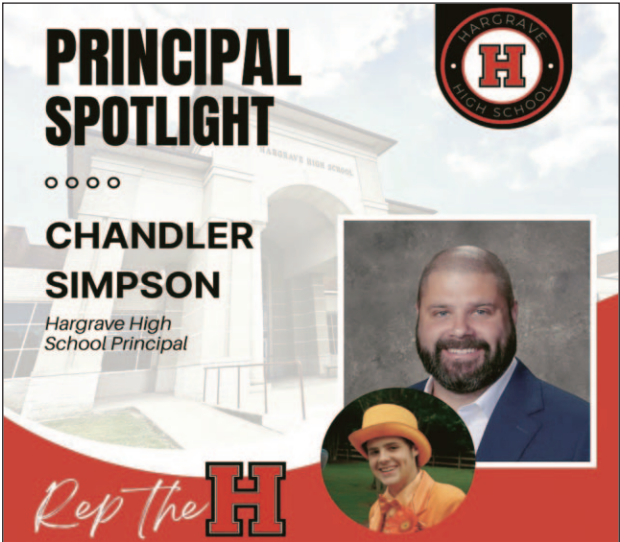
We have received clean, unmodified audits for the last 20 years, and we look forward to demonstrating the reasons for those clean audits.

Huffman ISD Spotlights Hargrave Principal Chandler Simpson

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HUFFMAN — In celebration of Principal Appreciation Month, Huffman ISD is shining a spotlight on the leaders who proudly "REP THE H." This week's feature highlights Hargrave High School Principal Chandler Simpson.

According to Huffman ISD social media, Simpson believes that education is fundamentally about building relationships, be-

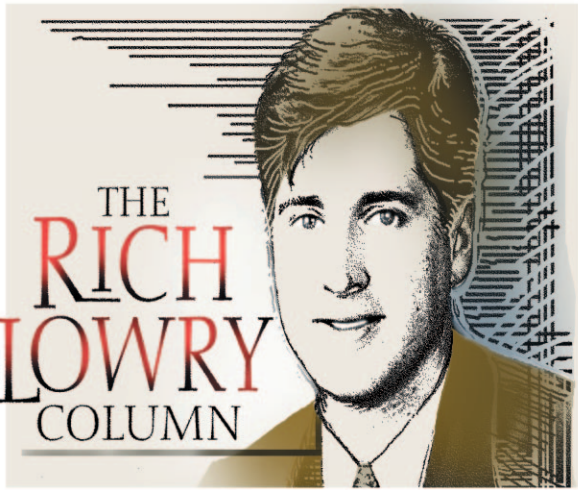


lieving in others, and helping students become the best versions of themselves. Inspired by the teachers and coaches who made a difference in his own life, Simpson strives to create that same sense of belonging and support for every student on campus.

Beyond his role as an educational leader, the district shared a few fun facts about the principal. Simpson is an avid Houston Astros fan, enjoys the movies Space Jam and School of

Rock, and counts SpongeBob SquarePants among his favorite childhood shows.

The district is encouraging the community, including local parent groups like BH Eagle Parents, to show Mr. Simpson some love for his dedication and leadership. Community members are invited to drop a comment on the Huffman ISD social media page to help celebrate the many ways Principal Simpson "REPS THE H."



Iran Exposes an Intolerable U.S. Vulnerability

Churchill said that “Wars are not won by evacuations,” and sometimes, he might have added, they are simply embarrassing. The U.S. hastily flew its B-1 bombers out of RAF Fairford in the U.K. for fear of a potential Iranian drone attack, the latest in a series of successful Iranian operations to crimp U.S. bases, this time more than 2,000 miles away.

The Trump administration has found — by opening a channel to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and blockading Iran — a strategy to pressure Iran that may yet produce a favorable outcome to the war. Still, the conflict has exposed glaring U.S. military deficiencies, with our inability to protect our bases in the region high on the list.

Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao has said the Iranians “blew the hell out of Bahrain,” referring to the headquarters of the Fifth Fleet in the tiny Gulf kingdom. They have also hit U.S. facilities in Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The vast majority of U.S. casualties have resulted from attacks on our bases.

Whereas it once seemed that having so many bases in proximity to Iran was useful to containing the Islamic Republic, when Tehran began firing on these facilities, it became clear that the short distances made them vulnerable targets. Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, where buildings and radar domes were hit, is just over 60 miles away.

A number of bases have been fully or partly evacuated, and the effects have been felt on U.S. operations. One reason that there was so much strain on the USS Abraham Lincoln during its lengthy deployment is that Bahrain was no longer available as a supply hub. We had to rely on facilities in Diego Garcia and Singapore, creating a supply chain thousands of miles long.

The Iranian missile and drone threat to our bases was foreseeable, and yet we didn’t do enough to protect them. One option now is a broad pull-back of our presence in the region. But so long as hydrocarbons power the modern economy, this is a nonstarter. The Gulf states would have an incentive to look elsewhere for strategic partners, most worryingly to Russia or China, and might conclude that they should do more to accommodate an Iran that would have effectively chased us from the Persian Gulf.

The answer to the threat to the bases is the same thing that created the threat in the first place — innovation. We’ve long had bases in the Gulf, including a naval command headquarters in Bahrain since 1948, but the purpose and the nature of the presence has changed over time. As Kristian Alexander writes in an analysis for the Stimson Center, during the Cold War we didn’t have a large land presence at bases. After Saddam Hussein’s 1990 invasion of Kuwait, that changed.

Today, the question is how to reconfigure our presence again to make it more defensible and sustainable. “U.S. bases,” Alexander writes, “remain indispensable for intelligence collection, command and control, maritime security, air and missile defense, logistics and long-range power projection.”

One option is to locate more facilities in Israel. Elliott Abrams of the Council on Foreign Relations points out that the Jewish state is much further away — more than 1,000 miles from Iran —and would impose fewer restrictions on our access and overflight rights.

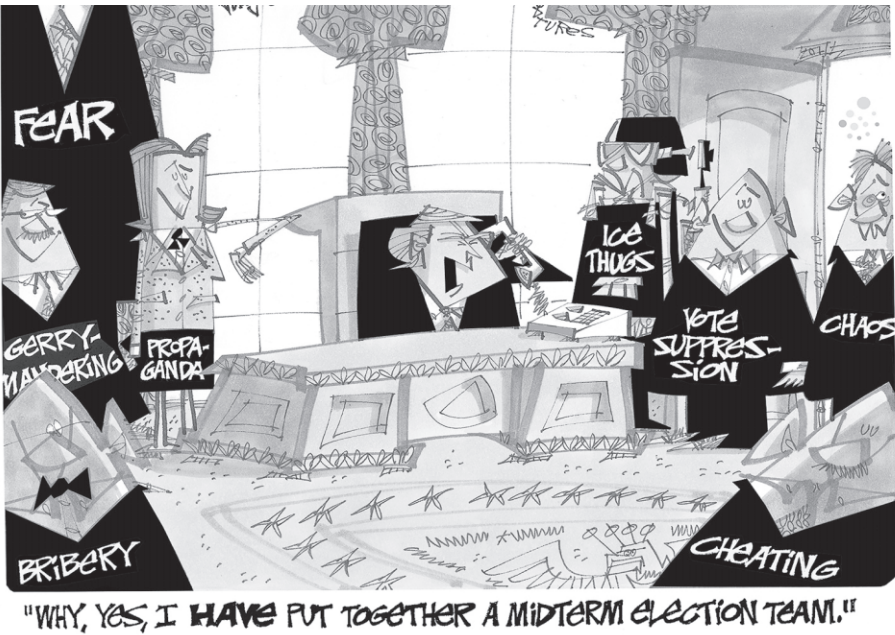
But we still require bases in the Gulf. We’re going to need to disperse them, harden them (including with more underground elements) and build in more redundancy. The air defense needs to be more robust and layered, and less dependent on expensive missiles that are in short supply.

The war with Iran was supposed to represent a short, sharp defanging of the Iranian regime. Instead, it has dragged on and served as a lesson in key shortcomings of U.S. military power that must be addressed, lest they bite us again in a conflict with a much more powerful adversary.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Abbott Ramps up Attack on Hinojosa

Abbott’s bid to become the longest-serving Texas governor in history is running into an unexpectedly tight race for a candidate who has won his last three races for governor by double digits. He told supporters that “polls don’t win elections, and polls are often wrong.”

His campaign recently announced a \$12 million ad buy targeting Hinojosa, according to the Texas Standard. One ad claims that, as a state representative, Hinojosa voted more than 40 times for higher property taxes in the state, a claim she vigorously disputes.

“I have never, not once, voted to increase property taxes, and anyone who says otherwise is lying,” Hinojosa said.

Abbott maintains that he will prevail.

“What I’m confident about is exactly where my campaign stands and the outcome — that I’m going to win this race,” Abbott said.

Meanwhile, Abbott out-raised Hinojosa in the last reporting cycle, \$20 million to \$13 million. She raised her money from about 136,000 donors, more than 10 times the number who contributed to Abbott’s campaign, which had more large donations, according to The Dallas Morning News.

Abbott has burned through far more campaign cash, spending nearly \$70 million since July 1, compared with Hinojosa’s \$12 million. Abbott still has a comfortable bank balance of \$17 million, compared with \$4 million for Hinojosa.

FEW DEBATES SET SO FAR IN STATEWIDE RACES

No debates have been scheduled to date in the governor’s race, although Hinojosa has repeatedly called for a debate against Abbott. The same is true of the U.S. Senate race, where Paxton’s campaign has promised to debate Talarico but has not agreed to any proposed dates, The Tribune reported.

The only debate among statewide candidates apparently scheduled so far is between Democrat Jon Rosenthal and Republican Bo French for a seat on the



Texas Railroad Commission. Rosenthal announced that he and French have agreed to a debate on Oct. 22, but French has not publicly confirmed.

State Rep. Vikki Goodwin, D-Austin, and state Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, the Democratic nominees for lieutenant governor and attorney general, have also urged their GOP opponents to debate. Spokespeople for Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and state Sen. Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston, did not respond to requests for comment.

In the past three gubernatorial elections, Abbott debated his Democratic opponent each time.

JUDGE HALTS BIG BEND AREA BORDER WALL

A U.S. district judge in El Paso has halted all construction on the border wall project in the Big Bend border area, the Standard reported. A coalition of opponents is suing the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection over plans to build a border wall through the rugged area, which includes Big Bend National Park.

The pause in construction is in effect until the case goes to trial.

“The Court finds that Plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the merits of at least one of the claims in suit, that there is a likelihood that they will suffer serious, irreparable harm without an injunction, and that the balance of the equities and the public interest weigh in their favor,” the order, from U.S. District Judge Kath-

leen Cardone, states.

Opponents claim that, besides the environmental damage caused by building a wall and roads in the area, the Big Bend Sector has the least traffic across the border because of its extremely rugged terrain.

A CBP spokesperson said the agency is working with the Department of Justice on next steps.

“We stand by our assessment and remain confident in our legal authorities to secure the border while preserving the unique landscape of the Big Bend region,” the spokesperson said.

TEXAS ACCOUNTS FOR MOST OF LIBRARY BOOK BANS

Texas banned more school library books during the 2025-2026 school year than any other state, accounting for 8,000 — or two-thirds — of the 12,000 book bans documented by Pen America, a literature and free-speech advocacy group, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Florida ranked second with just more than 3,200 banned books.

PEN America, a nonprofit, attributed the high number of book bans in the state to legislation that expands the role of parents and school boards in overseeing what books students can access in public school libraries.

Leading the list of most frequently banned books included “Sold” by Patricia McCormick, “Speak” by Laurie Halse Anderson, “Crank” and “Identical” by Ellen Hopkins, “The Handmaid’s Tale” by Margaret Atwood, and “Looking for Alaska” by John Green.

DSHS RECOMMENDS GETTING FLU SHOT SOON

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services is advising Texans to get immunized against the flu as soon as possible as flu season gets underway.

“We recommend everyone ages six months and older get a flu shot as soon as possible because we usually see cases start to rise at this time of year,” said DSHS Chief Medical Executive Manda Hall. “Small children and older adults, pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions often suffer the most severe effects from flu illness.”

People with flu are most contagious in the first few days of their illness. DSH advises those with flu symptoms to stay home and avoid contact with other people.

To find out where to get a flu shot, go to Vaccines.gov or contact your local pharmacy or health care provider.

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.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

The Same and Different



Traveling to San Miguel is always a little tumultuous.

My husband, Peter, and I spend a part of every fall and winter in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. It is not an easy place to get to. We have to take two flights with a layover in between, then an hour-and-a-half-long shuttle ride to our apartment hotel.

The second flight is on a small plane, and this time there was a lot of turbulence. Both my cat, Felix, and I get motion sickness, and neither one of us felt good, although I did not throw up all over myself, and Felix did.

When we got to Mexico, I tried to clean up Felix in the restroom before he had his usual visit to Customs. This time, there was more paperwork to be filled out. I was too tired to read the long document in Spanish, which I had to sign in two separate places. Then Felix had a longer-than-usual inspection. I held him while the medical examiner took his temperature and inspected his ears and looked at his teeth. Felix still had wet feet from his mini bath in the restroom.

When we finally got to the hotel, the staff was glad to meet us, and our little apartment looked as it always did—the same and a little different. Green drapes had replaced the white ones. There was a brand-new blue-and-white checked quilt on the bed. Peter and I unpacked everything, and then all three of us crashed. But Felix did not sleep well that night. In the middle of the night, he wandered around the apartment, crying out.

“What is he saying?” I asked Peter.

“He doesn’t like his food,” Peter answered. Maybe Peter was right. Felix has a different kind of food in Mexico, and he is a fussy eater.

But to me, it sounded more like, “How did we get back here? I’ve been here before! I remember this place—but it’s different!” Over and over again.

I feel the same way.

Everything is the same and different at the same time. I talked with Oscar, a local artist, and he told me how he had fewer students, the restaurants were empty, the weather was unpredictable and city politics were unstable.

“Who knows what will happen next!” Oscar said. And no one knows—it is true. I see the accumulation of gradual changes. I see cause for worry. I see more uncertainty.

And so, I buy vegetables.

The thing about vegetables is that they are always the same—and different. I buy carrots and celery and beets and onions. I buy potatoes and bananas and strawberries. I buy avocados and peppers and broccoli. I pile them all on the counter of the tiny, family-owned store around the corner. The vegetables are all fresh and inexpensive, and Peter and I cook them all up in advance, so we always have plenty of good food to eat.

That night, Peter made a big pot of vegetable soup. I had broccoli with a quesadilla from the hotel restaurant. And Felix was calmer the next day. He still didn’t like his food, so Peter gave him some inexpensive food he bought by the scoop in the market. Now he is happy. I fell asleep last night with Felix curled on top of me.

In times of uncertainty, this is what we need. We need good food. We need to stay close together. And we need to remember that everything is always the same and always different at the same time.

Till next time,
Carrie

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SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 8

No. 20 UH faces tough road test against No. 11 Utah: Texans look to keep momentum going against Giants

This is a big weekend for the University of Houston Cougars and their Big 12 title hopes.

The No. 20-ranked Cougars head west to take on No. 11-ranked Utah in a key league game for both teams.

Two weeks ago, Willie Fritz's team dominated Kansas State on the road behind tight end Patrick Overmeyer's four touchdown receptions en route to a 35-16 win. The Utes will be a real test for the Coogs, but the way the UH offense is playing, they should have a good chance to be in this game.

In other college action, this weekend, No. 7 Texas hosts No. 9 Ole Miss in an elimination game for both teams in the SEC race. Two weeks ago, the 'Horns were upset 27-24 by OU in a game where UT QB Arch Manning struggled in the second half and threw his first pick six of the season, which turned the game in the Sooners favor. It just seems that something isn't right in Austin, especially with the offense which struggles to run the football. Perhaps it's time for head coach Steve Sarkisian to give up play calling duties, but he said that's not going to happen. Oh, well.

Speaking of teams heading down a bad spiral, the Texas A&M Aggies visit No. 6-ranked Alabama. The Aggies offense has not been good lately and they will be facing a Crimson Tide team that knows it must win out if it hopes to land a spot in the SEC title game on the first Saturday in December. Two weeks ago, Kalen DeBoer's team lost a controversial 20-17 decision at home to Georgia. I expect the Tide to be focused from here on out as they look for a rematch against Georgia in the SEC title game.

In the NFL, the Texans will host the New York Giants and should debut their new wide receiver, Marvin Harrison Jr., who they acquired from the Arizona Cardinals two weeks ago. The Texans need to start putting some wins together if they hope



to get back in the AFC playoff hunt, and if they play like they did two weeks ago in their 26-3 domination of Tennessee, the Giants could be in for a long day at NRG Stadium.

Week 7 in the NFL begins on Thursday Night Football with New England visiting Chicago. The Bears are hoping starting QB Caleb Williams returns after missing the last three games with a hamstring injury.

There's a big one in the NFC North as Detroit visits Green Bay. Both teams picked up big wins two weeks ago as the Lions walloped Arizona, 45-21 on the road, while the Packers dominated long-time rival Chicago at home 31-7. Both teams have explosive offenses, so this one should be fun to watch.

There's also a good one on Sunday Night Football as Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs visit Seattle. Week 7 concludes with a big one in the NFC East as the Cowboys visit Philadelphia. Both teams have underwhelmed thus far, but they are both lucky to be playing in a weak division this year. The winner of this one could use this game to go on a streak.

In District 14-6A action, Aldine hosts Westfield on Thursday night at Thorne Stadium, while Nimitz visits Spring. On Friday, Davis and Eisenhower hook up in a key game for both teams, while MacArthur hopes to keep its playoff chances alive when it visits Dekaney.

Before we take a look at this weekend's game, let's review last week's record. A bad 5-7 week (stupid UT, Rams and Seattle!) brought the season record to 49-21 (70%).

Now, onto this week-end's games.

NCAA

Ole Miss at Texas - A

big one for both teams SEC title and CFP chances takes place in Austin on Saturday when No. 9-ranked Ole Miss visits No. 7-ranked Texas. Two weeks ago, UT saw its No. 1 ranking come to an end after the 'Horns were upset in the Cotton Bowl, 27-24 by an unranked OU team. UT QB Arch Manning (1,122 yards, 10 TDs) threw a pick-six and was intercepted one other time. He looked good at times tossing three TD passes, but when the game was on the line, Manning crumbled. It would help if he got some help from a weak running game that features Hollywood Smothers (237 yards, 2 TDs) and Ralek Brown (218 yards, 4 TDs). Look for Manning to look to make plays in the passing game to wideouts Cam Coleman (17 receptions, 318 yards, 54 TDs) and Ryan Wiingo (21 receptions, 296 yards, 3 TDs). The UT defense will get tested by Ole Miss QB Trinidad Chambliss (1,435 passing yards, 11 TDs/113 rushing yards, 5 TDs), running back Kewan Lacy (230 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Deuce Alexander (32 receptions, 503 yards, 5 TDs). Look for UT edge rusher Collin Simmons (9.5 sacks) to be the difference maker in this one as UT picks up a key SEC win. My pick, Texas 31, Ole Miss 20

Houston at Utah - Willie Fritz's No. 20-ranked Cougars head out west to take on No. 11-ranked Utah in the biggest test to date for UH. Two weeks ago, the Coogs dominated Kansas State on the road as tight end Patrick Overmeyer (33 receptions, 399, 6 TDs) caught four TD passes

form QB Conner Weigman (1,427 passing yards, 15 TDs/177 rushing yards, 16 TDs). Weigman will look for help in the running game from backs Re'Shaun Sanford II (404 yards, 2 TDs) and Makhi Hughes (388 yards, 3 TDs) and will look to make plays in the passing game to Overmyer and standout wide receiver Amare Thomas (29 receptions, 361 yards, 4 TDs). The UH defense will have its hands full with Utah dual-threat QB Devon Dampier (1,134 passing yards, 12 TDs/207 rushing yards, 3 TDs). Dampier gets help from running back Wayshawn Parker (499 yards, 7 TDs) and wideout Braden Pagan (24 receptions, 3365 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the UH defense to step up and make some plays down the stretch to lead the Coogs to a huge road win. My pick, Houston 32, Utah 28

Texas A&M at Alabama - I pity Mike Elko's team as it heads to take on No. 6-ranked Alabama in a game that could get ugly. Two weeks ago, the Aggie offense struggled once again during its 27-6 loss at Missouri. QB Marcel Reed (1,095 yards, 6 TDs/6 interceptions) continues to struggle with consistency and if that continues, he will be in for a long day against a 'Bama defense that loves to bring pressure. The Aggie defense will have its hands full dealing with dual-threat QB Keelon Russell (1,599 passing yards, 12 TDs/225 rushing yards, 4 TDs), running backs Trae'Shawn Brown (301 yards, 5 TDs) and Daniel Hill (262 yards, 4 TDs). Star wideout Ryan Coleman-Williams (23 receptions, 415 yards, 4 TDs) should be back for this one after he missed the Tennessee game after getting dinged up in the Georgia game. My pick, Alabama 34, Texas A&M 13

NFL

New England at Chicago - Week 7 of the NFL season starts with Thursday Night Football as New England visits Chicago. Two weeks ago, NE QB Drake Maye (1,229 yards, 8 TDs) threw four TD passes and ran for another in the Pats' 45-17 pasting of the Raiders. Maye should have another big night against a suspect Bears defense that gave up

31 points to the Packers two weeks ago. NE will look for big nights from running back Rhamondre Stevenson (227 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Romeo Doubs (13 receptions, 219 yards, 2 TDs). The Bears are hoping to get starting QB Caleb Williams back for this game after he missed the Bears last three games nursing a hamstring injury. Chicago could use him back. My pick, New England 24, Chicago 20

New York Giants at Houston - Two weeks ago, DeMeco Ryan's team picked up its first win of the season with a dominating 26-3 win at Tennessee, while the Giants tied the Commanders, 27-27 in overtime in one of the strangest finishes in NFL history. Look for Will Anderson Jr. (7.5 sacks) to make things miserable for NY QB Jameis Winston (805 yards, 6 TDs), while Houston QB C.J. Stroud (1,402 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Nico Collins (19 receptions, 249 yards, 3 TDs) will attack a suspect Giants secondary. The Texans know there is little room for error from here on out, so look for them to be focused for this one. My pick, Houston 31, New York Giants 16

Green Bay at Detroit - A big one in the NFC North pits the Packers against a Lions team that had last week off. This could be a high-scoring games that will feature two good QBs in GB's Jordan Love (1,4098 yards, 10 TDs) and Detroit's Jared Goff (1,485 yards, 12 TDs). Love has been making big plays to wideouts Christian Watson (26 receptions, 474 yards, 6 TDs) and Matthew Golden (24 receptions, 397 yards, 2 TDs), while Goff has been making plays to wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (37 receptions, 372 yards, 5 TDs) and tight end Sam LaPorta (27 receptions, 316 yards, 3 TDs). The Lions have an ace up their sleeve in running back Jahmyr Gibbs (504 rushing yards, 7 TDs/27 receptions, 243 yards). Look for Gibbs to be the difference maker in this one as the Lions pick up a key division win. My pick, Detroit 31, Green Bay 27

Kansas City at Seattle - A good one for Sunday Night Football pits the Chiefs against the

defending Super Bowl champs in Seattle. Two weeks ago, the Seahawks lost at home to the 49ers, 321-29, as the vaunted Seattle defense got pushed and passed over all afternoon. This Sunday, they face another solid offense led by Patrick Mahomes (1,037 yards, 9 TDs) and tight end Travis Kelce (16 receptions, 246 yards, 2 TDs). Seattle will also have to contend with former running back Kenneth Walker III (537 rushing yards, 4 TDs/12 receptions, 87 yards, 2 TDs), who left Seattle after being named the SB MVP and signed with the Chiefs. Seattle will need a big night from QB Sam Darnold (755 yards, 7 TDs in 4 games) and star wideout Jaxon Smith-Njigba (37 receptions, 583 yards, 7 TDs). Seattle knows it needs this game to remain in the NFC West race of SF (5-0) might just run away with the division. My pick, Seattle 26, Kansas City 20

Dallas at Philadelphia - Week 7 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Cowboys visiting the Eagles in a key NFC East game for both teams. Two weeks ago, both teams fell to 2-3 on the season with mind boggling losses. The Cowboys lost at home to a winless Tampa Bay team, while the Eagles lost in London on a last-second field goal that was set up by a long Jacksonville kickoff return with just 8 seconds to play. The Eagles seem to be a team in turmoil. The running back room has been depleted by injuries to starter Saquon Barkley and backup Tank Bigsby. QB Jalen Hurts (933 passing yards, 8 TDs/107 rushing yards, 1 TD) has been taking heat for not running more. The porous Dallas defense might be the perfect tonic for Hurts come Monday night. The Dallas offense should find success moving the ball against a so-so Philly defense. Look for QB Dak Prescott (1,381 yards, 9 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (276 yards 7 total TDs) and wideouts CeeDee Lamb (39 receptions, 507 yards, 4 TDs) and George Pickens (27 receptions, 355 yards, 1 TD) to come out swinging as Dallas looks to get back in the division race. My pick, Dallas 31, Philadelphia 27

Eagles QB and Channelview native Jalen Hurts expected to miss rest of season

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

PHILADELPHIA — Jalen Hurts' season is expected to be over because of blood clots in his lungs, according to a person with knowledge of the situation who spoke to The Associated Press on Monday.

The person requested anonymity because the health matter is sensitive.

The Philadelphia Eagles quarterback was put on injured reserve Saturday. That move came two days after the team disclosed that Hurts had a blood clot in his calf. He sat out Philadelphia's loss to the Carolina Panthers on Sunday, the first of what



will be at least four games he misses.

On Monday, the Eagles and Hurts' agent, Nicole Lynn, provided additional details about his condition.

They said Hurts has deep vein thrombosis and bilateral pulmonary emboli — meaning a blood clot moved from his legs to his lungs.

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STAR-COURIER FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Baytown Lee 35, Galena Park 14
Crosby, BYE WEEK
Dickinson 55, Barbers Hill 42
Goose Creek Memorial 28, New Caney 21
Huffman Hargrave 20, Lumberton 15
La Porte 55, Baytown Sterling 13

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCT. 22
Barbers Hill at Clear Lake, 6:30 p.m., CCISD Challenger Columbia Stadium

FRIDAY, OCT. 23
Baytown Lee at Santa Fe, 7 p.m., Indian Stadium
Baytown Sterling vs. Port Arthur Memorial, 7 p.m., Port Arthur Memorial Stadium
Crosby vs. Summer Creek, 7 p.m., Cougar Stadium
Goose Creek Memorial vs. Lufkin, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium
Huffman Hargrave at Vidor, 7:30 p.m., Pirate Stadium

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Hugh Jackman stars in "The Death of Robin Hood"

"The Death of Robin hood"

"The Death of Robin Hood" (R) — Don't be misled by the name of this thriller film and sit the kids down to watch this one; this definitely isn't Disney's version of Robin Hood's story. Based on the 17th century ballad "Robin Hood's Death," this film is led by none other than Hugh Jackman ("The Sheep Detectives") with a supporting cast that includes Jodie Comer ("28 Years Later") and horror aficionado Bill Skarsgard ("Dead Man's Wire"). Jackman portrays the aged outlaw Robin, who is widely known as a folk hero across 1247 England but remains tormented by the crimes he's committed. After a few more treacherous duels leave him delirious, Robin finds himself on a remote island at the Priory of St. Clement, left only with the reminder of his sins as Sister Brigid (Comer) nurses him back to health. Out now. (HBO

Max)
"Crystal Lake" (TV-MA) — Calling all slashers! (Because I fear I am not one.) This new series starring Linda Cardellini ("DTF St. Louis") serves as a prequel to the 1980 film "Friday the 13th." Cardellini takes on the role of Pamela Voorhees (originally played by Betsy Palmer in the 1980 and 1981 films in the franchise), who has a young son with physical differences named Jason. (Hint, hint.) While Pamela's working as a lunch lady at Camp Crystal Lake, where her son's also a camper, Jason mysteriously drowns in the lake when the camp counselors aren't looking. Traumatized by grief, Pamela attempts to go back to work at the camp a year later but is unable to move on. Simultaneously, dead bodies begin appearing around town. All eight episodes are available to stream now! (Peacock)

"Phony" (TV-MA) — Sam Nivola follows up his brother-loving role in season three of "The White Lotus" with a mother-loving role in this comedy-mystery series, co-starring Connie Britton ("Rooster"). Nivola plays teenage boy Sonny, who lives with his mom, Ellen (Britton), and has a great relationship with her. After a wild car accident places Sonny in the hospital, he awakens to his mom in the hospital with him — or so he first thinks. Upon further investigation, Sonny gets the feeling that his mom has been replaced with an impostor. Although his friends deny that this is possible, Ellen appears different than before the accident and doesn't remember their secret hand signals, leaving Sonny's mind completely scrambled. The first two episodes of the eight-episode series premiere on Oct. 20. (Hulu)

"Lorne" (R) — As the title suggests, this documentary film focuses on the career of film and television producer Lorne Michaels ("Saturday Night Live"). Beginning with his work on Canadian television, the doc walks viewers through the moments in Michaels' life that led him to create the legendary sketch-comedy show. It also touches on his five-year departure from the show from 1980 to 1985 and how he eventually returned to serve as the executive producer. The list of celebrity appearances in this doc is enormous, but a notable few include Tina Fey, Jimmy Fallon, Alec Baldwin, Bill Hader, Steve Martin and Chris Rock. Additionally, behind-the-scenes footage of "SNL" episodes is featured! Check it out now. (Netflix)
(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Margot Robbie, who was hot when she played "Barbie" (which grossed \$1.448 billion), now dreams of being 50 feet tall! In 1958, the film "Attack of the 50 Foot Woman" cost \$89,000 and grossed \$480,000, which surprised everyone. HBO then remade it in 1993 with Daryl Hannah, and now the brilliant director Tim Burton is set to direct a new remake! Robbie will produce and star in it.

But poor Barbie is still in limbo while Robbie and director Greta Gerwig demand more upfront and backend money to make the sequel. Not to be left out, Ryan Gosling wants \$20 million to play Ken again.

Meanwhile, Gosling has "Star Wars: Star Fighter" opening in May 28, 2027. Gerwig has since wrapped "Narnia: The Magician's Nephew" with Meryl Streep, Carey Mulligan, Ciaran Hinds and Daniel Craig, and it's set to premiere on Feb. 12, 2027. Robbie and Bradley Cooper are also producing Cooper's script of the untitled "Ocean's Eleven" prequel, which is set to release on June 25, 2027.

Director Guy Ritchie's track record is hit-and-miss. In May, the \$70-million action-thriller film "In the Grey," with Jake Gyllenhaal, Henry Cavill and Rosamund Pike, failed to impress with grosses of \$27.8 million. Undaunted, he forged ahead with the action-thriller "Wife & Dog," starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Rosamund Pike and Anthony Hopkins; it's due on Feb. 19, 2027. Ritchie also directed the action-thriller "Viva La Madness," with Jason Stratham and Ben Foster, and it wrapped this past April.

As Halloween nears, there aren't many films opening in theaters. The horror-thriller "Crawlers" opened on Oct. 16 with an unknown cast, and it follows the infestation of venomous spiders that get unleashed in an apartment complex. On Oct. 23, "Clayface" opens in theaters, which is about a disfigured rising movie star who volunteers to be a test subject to restore his



Margot Robbie (Upcoming in an "Ocean's Eleven" prequel.)

original face; his body gets transformed into living clay. Then there's "Stiletto," starring Colleen Camp, which is about an exotic dancer named Lyric; it escapes in theaters on Oct. 30. In the film, Lyric searches for a masked serial killer who killed her sister and also has a foot fetish.

Jamie Foxx's nightmare is the unreleased film that he wrote, directed and starred in called "All-Star Weekend" (which he also produced). It's about two basketball-fanatic, tow-truck drivers who win tickets to the NBA All-Star Game, then find themselves and their heroes in a life-or-death situation. Production began in 2016 with Jeremy Piven, Eva Longoria, Gerard Butler, Benecio del Toro, and Robert Downey Jr.

It was originally set to open in 2018, but they didn't finish postproduction until 2019. Then they tried for 2019, 2021 and 2025 releases, but speculation was that it wasn't releasable due to its controversial elements. Sometimes wearing too many hats can get you out-Foxxed!

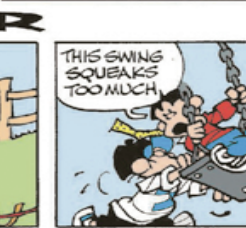
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ENTERTAINMENT

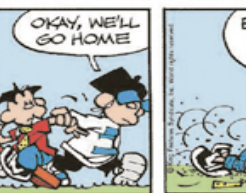
Amber Waves



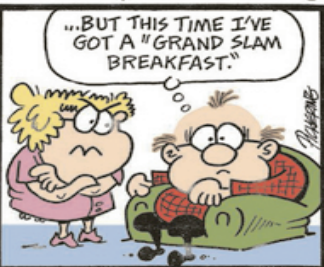
by Dave T. Phipps



by BUD BLAKE



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

		5					6	8
4		8	6	7	5	1		9
9		6		8	1		4	
		4				2		7
6	7							3
3			7		9			1
2		9				5		
		6	3	9	5			
8	5			1		9	3	4

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ BOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

9-18

Birthdays: June, October, December, February

POP'S BAKERY

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

POP'S BAKERY

Differences: 1. Cupcake is moved. 2. Monkey is missing. 3. Sign is moved. 4. Man is taller. 5. Counter is wider. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

October 19, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Off-white

5 "Star Trek II" villain

9 Yoga pad

12 Lopsided win

13 — the Great (kid-lit detective)

14 Yucatan "Bravo!"

15 Lead singer of Matchbox Twenty

17 Present location?

18 Most devious

19 Den fixture

21 ICU worker

22 No-frills

24 Big cheese

27 Warm-up run

28 Kitten calls

31 — Jima

32 Noshed

33 Slangy denial

34 Arrears

36 Roast VIPs

37 Hereditary unit

38 Jazz legend

40 Concerning

41 Prefix with violet

43 Social blunders

47 Egg — yung

48 Workplace invitations

DOWN

1 Blunders

2 "Neato!"

3 July birthstone

4 Says

5 Shoelace snarl

6 Deli choice

7 — premium

8 Tree houses

9 Frenzied gathering

10 Lotion additive

11 Libretto

16 QVC alternative

20 Energy

22 Foul up

23 Ice and Bronze

24 Auction action

25 Have bills

26 Pitiful tale

27 Magazine for docs

29 Pallid

30 That ship

35 Pitch

37 Lincoln Center's David — Hall

39 Indian prince

40 U.K. fliers

41 Sci-fi vehicles

42 LummoX

43 "Gee whiz!"

44 Greek salad cheese

45 Part of Q.E.D.

46 Swift jets

49 — pro nobis

50 "Dynamite" band

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

1. Wham-O; 2. Addis Ababa; 3. Insurance executive; 4. 1950s; 5. Hypoglycemia; 6. 1977; 7. Dwight D. Eisenhower; 8. 1947, Bell Laboratories; 9. The Equality State; 10. 100

Trivia Test Answers



THEIR ADVANCED TREATMENTS BEAT MY CANCER

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