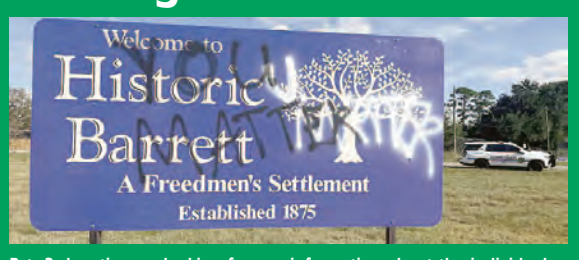
NATIONAL AMERICAN FFA AWARDS, Page 3

MEDICARE ENROLLMENT IS OPEN NOW, Page 4

Historic Barrett Entrance Sign Vandalized



Pct. 3 deputies are looking for any information about the individual or individuals that may be responsible for vandalizing the sign that was installed by Harris County at the intersection of Hwy. 90 and FM 2100, marking the entrance to Historic Barrett. It appears the vandalism occurred over the weekend. Anyone who might have seen any individuals or vehicles in this area that appeared to have been part of this act, please call Harris County Precinct 3's 24 hour dispatch at 713-274-2500.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
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IN THE STARS

Crosby Chamber to Host November Luncheon

The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce invites the community to its November Luncheon, themed "Finish Strong Together," on Thursday, November 19, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Crosby Community Center, located at 409 Hare Rd, Crosby, TX 77532.

The luncheon will feature guest speaker Hope Hartman, CPA PLLC, and will be catered by Teapot Depot. Early bird tickets are available for $25 until November 16th; tickets purchased after that date or at the door will be $30. The event is proudly sponsored by Alliance Properties. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Chamber.

Community Invited to "Cookies & Pictures with Santa"

Harris County Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey (Precinct 3) invites the community to a free "Cookies & Pictures with Santa" event on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Held at the San Jacinto Community Center, attendees will enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, and the opportunity to take photos with Santa. The festive gathering is made possible with special thanks to event partners: Peet & Georgianna Bighorse, Highlands/Lynchburg Chamber, Highlands Horizons, Rotary Club of Highlands, Highlands Volunteer Fire Department, and Seniors Helping Seniors High-Town Inc.

The San Jacinto Community Center is located at 604 Highland Woods Dr., Highlands, TX 77562. For more information, please call 713-274-2860.

A little bling, a little Bluey? Crosby's Nutcracker Market readies holiday fun

By David Taylor
Managing Editor



CROSBY — Santa has a scheduling snag, Bluey may be on the guest list, and shoppers have plenty of reasons to start checking theirs.

The Second Annual Nutcracker Market will bring an afternoon of holiday shopping and family photo opportunities to the Crosby Fair and Rodeo fairgrounds Nov. 14, from 2 to 7 p.m. Vendors will set up under the pavilion, offering everything from homemade jewelry and snow globes to sweet treats and gifts with a personal touch.

Tina Jordan with JB Events HTX said 71 vendors had paid to participate at the time of the interview, with another 30 approved but awaiting payment.

The lineup includes food vendors, arts and crafts sellers, health and beauty products, embellished purses, customized coasters and T-shirts, wood crafts and a children's boutique. Shoppers also can browse jams, jellies and honey — a little something sweet for the holiday table or a gift basket.

"I mean, we have it all," Jordan said.

For families, the shopping bags may have to share the spotlight with a few snapshots.

Jordan is arranging a costumed character appearance and said Bluey is her leading choice, although the booking had not been finalized at the time of the interview.

"I'm leaning toward Bluey because all the kids love Bluey," she said.

The character would circulate among visitors, interact with children and pose for pictures. Photo booth opportunities also are planned.

And then there is the fellow in the red suit.

Continued. See CROSBY'S NUTCRACKER MARKET, Page 2

GOOSE CREEK SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Safe and Secure Schools: Creating an Environment for Student Success



Dr. Joe Rodriguez
Goose Creek Superintendent

Every student deserves to attend a school where they feel safe, and every teacher deserves an environment where they can focus on teaching. Providing that environment is one of our most important responsibilities at Goose Creek CISD.

Last month, I shared how our recently updated 2025-2030 Strategic Plan is guiding our work toward Academic Excellence. This month, I want to focus on our second goal, Safe and Secure Schools. These priorities go hand in hand because a safe and supportive learning environment is essential to academic success.

School safety requires ongoing attention. Our campuses follow established safety procedures and conduct regular drills to prepare students and staff for potential emergencies. We also routinely inspect exterior doors and access points to identify concerns that need to be addressed. Our strategic plan calls for 100% compliance with required Standard Response Protocol drills and resolving all findings from Intruder Detection Audits each year.

Maintaining our facilities is another important part of creating safe learning environments. We must proactively identify building needs and make improvements that support our students and staff. Our Long-Range Facility Plan helps guide those decisions, while regular monitoring of maintenance concerns allows us to address issues as they arise.

Just as important as physical safety is maintaining a learning environment where students understand behavioral expectations. Every student has a right to learn without constant disruption, and our teachers need the opportunity to provide instruction without unnecessary interruptions.

This year, we have introduced additional approaches to student behavior and accountability, including District Service and Bootcamp. District Service provides eligible secondary students with opportunities to participate in supervised service that benefits our schools. Examples of service activities include maintaining flower beds, washing buses, and assisting with cleanup at district events, with additional opportunities based on campus or district needs. Through these experiences, students can develop a greater sense of personal responsibility while making a positive contribution to their school community.

Bootcamp provides another option for eligible secondary students. Through structured physical activities and character-building exercises, students can develop greater self-discipline and personal responsibility. Both programs reflect our belief that accountability should give students opportunities to learn from their actions. Our goal is not simply to assign consequences, but to help students understand the impact of their choices and make better decisions moving forward.

Our strategic plan also calls for reducing violent offenses and major student safety incidents each year. As part of our efforts to address serious disciplinary incidents, fighting now results in mandatory placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP). During the first nine weeks of this school year, fighting incidents decreased by 51% compared to the same period last year. We will continue using student

Continued. See MESSAGE FORM THE SUPERINTENDENT, Page 2

Nexstar, Mission to carry UIL football title games free across Texas

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Nexstar Media Group and Mission Broadcasting will provide free television and streaming coverage of all 12 University Interscholastic League state football championship games Dec. 16-19 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, the companies announced.

The arrangement will give fans access to the championship games through participating stations across Texas and their digital streaming platforms. Each game will be available on local broadcast television, a streaming platform or both, depending on the market, according to the companies' Oct. 29 announcement.

In Houston, the participating outlets are KIAH and CW39+. Viewers elsewhere also will be able to watch through participating stations' digital platforms, regardless of their location, the announcement said.

The championship coverage differs from video streaming arrangements for earlier playoff rounds, said Gerald Sanchez, owner of Legacy Sports Network, which broadcasts high school sports.

Legacy will switch to internet audio coverage when the playoffs begin, Sanchez said. The network can continue providing audio broadcasts at the state

Continued. See FREE BROADCASTS, Page 5

TEXAS ELECTION 2026: Voters' names, voting records available online

By David Taylor
Managing Editor



AUSTIN, Texas — As millions of Texans participate in Tuesday's general election, many may be unaware that their decision to cast a ballot becomes part of a public record that can be accessed online.

Under Texas election laws, the names of people who vote, their voting history and certain voter registration information are available to the public. Although the law protects the secrecy of individual ballots, it does not generally keep confidential whether a registered voter participated in an election.

The information is more accessible than many voters may realize.

Texas law requires election officials to make early voting rosters publicly available, with records generally posted by 11 a.m. the following day. Those records allow members of the public, political campaigns and other organizations to determine who has already cast a ballot.

The Texas Secretary of State maintains election information online, and county election officials also make voting records available.

According to the Texas Secretary of State, voter registration records contain information that is considered public under state law, including voters' names, dates of birth, voter identification numbers and the elections in which they participated.

Residential addresses may also be disclosed

Continued. See TEXAS ELECTION 2026, Page 6

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Dr. Joe Rodriguez October Editorial 2026,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

discipline data to identify areas of concern and determine where additional interventions may be needed. Holding ourselves accountable for measurable improvement is essential to creating the school environment our students deserve.

Keeping our schools safe is a shared responsibility. It requires our employees' daily commitment and our students' cooperation. Families also play an important role by reinforcing expectations at home and communicating concerns when they arise.

We cannot take school safety for granted. It requires us to remain vigilant and continually look for ways to improve. Our responsibility is to ensure every Goose Creek CISD campus is a place where students feel secure, and learning remains the priority.

Crosby's Nutcracker Market: Holiday shopping, bluey, and Santa await!,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jordan said organizers intend to have Santa at the November market, but his appearance is still being arranged. He tends to get busy this time of year.

Even Santa, it seems, needs to double-check his calendar.

"Claus will be here and will be taking photos with the children. We're nailing down an exact time," Jordan said.

Behind the holiday preparations is a message Jordan hopes Crosby residents will take to heart: These markets depend on the community showing up.

A strong turnout helps keep vendors interested in returning and makes it possible to continue bringing shopping events to town, she said.

"We need the support in order for the vendors to want to keep coming in order for us to bring these events here," Jordan said.

JB Events HTX is sharing vendor spotlights on its Facebook page, including photographs of products visitors can expect to find. Jordan said the posts give shoppers a preview of the businesses preparing to set up at the market.

For those ready to trade a little holiday-shopping hustle for an afternoon closer to home, Crosby's second Nutcracker Market offers a chance to browse, visit and perhaps find that just-right gift before December arrives.

The shopping list is up to visitors. Jordan hopes they will put the market on their calendars first. Entrance is free to the public.

CROSBY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE ADOPTING AMENDED RATES AND FEES FOR SERVICES AND RULES AND REGULATIONS; ESTABLISHING CERTAIN OTHER POLICIES; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Crosby Municipal Utility District (the "District") at a duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 6th day of October 2026 amended its *Ordinance Adopting Amended Rates and Fees For Services and Rules and Regulations; Establishing Certain Other Policies; and Providing Penalties For Violations Thereof* to add prohibited activities in relation to the District's water wells. The amendment is effective as of the date of adoption. A copy of the Amended Ordinance is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the office of the District's attorneys, Johnson Petrov LLP, 2929 Allen Parkway, Suite 3150, Houston, Texas 77019, (713) 489-8977.



JARED JAMAIL MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC

With Heartfelt Thanks from the Jamail Family

As we reflect on another unforgettable Jared Jamail Memorial Golf Classic, our family is filled with gratitude. To everyone who joined us, sponsored the event, volunteered, donated, or simply continues to remember Jared, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

What began nearly three decades ago as a way to honor our son has grown into something much larger than we ever imagined. Each year, we are humbled by the generosity, friendship, and commitment of so many people who gather not only for a day of golf, but to celebrate a life that continues to make a difference through others.

One of the greatest gifts this tournament has given us is the opportunity to see familiar faces year after year. Some have been with us from the very beginning, while others have recently become part of this special tradition. Together, you have created a community that is **"Keeping Jared's Memory Alive".**

Through your support, the Jared Jamail Memorial Fund continues to open doors for young people pursuing their educational dreams. Every scholarship awarded represents an investment in the future and a lasting reminder that one life can continue to impact countless others. To date, we've awarded scholarships to over 160 high school students, more than $527,500.

We are especially grateful to our sponsors whose generosity makes this event possible. Your continued support allows us to carry our mission forward and strengthens the impact we are able to make each year. We would also like to thank Ginny, Lexi, and the entire Stonebridge team for their outstanding hospitality and hard work. Their dedication and attention to detail help make the tournament a success year after year.

A special thank you goes to everyone who works behind the scenes to make this tournament a success. From planning and registration to sponsorships and countless details that often go unnoticed, your dedication does not go unappreciated. We are particularly thankful for Aunt Pam, whose passion, hard work, and attention to detail continue to make this event one that people look forward to each year.

While nothing can replace the loss of a son, the love, kindness, and support we receive through this tournament remind us that Jared's life continues to matter. Seeing old friends reconnect, new friendships form, and people gather in his memory is a blessing our family never takes for granted.

Thank you for standing with us, for supporting the scholarship fund, and for helping us carry forward a legacy of hope, opportunity, and love. Your presence means more than you know.

Together, we continue what has always been at the heart of this tournament: honoring Jared's memory by making a difference in the lives of others.

With sincere gratitude,

The Jamail Family

HOLE IN ONE

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Steve & Christy Roeder
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Community Collision Center
Chris, Jana & Tristan Jamail
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Garrett Galloway

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WE WISH TO THANK ALL CONTRIBUTORS

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Custom Built Awards
Brandon Womack
Duain Cagle
Lois Rogers
Crosby Cleaners
Josh Gilliam
Karen Claunch

MOST OF ALL THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GOLFERS

TOURNAMENT WINNERS

1ST PLACE TEAM:

Kelly Hudson — **Wes McCleskey**
Bernie Busken — **Bob Brodeur**

2nd PLACE TEAM:

Jim Mitchell — **Harry Jacobson**
Emmett Lewis

3rd PLACE TEAM:

Brandon Fulghum — **Stephen Bryan**
Josh Meador — **Quana**

CLOSEST TO PIN — **Roy Langley/Davalynn Riley**

LONGEST DRIVE — **Joe Inman**

RAFFLE WINNERS

Moochie Plaisance, Andrew Daniele, Danny Hanson, Lindsey Griffin, Chris Aurich, Taylor West, Ben Lippman

With special thank you to all my family and friends,

Once again, we come to each of you with extremely grateful heart. The entire family is so appreciative of your participation the **28th** Annual Jared Jamail Golf Tournament. Your ongoing show of support has been truly uplifting. Without each of you, this tournament would not be able to flourish each and every year.

Many thanks to all your help in making this tournament once again successful. We appreciate all of our family and friends that have shown their unwavering love and support, keeping Jared's memory alive.

We look forward to seeing you all next year at the **29th** Annual tournament.

Sincerely,
"Aunt" Pamela Johnson

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ON THE HILL

Softball Fights Cancer

Get ready for a fun evening of softball, friendly competition, and community spirit!

Join us for the ISS Staff Softball Game on Thursday, November 19, as we come together for a great cause in support of the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life!

Thursday, November 19, 2026

5:30–7:00 PM (Gates open at 5:00 PM)

Barbers Hill High School Softball Field

Tickets: Individual $5 Family $20

Presale tickets are available at ISS during lunches, in the ISS front office, or online using the QR code on the attached flyer.

There's more than just softball:

-The first 200 attendees will receive a rally towel!

-Raffle and silent auction

-Snacks and drinks available for purchase

-Kids can run the bases after the game!

Please note: Guardians must be present with students.

Bring your family, cheer on our staff, and enjoy an evening of fun while helping us make a difference in the fight against cancer!

Anahuac Christmas Cards Program

Chambers County is inviting Anahuac businesses to help make the holiday season merrier and brighter by participating in the first-year Anahuac Christmas Cards program.

Local businesses are asked to create their own oversized Christmas greeting cards to be displayed in Anahuac for the community to enjoy throughout the holiday season. The program is designed to let businesses show off their creativity and spread small-town Christmas spirit.

Cards must be 4 feet tall by 8 feet wide and dropped off by December 2. Participation is free; businesses provide their own materials and backing, and Chambers County will coordinate the display.

Businesses can register online at **https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/YSBgv6Fwsb** or by scanning the QR code. After registering, participants will receive an email with additional information and instructions.

Chambers County said it looks forward to seeing what local businesses create and hopes the program becomes a Christmas tradition the community can anticipate each year.

Bond sale delivers $4 million in taxpayer savings

Barbers Hill ISD successfully completed the sale of $109,425,000 in Unlimited Tax School Building and Refunding Bonds, Series 2026, securing financing for voter-approved capital projects while reducing future debt-service costs and delivering significant savings to district taxpayers.

The bond sale included $95 million in new money to support the May 2026 Bond Referendum and the refinancing of approximately $14.4 million in outstanding bonds originally issued in 2007.

Barbers Hill ISD voters overwhelmingly approved a $95 million bond package in May 2026 to replace the aging fieldhouse with a multipurpose facility for athletics, fine arts, graduations, district events and community gatherings. The bond also funds athletic infrastructure improvements, including replacement football dressing facilities and stadium upgrades to lighting, concessions, restrooms and safety features.

Through the refunding and restructuring of this existing debt, the District is projected to save taxpayers approximately $3.96 million over the life of the bonds.

"We are extremely pleased with the results of this bond sale," said Becky McManus, BHISD Assistant Superintendent of Finance. "Once again, we were able to take advantage of favorable market conditions to refinance existing debt at lower interest rates, reducing future interest payments and generating significant savings for our taxpayers."

The bond sale also attracted exceptional investor interest, with 56 different investors placing orders and demand reaching 5.9 times the available bonds during the priority order period.

"The overwhelming investor response reflects the district's strong credit rating, sound financial management, and reputation in the municipal bond market," McManus added. "This level of demand creates competitive pricing, ultimately lowering our borrowing costs and maximizing savings for our taxpayers."

"Our district has one of the highest bond ratings in the state and that equates to millions of dollars in savings over the lifetime of the bond, "said Dr. Greg Poole, BHISD Superintendent. "Our taxpayers benefit because investors nationwide view our district as a tremendous and safe investment."

The successful transaction reflects Barbers Hill ISD's continued commitment to responsible financial stewardship, strategic debt management, and protecting taxpayer interests while meeting the district's long-term facility needs.

Local FFA Members Being Awarded National American FFA Degree

Story by: Nancy Bonds, GCCISD Director of Communications


Evan Graham


Gavin Pacheco


Hannah Griffice


Makenna Land

Four Goose Creek CISD (GCCISD) graduates are among more than 5,800 FFA members nationwide who will receive the prestigious American FFA Degree at the 99th National FFA Convention & Expo on October 24, 2026, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The American FFA Degree is the organization's highest honor, awarded to fewer than 2% of FFA members. It recognizes students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to agricultural education through academic achievement, leadership development, and professional experience.

The four GCCISD recipients are:

-Hannah Griffice, a member of the Goose Creek Memorial FFA chapter, is attending Texas A&M University, where she is pursuing a degree in agricultural economics.

-Makenna Land, a member of the Goose Creek Memorial FFA chapter, is attending Texas A&M University, where she is pursuing a degree in agricultural education.

-Evan Graham, a member of the Robert E. Lee FFA chapter, is attending Lee College and working full-time for a local company.

-Gavin Pacheco, a member of the Robert E. Lee FFA chapter, is working as an independent welder with his own crew in the local area.

The students received guidance and support from their FFA advisors throughout their agricultural education experiences. GCCISD's FFA advisors include Kelly Mills at Stuart Career Tech High School, Ashley Lott at Ross S. Sterling High School, Lily Pruitt-West at Robert E. Lee High School, and Chris McLaren at Goose Creek Memorial High School.

Earning the American FFA Degree requires years of dedication beyond the classroom. To qualify, members must have earned at least $10,000 through a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program or earned at least $2,000 and completed 2,250 hours of work outside of class time. These experiences may involve owning a business, working in an agricultural field, or conducting research.

Recipients must also complete at least 50 hours of community service and demonstrate leadership through participation in FFA and community activities. The process often extends beyond high school as members continue working toward the degree's requirements.

Sponsored by Bayer, Cargill, Case IH, John Deere, Rabobank, and Syngenta, the award recognizes outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing, or service programs. Each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key and certificate during the national convention.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based youth leadership development organization with more than 1,053,847 student members in 9,591 local chapters across all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Abnormal mammogram? Houston Methodist experts share what happens next

HOUSTON – Oct. 27, 2026 – Receiving an abnormal mammogram result can be a shock for many women and their families. Breast care experts from Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital share their guidance on additional testing, benign causes and resources for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients.

"Getting a call that more testing is needed can be unsettling, but it doesn't always mean cancer has been found," said Dr. Amanda Garza, breast surgeon at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. "In many cases, we're simply gathering more information to better understand what we are seeing on the mammogram."



After an abnormal screening result, patients typically undergo a diagnostic mammogram to examine a specific area of concern. Depending on the findings, patients also may undergo a breast ultrasound, particularly if they have dense breast tissue.

Unlike a routine screening mammogram, the radiologist reviews diagnostic images in real time and discusses the results directly with the patient before they leave. If they identify an area of concern, they may recommend additional imaging or a biopsy to determine if the finding is benign or cancerous.

"An abnormal mammogram finding can be caused by a variety of factors," Garza said. "Dense breast tissue, cysts or other common breast changes may require further imaging, which allows us to distinguish between normal changes and findings that need further evaluation."

For patients who receive a breast cancer diagnosis, support begins immediately through the Houston Methodist multidisciplinary breast care program.

"No one should feel like they're navigating this journey on their own," Garza said. "From screening and diagnosis to treatment and survivorship, our breast care team is committed to providing patients with support, education and personalized care every step of the way."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women in the United States. Women at average risk for breast cancer should receive a mammogram every year starting at age 40 as recommended by the American Cancer Society. Women with a family history of breast cancer, a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation, or other risk factors may need to begin screenings earlier.

For follow up questions or to schedule an interview, contact Natalie Hall at njhall@houstonmethodist.org.

For more information about Houston Methodist, visit our newsroom or our social media pages or our On Health and Leading Medicine blogs.

☆ OPINION PAGE ☆

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Medicare enrollment is open now

Medicare open enrollment is going on until Dec. 7, giving us the opportunity to change our health coverage and drug plans, if we wish to do so ... after we wade through all the information for 2027.

Medicare.gov/plan-compare is your place to go to compare the plans available on pharmacies, drugs and providers.

Some thoughts while you go through all the information:

Medicare Advantage plans are making many changes, leaving some markets completely, deleting some benefits, shrinking others and adding lesser benefits in their place.

Many seniors feel overwhelmed and look for help to make their decisions about which plans they want — and help is out there.

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227) as a place to start. They're open 24/7.

Look online at the Medicare Plan Comparison Tool at www.medicare.gov. Click "Find health & drug plans" or "Find care providers" and put in your ZIP code. Be sure the drugs you take are on any plan you consider. If you'll be looking at drug plans, have your prescription bottles in front of you, as you'll need to enter the drug name as well as the dosage. Beware the quantity: Do you usually get your drugs every 30 days or 90 days?

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has trained staff, and the good news is that they're not aligned with any particular plan. They can help you wade through the plans with your needs in mind. Go to www.shiphelp.org to find the SHIP office in your area. Have your Annual Notice of Change in hand before you call anyone.

Call your local Area Agencies on Aging to see if they're offering any workshops on Medicare or if they're hosting any SHIP counselors who will be available for advice. The main number is 800-677-1116.

Remember: Don't just continue with the same plan you've had without checking the other plans in your area. Changes can happen any year, especially this year.

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Fast rewards for whistleblowing

There is a new tool in the toolbox to catch criminals who steal from government agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Justice Department has now started the Fraud Whistleblower Incentive Program (WHIP). The highlight: Instead of waiting years to receive a reward for turning in the thieves and scammers, waiting through the appeals and delays that always occur, whistleblowers can receive an upfront award for their tips.

In other words, the government is asking for our help. And you know they're quite serious because whistleblowers can receive an award of $10,000 to $30,000 for information on certain categories of offenses that lead to criminal charges.

A few items on the list of basic eligibility criteria to receive the award include voluntary participation, information that is truthful and in writing, and tips that lead to criminal charges. The information needs to concern a long list of government agencies that provide healthcare and benefits, such as the Department of Labor, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services and, of course, the Department of Veterans Affairs.

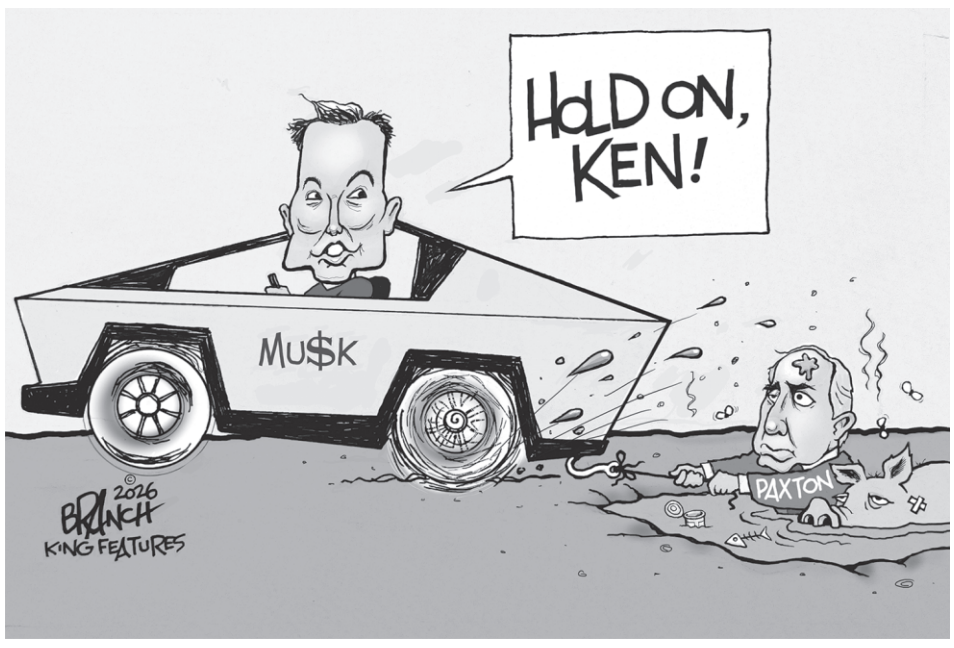
Weeks ago the DOJ sent a directive to all fraud division personnel saying they will "zealously prosecute" those who defraud taxpayers and "aggressively target" them. They instructed the fraud division to create a program to "incentivize whistleblowers to bring forward credible information pertaining to fraud." A mere 19 days later the Whistleblower Incentive Program (WHIP) was announced.

So, they're quite serious. If you are ever in a position to save the government (and your fellow taxpayers) money by blowing the whistle on those who are scamming, stealing and defrauding all of us, check out the Whistleblower Rewards Program website at www.justice.gov/fraud/whistleblower. Also see america.gov/fraud.

There is another whistleblower awards program as well that might result in a monetary award: the Criminal Division's Corporate Whistleblower Awards Pilot Program (www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-division-corporate-whistleblower-awards-pilot-program).

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



State has record number of registered voters



With early voting ending Friday, Oct. 30, Texas Secretary of State Robert Howden announced the state has 19 million registered voters — a record number ahead of the Nov. 3 election.

"Texas continues to see strong voter registration numbers, and we want every eligible Texan to be prepared to participate in the upcoming election," Howden said.

As of Friday, Oct. 23, more than 2.7 million Texans had voted early, and the final early voting tally appears likely to set a record.

Voters who did not cast early ballots can find their polling place for the Nov. 3 election by visiting votetexas.gov, a nonpartisan site operated by the secretary of state's office.

ABBOTT, HINOJOSA TRADE JABS IN TIGHT GOVERNOR'S RACE

Gov. Greg Abbott, seeking an unprecedented fourth term, told Republican voters that the state faces a choice between "common sense and crazy" in a race that appears far closer than originally expected, The Dallas Morning News reported. He faces Democrat Gina Hinojosa, an Austin state representative.

Hinojosa responded that Abbott is using culture wars to distract from his record on school vouchers, data centers and property taxes.

"After 12 years, Texans are ready for a governor who will put the people – not billionaires – first," she said in a statement. She announced last week that she has sued Abbott seeking the release of unredacted emails between the governor's office and billionaire Elon Musk, who is spending heavily on behalf of GOP candidates in Texas.

IS IT NOW TALARICO VS. MUSK IN SENATE RACE?

Senate candidate James Talarico, the Democratic nominee, faces record spending by Musk, who has already spent $150 million supporting Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the Republican nominee. Musk — who has received millions in state contracts and tax incentives for his companies, including SpaceX and Tesla, both with headquarters in Texas — has been active on social media, attacking Talarico. Musk has called Talarico a "creep" who "hates Texas," according to the Houston Chronicle.

Talarico has vowed to take on billionaires in his campaign and pushed back against Musk in speeches last week.

"In all likelihood, if you have seen an attack ad on your TV, that was Elon," Talarico said last week. "If you've gotten lies in your mailbox, that was Elon. If you've received a text message saying scary things about me, that was Elon, too. Ken Paxton is funded by one dude."

Most polls show Talarico with a slight lead, generally within the margin of error. Texas has not elected a Democrat to a statewide office since 1994.

STATE STILL PROCESSING DATA CENTER PERMITS

Despite Abbott's order last month to pause data center projects in Texas, state regulators are still processing permits, the Texas Standard reported. On Sept. 21, Abbott directed the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to "halt all permits sought by data centers."

However, the oil and gas watchdog group Frac Tracker, along with Public Citizen, identified 35 permitting actions taken by TCEQ since that order was given.

"TCEQ has continued reviewing applications and issuing approvals that allow data center development to proceed," the groups said. "These actions do not signal an agency trying to pause."

Abbott's press secretary Andrew Mahaleris said the pause applies to approval, not processing, of permits.

"No permits have been approved," he said in a statement. "In line with the governor's directive, TCEQ has not taken and will not take any proactive actions related to the approval of data center permits."

Since the directive from Abbott, the TCEQ has fast-tracked or assigned engineers to 14 permits, approved stormwater coverage for 11, certified emissions estimates for seven, and issued public notices for three, according to permitting documents collected by the watchdog groups

"We need an actual pause to study the threats posed to the land, water and livelihoods of Texans," Sam Law, author of the report, said.

VOUCHER SPENDING ON PRIVATE SCHOOLS KEPT SECRET

State Comptroller Don Huffines has refused to answer public information requests about how millions of dollars in state funds have been distributed to private schools and vendors under the $1 billion school voucher program, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Huffines' office has said concerns about student privacy and the state's history of not providing information on private schools justify keeping the voucher spending secret.

The comptroller's office released a list of more than 2,700 schools approved to participate in the voucher program and a list of nearly 2,200 approved vendors, but it did not disclose how much money each has received. The office said that releasing the amount of money spent could be considered a student record used to identify an individual student, which is prohibited by federal law.

"We've tried to take a conservative approach," the comptroller's office said. "When something's out, you can't take it back."

His Democratic opponent, state Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, has vowed to audit the program if elected.

"If we really, really, really think vouchers are going to improve the educational outcome of the children who get them, then we need transparency and honesty about it," Eckhardt said.

SUPREME COURT ASKED TO RULE ON BIG BEND BORDER WALL

The Trump administration last week asked the Supreme Court to allow it to resume building a border wall through the Big Bend region, The Texas Tribune reported. A lower court halted construction after a coalition of ranchers, residents, business owners, and environmentalists successfully argued that the projects are a waste of money in a region with low illegal immigration and that construction would harm the region's scenic landscapes.

The government filed an emergency appeal asking the high court to lift the lower court decision.

U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone in early October ordered the government to halt construction of the roughly 500-mile project while the case winds its way through the courts.

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

What we need to do



This past week, my husband, Peter, has not been feeling well. We are in Mexico, and he is getting a dental implant. Like everything he does, Peter researched everything about this implant and was impressed by the cutting-edge technology used by the dentist just down the street—or, more accurately, the implant specialist the dentist brought in.

The surgery went well, but the antibiotics made Peter very sick. This was also well researched by Peter, and a known side effect, so it was not a total surprise. But he ended up feeling faint and very nauseous and acting a little silly.

"Are you OK?" I asked, perhaps more times than necessary. The last time Peter had oral surgery, he passed out in the bathroom and cut his head open. He had to be hauled to the emergency room in an ambulance. So I don't think I was unjustified in being a little concerned.

"I'm fine," Peter said, looking not at all fine. "I'm just occasionally nostalgic."

"What?"

"Nauseous. That's what I meant," he clarified.

He was loopy, no question about it. He had retrieved a bowl from the kitchen and taken it to bed. It was large and green, and we used it to rinse fruit and vegetables. He planned to vomit in it, if the need arose. At the moment, this seemed very possible.

"Are you OK?" I asked again.

Then Peter demonstrated that he was not, in fact, OK, by apparently vomiting into the bowl.

"Oh dear," I said.

Then Peter put the bowl on his head.

"Oh, no!" I said.

"It's empty," he explained, from under the bowl.

"Why is it on your head?"

"It will be easy to find when I need it."

I could not argue with this logic, so Peter lay in bed for several long minutes, unsure if he was going to throw up, a green bowl on his head. We all do what we need to do to get by, when we're feeling sick, that's what I figured.

I was recently visiting my mom when my sister was there, and the subject of the aluminum bowl came up. My mother still owns it. "The throw-up bowl, you mean," my sister said.

"It was also the popcorn bowl," I told her. This was true. The trusty aluminum bowl had done double duty, serving popcorn on Sunday nights, the only time my family watched television together. Then, in a pinch, it served as the throw-up bowl when a bout of stomach flu hit.

"Why didn't we use a bucket?" my sister demanded—about 50 years too late.

"I don't think I usually had a lot of time!" my mother said, in her defense.

I don't blame my mother. We all do what we need to do when someone is feeling sick. I eventually took the bowl off Peter's head and helped him get into a more comfortable position. He did end up throwing up, and the green bowl proved its worth. Peter felt rotten for the next couple of days, but his implant healed up nicely. He disregarded the instructions of his doctor on day three and went hiking.

"Sit down if you feel faint!" I told him, repeatedly.

"I will," he insisted. Then he left and forgot his phone.

But Peter is now feeling fine. The green bowl (after a good round of bleach) has returned to its former employment, rinsing vegetables and life has returned to normal.

"Are you OK?" I asked again this morning.

"Of course I am!" Peter said, again.

I can never be too sure.

Till next time
Carrie

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SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 10

No. 1 Miami visits No. 5 Notre Dame:

Texans look to save season against Chargers



Week 10 in college football is loaded with key Top 10 matchups in the Big 12, SEC and an intersectional battle between No. 1-ranked Miami and No. 5-ranked Notre Dame in prime time (6:30 p.m.) on NBC.

In the Big 12, No. 8 BYU visits No. 6-ranked Utah, the last undefeated team in the conference. Two weeks ago, the Utes handed the Houston Cougars their second loss of the season, 21-13, which pretty much eliminated Willie Fritz's team from landing a spot in the Big 12 title game. On that same weekend, then No. 8-ranked Texas Tech was upset by an unranked Cincinnati team. Tech now must win out and need some help if it hopes to make a second straight appearance in the league title game. Their College Football Playoff (CFP) are on life support. The BYU-Utah game will be played at noon.

In the SEC, No. 11 Texas may have saved its season two weeks ago with its 34-27 home win over then No. 7-ranked Ole Miss. This week, Steve Sarkisian's team has a tough road test at No. 23 Missouri. In another big SEC game, No. 10 Alabama takes on long-time rival LSU, ranked No. 15, in Baton Rouge. That game will be on ABC and will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Week 9 of the NFL season has some intriguing matchups. The Texans, who fell to 2-5 two weeks ago after their 27-21 overtime loss at home to the Giants, had an extra week to prepare for this Sunday's game against the Los Angeles Chargers. LA lost its first six games of the season and if the Texans are going to get back in the playoff hunt, they need to beat the teams they are expected to beat. The Chargers have been one of the biggest disappointments in the league this year. Hopefully, head coach DeMeco Ryans and his staff used the bye week to figure out what's wrong with the defense, which has been a sieve thus far this season. This team also commits way too many penalties (10 for 80 yards in the NY loss).

The Dallas Cowboys hit the road for the second time in two weeks when they take on the Indianapolis Colts, another disappointing bunch. Two weeks ago, Dallas improved to 3-4 with a 38-21 win at Philadelphia as Dak Prescott and the offense got rolling again after a couple of subpar performances. Maybe things are starting to turn around for Jerry Jones' team, we shall see.

Green Bay visits New England in a key game for both teams' playoff hopes. Week 9 concludes with a good one for the Monday Night Football crew as Buffalo visits Minnesota, which two weeks ago improved to 6-0 on the season. The Vikings have been playing stifling defense thus far, but will get their biggest test when Josh Allen and Co. come calling on MNF.

The District 14-6A season concludes this weekend with two of the four playoff spots still up for grabs. Westfield has the top seed and district title already secured and Davis (4-1, 6-2) is sitting pretty at the No. 2 seed. Nimitz (3-2), Dekaney (3-2), MacArthur (2-3) and Spring (2-3) are still alive in the playoff hunt. Davis played Spring last week, while Nimitz and MacArthur met in an elimination game.

This week, Spring hosts Aldine on Thursday, and Ike hosts Dekaney on Thursday night. On Friday, Davis and Nimitz square off, while MacArthur visits Westfield.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 7-5 week brought the season record to 62-33 (66%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

BYU at Utah - This one is a Top 10 meeting as No. 8 BYU visits No. 6 Utah in a key Big 12 game for both teams. Utah sits atop the league standings and is unbeaten in Big 12 play, while BYU has one loss as they fell in double overtime at Central Florida two weeks ago. Both teams have solid offenses as the Cougars are led by dual-threat QB Bear Bachmeier (1,514 passing yards, 11 TDs/ 321 rushing yards, 7 TDs). BYU should get running back LJ Martin (344 yards, 3 TDs) back for this one, which would be a big boost for the Cougars offense. Utah also has a solid dual-threat QB in Devon Dampier (1,616 passing yards, 15 TDs/349 rushing yards, 5 TDs), a productive runner in Wayshawn Parker (644 yards, 8 TDs) and a solid wideout in Braden Pegan (34 receptions, 459 yards, 6 TDs). Utah has the better defense, which could be the difference maker in this one. My pick, Utah 31, BYU 28

Texas at Missouri - No. 11 Texas visits No. 23 Missouri in a key SEC contest for both teams. Two weeks ago, UT may have saved its season with a 34-27 home win over Ole Miss. After playing three straight home games, the 'Horns hit the road to take on a dangerous Tigers team. UT QB Arch Manning (1,507 passing yards, 12 TDs/ 104 rushing yards, 2 TDs) needs to get on a roll and will need help from running back Ralek Brown (422 yards, 5 TDs), and wide receivers Ryan Wingo (33 receptions, 456 yards, 4 TDs) and Cam Coleman (21 receptions, 348 yards, 6 TDs). Mizzu is led by QB Austin Simmons (1,773 yards, 14 TDs) and running back Jamal Roberts (867 yards, 8 TDs). Look for the UT defense to step up its game as Texas picks up a big road win. My pick, Texas 32, Missouri 20

Alabama at LSU - A big one in the SEC pits No. 10 Alabama against No. 15 LSU at 2:30 p.m. at Tiger Stadium on ABC. Both teams have two conference losses and neither can afford a third or their SEC title hopes and CFP hopes will be dashed. 'Bama needs a solid game from sophomore QB Keelon Russell (2,057 passing yards, 15 TDs/251 rushing yards, 5 TDs). Russell has been a bit inconsistent and turnover prone lately and he will need to clean up his game when he faces a solid Tigers defense on Saturday. He will need from running backs Daniel Hill (332 yards, 4 TDs) and Trae'Shawn Brown (324 yards, 5 TDs) and wideout Latzeir Brooks (29 receptions, 488 yards, 1 TD). LSU will be looking from a big day from dual-threat QB Sam Leavitt (2,172 passing yards, 17 TDs/324 rushing yards, 8 TDs), running back Dilin Jones (658 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Jackson Harris (36 receptions, 634 yards, 7 TDs). My pick, Alabama 31, LSU 28

Miami at Notre Dame - It's a rematch of the Catholics vs. the Convicts (1988) as No. 1 Miami visits No. 5 Notre Dame Saturday night at 6:30 p.m. on NBC. Back in 1988, the 'Canes were No. 1 and ND was No. 2 and the two played a classic game, with the Irish pulling out a late 31-30 win when Miami failed on a potential game-winning two-point try. That win catapulted the Irish to the national championship, the last title they've won. Miami has one of the best offenses in the country led by QB Darian Mensah (2,151 yards, 22 TDs), who is a Heisman Trophy candidate. The 'Canes can also run the ball behind Mark Fletcher (414 yards, 7 TDs) and electrifying wide receiver Malachi Tony (66 receptions, 952 yards, 11 TDs), who is also a Heisman candidate. ND is led by QB CJ Carr (1,639 yards, 16 TDs), running back Jonaz Walton (426 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receivers Jordan Faison (34 receptions, 451 yards, 4 TDs) and Jaden Greathouse (19 receptions, 265 yards, 22 TDs). The Irish don't have the offensive firepower that Miami does, but they do have one of the top defenses in the country that has allowed just 12 points per game thus far. Look for All-American cornerback Leonard Moore to blanket Tony all night long. Tony will make plays, but if Moore can slow him down just a bit, then ND has a chance to pull off the upset. My pick, Notre Dame 31, Miami 30

NFL

Dallas at Indianapolis - The Cowboys head to Indy to take on a Colts team that is selling off assets. Two weeks ago, they traded center Quentin Nelson to Seattle and star defensive tackle DeForest Buckner to San Francisco. There's no telling what this team will look like come Sunday. This should be an easy win for the Cowboys, but nothing comes easy for this team. Two weeks ago, Dallas may have saved its season with a 38-21 win at Philly as Dak Prescott (1,851 yards, 11 TDs) got the offense back on track with help from running back Javonte Williams (472 yards, 9 total TDs) and wide receivers CeeDee Lamb (53 receptions, 651 yards, 6 TDs) and George Pickens (37 receptions, 485 yards, 2 TDs). Indy will need a big day from turnover prone QB Daniel Jones (1,398 yards 4 TDs/7 interceptions) and running back Jonathan Taylor (587 yards, 8 TDs), that is if Taylor is still a Colt come Sunday. My pick Dallas 34, Indianapolis 16

Houston at Los Angeles Chargers - It's time for DeMeco Ryans' team to get it going and the Chargers might be the perfect opponent to get that done on Sunday. Houston is coming off its bye week and fans are hoping the extra week of rest allowed the coaching staff to sort out what's been wrong after a 2-5 start. The Texans must cut down on the penalties and get the running game going. QB C.J. Stroud (1,867 yards, 11 TDs) has not been the problem as he's having a very good season. He will look to make plays downfield to wideout Nico Collins (24 receptions, 329 yards, 3 TDs). This might be a good game for the Houston defense to find its groove when it takes on a struggling LA offense led by QB Justin Herbert (1,141 yards, 5 TDs/8 interceptions). My pick, Houston 26, Los Angeles Chargers 13

Green Bay at New England - This should be a good one as the Packers head east to take on the Patriots. Two weeks ago, GB lost a tough one at Detroit, but did get starting running back Josh Jacobs back. Jacobs should give QB Jordan Love (1,958 yards, 13 TDs) a lift, along with productive wideouts Christian Watkins (34 receptions, 595 yards, 6 TDs) and Matthew Golden (36 receptions, 540 yards, 3 TDs) and solid tight end Tucker Kraft (29 receptions, 297 yards, 2 TDs). The Pats are led by QB Drake Maye (1,784 passing yards, 13 TDs/ 211 rushing yards, 2 TDs), running back Rhamodre Stevenson (285 yards, 2 TDs) and tight end Hunter Henry (26 receptions, 296 yards, 2 TDs). Maye should have star wide receiver A.J. Brown back for this one after Brown missed four games after sustaining an ankle sprain. My pick, New England 26, Green Bay 24

Buffalo at Minnesota - A good one for Troy and Joe and the Monday Night Football crew as the Bills explosive offense takes on the stingy Minnesota defense. The Vikings defense has been solid thus far, allowing just 12 points per game. That unit will get it biggest test from a Bills offense led by QB Josh Allen (1,504 passing yards, 9 TDs/246 rushing yards, 8 TDs), running back James Cook (627 yards, 6 TDs) and tight end Dalton Kinkaid (23 receptions, 315 yards, 1 TD). While the Minnesota defense has been outstanding, the offense has struggled behind QB Kyler Murray (812 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Justin Jefferson (23 receptions, 302 yards, 3 TDs). Buffalo has issues on defense, so this might be a good night for the offense to get untracked. I do believe Allen will be the difference maker in this one. My pick, Buffalo 30, Minnesota 26

Free broadcasts announced for UIL Football State Championship across Texas,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

championships but cannot stream live video of those games.

"Once the playoffs begin, we transition to audio, an audio broadcast or internet radio, and we can't video stream the playoffs live because those rights belong to Texan Live and to NFHS," Sanchez said.

The distinction means North Shore, C. E. King, and Barbers Hill fans can continue listening to Legacy's coverage during the postseason, even as they turn to other outlets for live video.

"But we can still do an audio broadcast, you know, internet radio," Sanchez said. Many choose to listen to the Legacy broadcast while watching the video online or television because of their broad knowledge of the teams that spans years, and decades.

Nexstar and Mission's announcement covers the four-day championship event, which will crown Division I and Division II champions across six football classifications. It does not announce television coverage of every preceding playoff round.

"High school football is part of the fabric of Texas, and few events bring communities together like the UIL State Football Championships," Andrew Alford, president of Nexstar's broadcasting division, said in the announcement.

"Nexstar and Mission have a strong local presence across Texas, and we are excited to use the combined reach of our television stations and digital platforms to give fans more ways to watch these student-athletes compete for a state championship," Alford said.

Sanchez said viewers will need to pay attention to how games are distributed in their markets rather than assume every matchup will appear on broadcast television.

"It's not one-size-fits-all like it used to be," he said.

"So you could be easily expecting that game to be over the air on 39, and then you have to go download the app," Sanchez said.

Last year, the UIL worked with fledgling Victory+ Broadcasting with a contractual commitment to broadcast all state finals championships for free the next five years was signed in June 2025. It only lasted one year after Victory+ Broadcasting shut down in September 2026 after serious financial problems caused several major sports organizationos to abandon the streaming service.

Victory+ was operated by A Parent Media Company, based in Calgary, Canada, with the Dallas Stars among its investors. The Stars were reportedly owed millions of dollars and moved their broadcasts to Amazon Prime Video. The Texas Rangers left the service amid concerns over financial commitments. The Anaheim Ducks terminated their streaming arrangement. Amid financial collapse, the company terminated its remaining employees and entered receivership proceedings in Canada. The shutdown also canceled scheduled Texas high school football broadcasts leaving the UIL scrambling for a broadcast partner.

The announcement lists the following participating television stations and digital platforms:

Dallas: KDAF and CW33+.

Houston: KIAH and CW39+.

Austin: KBVO, KXAN and KXAN+.

El Paso: KTSM 9.2 Estrella TV and KTSM+.

Amarillo: KCIT, KAMR and KAMR+.

Abilene/Sweetwater: KRBC and KTAB+.

San Angelo: KSAN and KLST+.

Waco/Temple/Bryan: KYLE and FOX44+.

Wichita Falls: KJBO and KFDX+.

Tyler/Longview: KTPN and KETK+.

Lubbock: KAMC and eL+.

Midland/Odessa: KMID and Big2+.

Harlingen/Brownsville: KGBT and Valley Central+.

"The UIL State Football Championships are an important tradition for high schools and communities throughout Texas," UIL Executive Director Jamey Harrison said in the announcement. "We are excited to work with Nexstar Media and Mission Broadcasting to expand access to these championship games and we are pleased that fans will be able to watch them through streaming and local television broadcasts across Texas."

For Sanchez, free access also is central to Legacy's approach. He said the network relies on local sponsors and businesses rather than charging viewers or listeners.

"We don't do pay-per-view," Sanchez said. "I don't ask people to sign up or give me their e-mail or anything like that. You go to our website, you hit play, and you can watch it or listen to us."

Viewers should check local program listings to determine which championship games will air on television and which will be available through streaming platforms.

Earlier playoff games will be broadcast by NFHS Network who retains first rights to UIL postseason games it chooses to broadcast. Dave Campbell's Texas Football helps administer those broadcasting rights Some games may also be carried by approved local broadcasters.

North Shore has a large traveling audience selling thousands of tickets to local games. They also have a large online audience setting a record for Legacy Sports Network at the C. E. King game of over 30,000.

STAR-COURIER FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Atascocita 56, Crosby 19
Barbers Hill 31, Deer Park 24
Baytown Sterling, BYE WEEK
Goose Creek Memorial 42, Galveston Ball 10
Huffman Hargrave, BYE WEEK
Port Neches-Groves 50, Baytown Lee 6



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, NOV. 5
Baytown Sterling vs. Beaumont United, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium

FRIDAY, NOV. 6
Barbers Hill at Clear Springs, 7 p.m., CCISD Challenger Columbia
Baytown Lee at Texas City, 7 p.m., Stingaree Stadium
Huffman Hargrave vs. Livingston, 7:30 p.m., Lion Stadium

SATURDAY, NOV. 7
Crosby at Humble, 1 p.m., Turner Stadium
Goose Creek Memorial season over.

Texas Election 2026: Your vote is public, but your ballot remains secret,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through public voter registration records, although certain voters qualify for legal protections that keep their addresses confidential.

Public early voting records can identify voters, their precincts and whether they voted in person or by mail.

The information can be downloaded and analyzed using computer software, making it possible to track voter participation across communities and elections.

However, there is an important distinction: The records do not reveal whether someone voted Republican or Democratic, or which candidates they supported in the general election.

Texas lawmakers have passed legislation over the years expanding public access to election records in the interest of transparency and election oversight.

In 2023, lawmakers approved House Bill 5180, making additional election materials available for public inspection, including voted ballots after a waiting period.

But the expansion also raised concerns about voter privacy.

In 2024, investigations by Votebeat and The Texas Tribune demonstrated that certain combinations of publicly available election records could be used to identify how some individuals voted.

State election officials subsequently issued guidance intended to protect ballot secrecy.

The issue illustrates the challenge facing lawmakers: providing public access to election information while preserving the constitutional right to a secret ballot.

Public voting records also serve another purpose: helping political campaigns identify voters who have already participated in an election.

Campaign organizations can use updated voter lists to concentrate their telephone calls, text messages, advertising and door-to-door efforts on registered voters who have not yet cast a ballot.

Modern computer technology allows political organizations to process thousands of records rapidly and compare participation with previous election histories.

While campaigns may use such information to estimate political preferences, those estimates do not establish how an individual actually voted.

Texas law provides certain protections for voter information, including confidential addresses for eligible victims of family violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking.

Voters can also request suppression of their information from certain online displays. However, that does not necessarily remove their information from records subject to disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act.

For most Texans, participation in an election remains a matter of public record.

The public availability of voting records does not eliminate the legal protections surrounding individual ballots.

Texas election officials have emphasized that election transparency must be balanced against the right to vote privately.

As Texans prepared for the Nov. 3 general election, the distinction remains significant: The public may be able to determine whether a neighbor, coworker or family member voted, but the candidates and propositions that person selected are supposed to remain secret.

For voters, the message is straightforward: Your ballot is secret. The fact that you voted is not.



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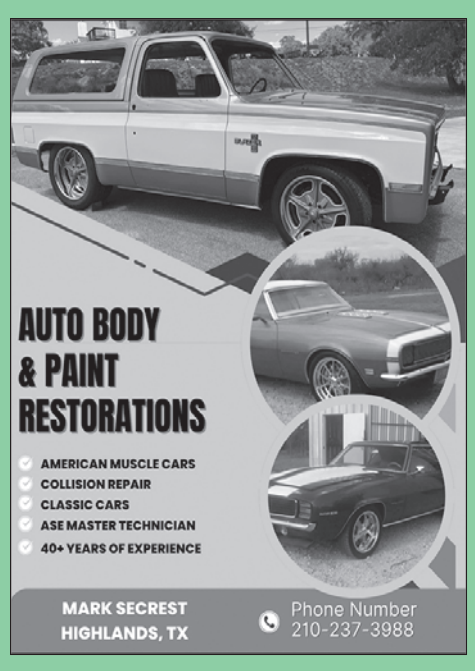
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Andrew Garfield stars in "The Uprising."

"The Uprising."

"Verity" (R) — This erotic psychological thriller is yet another adaptation of a novel from Colleen Hoover ("It Ends With Us"). Led by the trio of Anne Hathaway ("The Odyssey"), Dakota Johnson ("Materialists"), and Josh Hartnett ("Below"), the film follows a writer named Lowen (Johnson) who gets approached by the husband of a mainstream author for a ghostwriting opportunity. Lowen just needs to finish the final book of Verity Crawford's (Hathaway) popular series, since Verity is unable to do so due to a terrible car accident that left her catatonic. Verity's husband, Jeremy (Hartnett), allows Lowen to move into their house, where Lowen then discovers an unfinished manuscript of Verity's autobiography with a confession that sends her into an all-out spiral. The film is out now to rent after pulling in $162.7 million at the box office (at the time of this writing). (Fandango at Home)

"Buddy" (R) — Next up to rent this week is this black-comedy horror film that might seem like it's for the entire family, but it's definitely the stuff of nightmares! The film first lures viewers into a 1990s children's show (Think "Barney & Friends") that's hosted by a talking unicorn with magical powers, named Buddy (Keegan-Michael Key). Then, it simultaneously weaves in and out of "the real world," where a woman named Grace (Cristin Milioti) senses that her house is haunted by a spirit. After hiring a psychic investigator who performs a ritual to contact said spirit, Grace gets sucked into Buddy's show, where she sees firsthand that Buddy tends to get very angry, and this tendency can turn deadly very quickly. Only then is she able to put together the puzzle pieces behind the show's existence. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Uprising" (R) — Last but not least is this historical drama film led by Andrew Garfield ("The Magic Faraway Tree"), which will be available to stream on Nov. 6. The film was briefly marketed as "The Uprising: The Rise of Robin Hood," since Garfield's character is inspired by the iconic outlaw. But undoubtedly, having a similar title to Hugh Jackman's recent film "The Death of Robin Hood," which was released shortly before this, would probably be overkill. (Oh, Hollywood and all their adaptations!) Taking place in 1381 England, the film follows a ploughman (Garfield) after he loses his wife and children to the Black Plague. King Richard II's council determines that taxes will be imposed on England's peasantry, but as our lowly ploughman goes to pay his dues, he sees how revolted the townspeople are by the council's greed. So, he decides to lead a rebellion against the kingdom, with his fellow townspeople all too ready to join his cause. (Peacock)

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Celebrity extra by Dana Jackson

Q:Is it true that "Knots Landing" actress Donna Mills is on OnlyFans? How old is she now? — T.S.

A: Yes, 85-year-old Donna Mills, who's best known as the blue-eyed seductress Abby Cunningham on "Knots Landing," joined the subscription-based online platform OnlyFans this year. While it's known for its adult content and nudity, not everyone produces this kind of content, and Mills is one who doesn't. In fact, when she appeared in Playboy in the 1980s, she refused to pose naked.

Mills recently told TMZ that even though her OnlyFans content is rated PG, she's still making "many six figures." She's also still acting, having appeared in Jordan Peele's hit film "Nope" in 2022.

***

Q:Did the actor who plays McGee on "NCIS" ever leave the show? I thought I'd read a little while back that he was leaving, but I think he's been in almost every episode. — P.M.

A: There were rumors in 2025 that Sean Murray's character would be departing from the long-running CBS series, but they never came to fruition. He even addressed the speculation at the time, telling TVLine: "There's always an element of the gossip thing that comes up. Things can take big, unexpected turns with characters. ... No one is ever quite safe on this show."

Murray has appeared in more episodes of "NCIS" than any other cast member. He even appeared as two different characters on "JAG," the original series on which "NCIS" was spun off. He made a guest appearance on episode three of season four of "JAG" in 1998, and two years later, he had a recurring role as Danny — the son of Dr. Sydney Walden, who was played by Cynthia Sikes.

Season 24 of "NCIS" premiered on Oct. 6, with the return of Michael Weatherly as special agent Tony DiNozzo. He'll be sticking around for the full season after leaving "NCIS" 10 years ago to headline the legal-drama series "Bull." "NCIS" airs on CBS on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. ET.



Donna Mills ("Knots Landing")

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Q: What ever happened to the "Next Gen" reality show that was set in Los Angeles? Did they ever finish casting it? — B.A.

A:"Next Gen NYC" is a reality show on Bravo featuring the Gen-Z offspring of several "Real Housewives" stars. It did reasonably well enough with its ratings after its first season that there was discussion of a spin-off on the West Coast, but then it got quiet. Reportedly, a "sizzle reel" that featured prospective cast members Sophia Umansky (daughter of Kyle Richards), Nick Dubrow (son of Heather Dubrow), and Mason Grammer (daughter of Camille Grammer) was tested before audiences, but nothing ever came of it.

In the meantime, Bravo recently announced that the next city to host a "Next Gen" series will be Atlanta and will include "Next Gen NYC's" Riley Burruss. We first saw Riley when she was 7 years old on "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" when her mom, Kandi, was a cast member.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

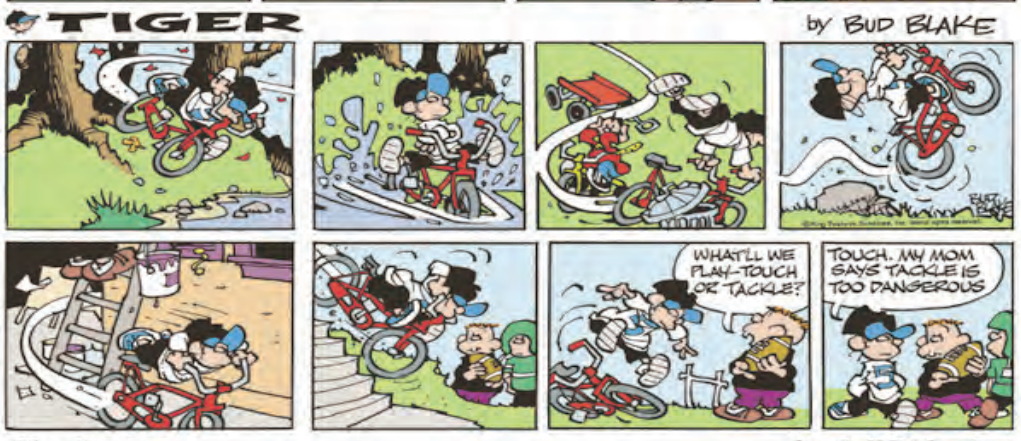
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



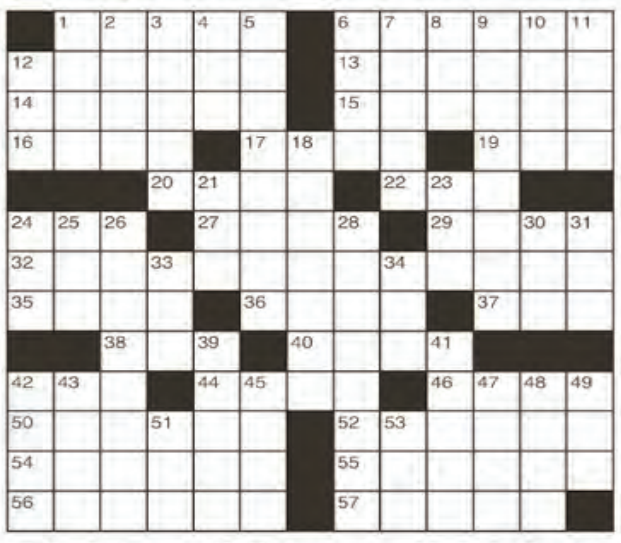
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



King Crossword

November 2, 2026 Posting Date



ACROSS

1 Interior design
6 Views
12 Made over
13 "Phooey!"
14 Aromatic herb
15 Found out, to Brits
16 Party pooper
17 "Dream on!"
19 Prof's helpers
20 Poker pot money
22 Covert agent
24 Jungfrau, for one
27 Melodies
29 Emmy winner Falco
32 Paintings of artists, say
35 Dessert fruit
36 Not even one
37 Mom's mate
38 "— -hoo!"
40 Grant basis, at times
42 Home for mil. jets
44 Horse's halter?
46 Eight (Pref.)
50 Illusionist David
52 — app
54 Boris of tennis
55 Hearth remains
56 Gardeners, at times
57 Synthetic fabric

DOWN

1 Woodland grazer
2 Writer Buchanan
3 Line dance
4 Small bill
5 Affinity
6 Pieces for one
7 Kitchen VIPs
8 Coach Parseghian
9 Bowlful served with chips
10 Sicilian spouter
11 Swift jets
12 "Mayberry —"
18 Hot chili pepper
21 Snooze
23 Pod dweller
24 Nile viper
25 Director Spike
26 Listen to a recording
28 Football game prankster
30 Judge Lance
31 Mentalist's claim
33 Swing to and —
34 Deli bread
39 Proprietor
41 Surround sound name
42 Shortened wd.
43 Dog bane
45 Towel word
47 Jazz singer Laine
48 Shore bird
49 Hosp. areas
51 Marnie's man
53 "— Little Teapot"

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Door is narrower. 2. Window is smaller. 3. Left arm is not showing. 4. Pencil cup is moved. 5. Chair leg is moved. 6. Plaid leaf is moved.

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which pop music group sings at the wedding in "Bridesmaids"?
2. U.S. STATES: Which state's official dance is the shag?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which designer made the miniskirt famous?
4. MUSIC: How many strings does a standard violin have?
5. LANGUAGE: What does it mean to apricate?
6. TELEVISION: Who was the original host of "The Price is Right"?
7. ANATOMY: Which component of blood initiates clotting?
8. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Age of Innocence"?
9. MONEY: What is depicted on the back of a $10 U.S. bill?
10. HISTORY: When did the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) go into effect?

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— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

— King Crossword —

Answers



Solution time: 21 mins.

Trivia Test Answers:

1. Wilson Phillips; 2. South Carolina; 3. Mary Quant; 4. Four; 5. To bask in the sun; 6. Bill Cullen (The original show debuted in 1956); 7. Platelets; 8. Edith Wharton; 9. The U.S. Treasury Building; 10. 1994

THEIR ADVANCED TREATMENTS BEAT MY CANCER

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