DAGLEY WINS COUNTY JUDGE'S RACE, Page 3

THE UNAUTHORIZED IRAN WAR , Page 4

Crosby-Huffman Prepares for Christmas Celebration



A holiday-themed float decorated with Christmas lights, trees and festive displays carries families through from last year Christmas parade, bringing holiday cheer to the Crosby-Huffman community. See story below & page 2.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
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Women Poised to Lead Texas in Historic First

Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas is preparing for a historic change in state leadership, with three women expected to hold the state's most powerful political positions for the first time.

Following the November 3 general election, Democrat Gina Hinojosa was elected governor, while Vikki Goodwin won the lieutenant governor's race, defeating longtime incumbent Dan Patrick.

Meanwhile, longtime state Rep. Senfronia Thompson has announced that she has secured enough support to become the next Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives when lawmakers convene in January.



L to R: Governor-elect Gina Hinojosa, Lieutenant Governor-elect Vikki Goodwin and Presumptive-speaker of the House Senfronia Thompson

If Thompson's support holds through the formal vote, the three women will make up the first all-female leadership team in Texas history, occupying what is commonly known as the state's "Big Three" leadership positions.

The three offices carry significant influence over state government. The governor leads the executive branch, the lieutenant governor presides over the Texas Senate and helps guide its legislative agenda, while the House speaker oversees proceedings in the Texas House and plays a major role in determining which legislation receives consideration.

The election marks several historic milestones. Hinojosa will become Texas' first Latina governor, Goodwin will become the state's first woman lieutenant governor, and Thompson is poised to become the first woman to serve as House speaker.

Thompson, a Houston Democrat, has represented her district in the Texas House since 1972, making her one of the longest-serving members of the Legislature.

The expected leadership change represents a significant moment in Texas political history and brings a new chapter to the state's government as the Legislature prepares for its next session in January 2027.

IN THE STARS

Friends of the Crosby Library Christmas Table

Come check out our Christmas table that is setup in the entry of the Crosby Library.

It has so many nice items for gift giving. We have Christmas books CDs, DVDs and more. There is a little bit of everything!

Goose Creek CISD STEM Night 2026

Goose Creek CISD invites you to attend our first district-wide **STEM Night**. **Sponsored by ExxonMobil**, this free event will bring students and families together for an evening of hands-on learning and STEM exploration.

Attendees can participate in interactive experiments, explore STEM-related careers, and connect with community partners. The event will also feature refreshments, prizes, and free STEM kits for students while supplies last.

Event Details:

Goose Creek CISD STEM Night

Wednesday, November 18, 2026, 5:00 to 8:00 PM

Ross S. Sterling High School, 300 W. Baker Road, Baytown, TX

This event offers excellent opportunities to capture students engaging in hands-on STEM activities and highlight the district's efforts to inspire interest in STEM education and future career opportunities.

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.

Voters overwhelmingly reject Crosby school bonds, Huffman tax-rate proposal

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY — Voters overwhelmingly rejected both Crosby ISD bond propositions and Huffman ISD's proposed operating tax-rate increase in the Nov. 3 election, leaving the neighboring school districts to reassess how they will address facility needs and financial pressures.

According to unofficial results, Crosby's Proposition A, a $98.28 million proposal for a new elementary school and district-wide improvements, failed with 69.46% voting against it and 30.54% in favor. Proposition B, which sought $110 million to replace Crosby Middle School, was defeated with 68.58% opposed and 31.42% supporting it.

In Huffman, voters rejected Proposition A, the district's Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election, or VATRE, with 4,835 votes against and 1,675 in favor. Opposition accounted for 74.27% of the vote, compared with 25.73% supporting the measure.

The measures addressed different needs: Crosby sought authorization for school construction and capital improvements, while Huffman sought additional recurring revenue for daily operations. Neither district received the voter approval it requested.

Crosby's construction plans turned down

Crosby trustees voted unanimously Aug. 17 to call the two-proposition bond election. The proposal followed a yearlong re-

Continued. See DISTRICTS FACE TOUGH CHOICES, Page 2

Adrian Garcia Wins Third Term as East HC Commissioner

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HARRIS COUNTY — Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia has won reelection to a third term representing Precinct 2, defeating Republican challenger Richard Vega in the November 3, 2026, general election.

According to unofficial election results reported by the Harris County Clerk's Elections Department, Garcia received 172,739 votes, or 65.5% of the total. Vega received 90,817 votes, or 34.5%. Garcia won by a margin of 81,922 votes.

The victory allows Garcia to continue representing Precinct 2 on the Harris County Commissioners Court, where he has served since January 2019.

Garcia was first elected commissioner in 2018, defeating Republican incumbent Jack Morman. He won reelection in 2022 and will now begin his third four-year term.

Before becoming commissioner, Garcia served on Houston City Council and as Harris County sheriff. His public service career also includes 23 years as a Houston Police Department officer.



Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia won reelection to a third term representing Precinct 2 in the November 3 general election.

Decisions Affecting Local Communities

As Precinct 2 commissioner, Garcia represents residents in parts of east and southeast Harris County, including portions of the Houston area. His responsibilities include working with other county leaders on projects and services that affect residents throughout the precinct.

The five-member Harris County Commissioners Court consists of four elected commissioners and the county judge. Together, they make important decisions involving the county budget, property tax rates, public safety, road improvements, drainage, parks and other county services.

These decisions can directly affect families and neighborhoods, particularly communities that depend on county assistance

Continued. See DISTRICTS FACE TOUGH CHOICES , Page 2

Santa trading his sleigh for a fire truck at Chamber Christmas festival

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Santa's making his list, checking it twice and saving a little room on his calendar for Crosby, Huffman, and Barrett Station.

The jolly fellow and his elves have a pre-Christmas visit planned for Saturday, December 12, when the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Christmas Festival and Parade. Children from Crosby and Huffman can bring their wishes and dreams — and parents will want to circle the date before the holiday hustle carries them away.

The Christmas Festival will fill Crosby Church on US 90 with holiday cheer from 1–5 p.m., followed by



a parade beginning at Crosby Middle School at 6 p.m.

And Santa? He's making an entrance with a little hometown sparkle.

With the church expected to be packed with vehicles and no landing strip roomy enough for a sleigh and reindeer, Claus will land at the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department and hitch a ride to the festivities aboard one of those fancy fire trucks. Rudolph can take a breather while Crosby's firefighters handle the final leg

Continued. See SANTA TRADING HIS SLEIGH, Page 2

From pews to pour-overs: 7 Brew Coffee plans $1.5 million Crosby location



By David Taylor
Managing Editor

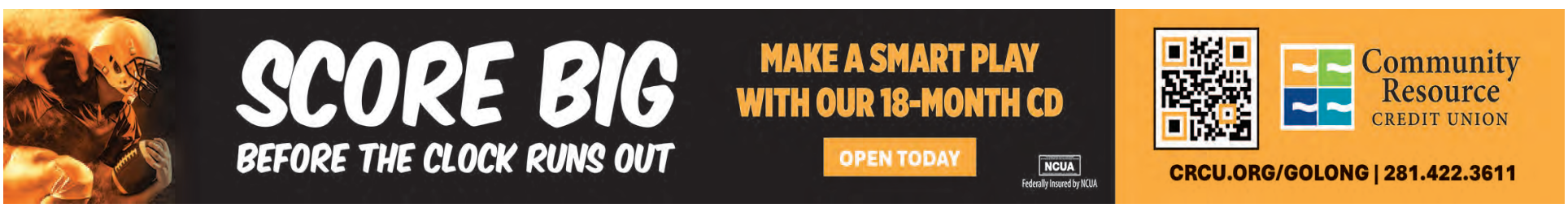
CROSBY, Texas — A property along FM 2100 that welcomed churchgoers for decades could soon serve a very different kind of congregation—coffee lovers.

Drive-thru beverage chain 7 Brew Coffee is planning a new location at 14035 FM 2100, according to a state filing. The estimated $1.5 million project would transform the longtime church site into a compact, drive-thru-only destination serving coffee, flavored energy drinks, chillers and other customizable beverages.

Plans call for a 510-square-foot

Continued. See 7 BREW COFFE TO TRANSFORM, Page 5

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Garcia wins third term as democrats secure major victories across Texas,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for infrastructure improvements and flood protection.

During his reelection campaign, Garcia highlighted infrastructure, transportation, flood control and community improvements as important parts of his administration. He also pointed to efforts involving public safety, health care access and opportunities for small businesses.

According to Garcia's campaign, his office has delivered more than $1 billion in infrastructure, mobility, flood-control and community improvements during his time as commissioner.

Challenges Ahead

Garcia's new term comes as Harris County continues to face important financial and infrastructure decisions. Commissioners Court must balance the cost of county services with the financial responsibilities placed on taxpayers.

Property taxes, flood mitigation, road conditions, public safety and county spending will remain important issues for county officials.

Garcia will continue working alongside the other commissioners and the county judge to determine how county resources are distributed and which projects receive funding.



For residents of Precinct 2, the election means Garcia will continue representing their interests in county government for another four years.

Democrats Score Major Victories Across Texas

Garcia's reelection was part of a series of major Democratic victories across Texas and Harris County in the November 3 election.

James Talarico defeated Republican Ken Paxton in the U.S. Senate race, becoming the first Democrat elected to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate since 1988.

Democrat Gina Hinojosa defeated incumbent Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, becoming the first Democrat elected governor of Texas since Ann Richards won the office in 1990.

In Harris County, Letitia Plummer defeated Republican Orlando Sanchez to become the next county judge. Her victory makes her the first Black person elected to the position.

Other Democrats also won important county races. Lesley Briones secured another term as Precinct 4 commissioner, Teneshia Hudspeth won reelection as county clerk, and Abbie Kamin won the county attorney's race.

U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia also won reelection to represent Texas' 29th Congressional District.

The victories mark a significant political shift in Texas and strengthen Democratic representation in Harris County government.

The election results remain unofficial and are subject to the county's final canvass and certification.

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.



Districts face tough choices after bond, tax votes fail,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HUFFMAN VATRE 2026

view by a Long-Range Planning Team composed of parents, staff, students, business leaders and residents who examined enrollment projections, facility conditions and financial capacity.

Proposition A would have funded a new elementary campus initially serving approximately 750 students in prekindergarten through fifth grade, with core facilities designed for future capacity of up to 950 students. It also included roof and building-envelope work, heating and cooling system replacements, safety and security upgrades, technology infrastructure, and traffic, parking and drainage improvements across the district.

Proposition B would have replaced Crosby Middle School, built in 1974. Previous reporting cited district estimates putting repairs to the existing campus at close to $40 million.

The proposed replacement school would have served 1,100 seventh- and eighth-grade students, with capacity planned for 1,500 students in grades six through eight.

Following the election, Superintendent Dr. Paula Patterson thanked residents for participating and said the district would respect their decision.

"We know our community cares deeply about its schools, even when people have different ideas about the best path forward," Patterson said. "We respect the decision of our voters, and our commitment to our students and staff hasn't changed."

The district said it will continue evaluating the facility conditions and enrollment projections behind the proposals, including ongoing engineering investigations and a comprehensive assessment of Crosby Middle School.

Without the bond funding, administrators will review available resources, reassess priorities and work with trustees to determine how to address existing facilities and future enrollment.

"Our schools are still here, our students are still learning, and our teachers and staff are still showing up for them every day," Patterson said. "We have challenges to work through, but we'll face them together, make thoughtful decisions, and keep our community informed along the way."

Huffman voters reject operating revenue increase

Huffman's VATRE sought approval for three additional cents on the district's maintenance and operations tax rate. District officials projected that the measure would generate approximately $2 million in additional recurring annual revenue to help reduce the budget deficit, support employee compensation, protect instructional programs and maintain daily operations.

Unlike a bond election, the VATRE would not have authorized new construction debt. Its revenue could have supported ongoing expenses such as salaries, utilities, transportation, instructional programs and school safety.

The district's published tax information listed a total school tax rate of $1.0637 per $100 of taxable property value if the measure passed, compared with $1.0337 if it failed.

Huffman officials had emphasized that the district's voter-approved 2023 bond and the VATRE served separate purposes. Bond funding pays for approved capital projects and cannot simply be transferred into the operating budget to cover day-to-day expenses.

After the defeat, Superintendent Angeles Perez said the district would continue reviewing expenditures and looking for ways to reduce costs.

"While the proposition did not pass, we respect the decision of our voters and appreciate the care and commitment our community has for its schools," Perez said.

"We recognize that difficult decisions may lie ahead, but our priority will remain supporting student learning and protecting the educational experiences that make Huffman ISD special."

Perez said financial updates would continue through monthly board highlights, district communications and the financial transparency webpage, with an emphasis on making the information clearer and more accessible.

"Our commitment to Huffman ISD students has not changed," she said.

Neither district's post-election statement identified a replacement ballot proposal or a specific list of cuts. Crosby's next steps center on facilities and enrollment planning, while Huffman will continue examining spending and operating priorities following voters' decisive rejection of additional tax revenue.

Huffman voters also elected Vernon Reed to Position 1 as school trustee. Reed defeated Lori Freshour in a tight race with Reed garnering 2,786 (51.28%) of the vote to Freshour's 2,647 (48.72%). They also returned Luke Hight, Position 2, and Ray Burt, Position 3, to the board. Both ran unopposed.

Santa trading his sleigh for a fire truck at Chamber Christmas festival,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Santa's trip.

The chamber is calling for vendors, volunteers and area businesses to help make the celebration merry and bright.

"This festive event is a wonderful opportunity for businesses like yours to connect with the community, showcase your products and services, and spread holiday cheer," said Tiffany Muller, Christmas Festival chairman for the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce.

Businesses can join the fun as sponsors, set up a booth or bring an experience that adds a little extra magic to the afternoon. The vendor cost is $35.

"We would love for your business to join us as a sponsor and/or by having a booth," Muller said. "Your involvement would greatly enhance the Christmas Festival experience for all attendees, and it's a fantastic way to give back to the community during this joyful season."

Sponsorship offers businesses visibility and a chance to demonstrate their support for the community. Booths give participants an opportunity to meet festivalgoers while offering products, services or holiday-themed activities.

Have an idea that doesn't fit neatly inside a booth? There's room for creative Christmas cheer, too.





"If you also have an idea on how your company can join the festival by providing an experience, please let us know," Muller said.

When the afternoon festivities wrap up, the celebration will keep rolling with the Christmas parade, sponsored this year by Lyondell-Basell.

The theme, **"Christmas Together: Celebrating Our Community,"** invites participants to dress up a float with hometown heart and holiday spirit.

Parade lineup begins at 5 p.m. in the Crosby Middle School parking lot, with the procession starting at 6 p.m. There is no fee to join, and certificates will be awarded for first, second and third place.

From little ones sharing big wishes with Santa to businesses spreading cheer and neighbors joining the parade, Crosby's celebration is putting community at the heart of Christmas.

Just remember: If you're watching for Santa, look for the fire truck — not the sleigh.

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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.

Dagley wins county judge's race as Chambers County stays Republican

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Chambers County voters elected Republican Ryan Dagley county judge and strongly backed GOP candidates in the Nov. 3 election, maintaining the county's Republican leadership as Democrats won major statewide offices across Texas.

Dagley ran unopposed and received 16,042 votes, according to election information provided by Chambers County website. Mark Tice was also unopposed for Precinct 2 commissioner, while Bill Wallace Jr. won the uncontested race for Precinct 4 commissioner.

At his swearing-in ceremony, Dagley pledged to emphasize fiscal responsibility, public safety and transparency while thanking retiring County Judge Jimmy Sylvia, who administered the oath.

"This office does not belong to me, it does belong to Chambers County," Dagley said. "The decisions we make going forward will shape the roads of our children, the roads our children drive, the safety of our neighborhoods that they grow up in, and the kind of future they will inherit."

The county's election results contrasted with Democratic victories statewide, including James Talarico's defeat of Republican Ken Paxton for U.S. Senate and Gina Hinojosa's victory over Gov. Greg Abbott. Those results ended decades-long Republican winning streaks in the two offices.



The Dagley extended family and friends were on hand to support the new county judge for Chambers County.

Chambers County voters nevertheless favored Republican candidates by roughly 3-to-1 margins in several leading statewide contests, according to unofficial county returns.

Abbott received 14,282 votes in the county to Hinojosa's 4,871. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick received 14,260 votes to Democrat Vikki Goodwin's 4,661, while Republican attorney general candidate Mayes Middleton received 14,589 votes to Democrat Nathan Johnson's 4,547.

Paxton carried Chambers County with 14,000 votes, compared with Talarico's 5,072.

Republican U.S. Rep. Brian Babin also won reelection in Texas' 36th Congressional District. Reported districtwide returns showed Babin with 138,008 votes, or 53.6%, to Democrat Rhonda Hart's 119,681 votes, or 46.4%.

Hart led in the first reported returns before Babin moved ahead as additional votes were counted, according to an election-night tally published by Poliwave.

In Chambers County, Babin received 14,727 votes, or 76.23%, while Hart received 4,593 votes, or 23.77%.

Dagley brings experience in municipal and county government to his new role. A North Shore High School graduate, he served as a Beach City alderman and mayor before becoming Precinct 4 commissioner.

His campaign emphasized law enforcement funding, responsible budgeting, roads and drainage, and parks and recreational facilities. Dagley also has more than 25 years of experience in real estate and is a founding member of Saturn Equities, an investment firm.

During his ceremony remarks, Dagley traced his commitment to the county to a decision he and his wife made more than 23 years ago to raise their children there.

"We didn't know that when we came to this place, it would ask so much more of us than we ever planned to give or that this quiet trust of our neighbors would eventually lead to this room and this responsibility," he said. "That trust is not something I take lightly."

Dagley praised Sylvia's nearly three decades of leadership, crediting him with guiding the county through growth, storms and the work of strengthening communities.

"He leaves behind a stronger county than he found, and he's been generous with his time and his counsel as we prepared for this transition," Dagley said. "Chambers County is better because of you, judge."

He also thanked his family for supporting a public service career that frequently required late nights, early mornings and weekends away from home.

"You never asked me to choose between serving or being present. You simply made both possible," he said. "This oath is mine, but the sacrifice has been ours. I'm grateful beyond words."

Addressing campaign supporters, Dagley said their work represented more than support for an individual candidate.

"You didn't just elect a person, you affirmed a direction, one rooted in fiscal responsibility, strong public safety," he said.

Dagley said he understood the weight of the office and would work to earn residents' confidence.

"I will listen, I'll be transparent, I'll remember that the highest title in public service is not judge, but servant," he said.

He closed with a call for cooperation.

"Thank you for this honor. Thank you for your trust and now let's go to work together for the people and future of Chambers County."

BHISD Finance Director Chelsea McDaniel Named Chief Financial Officer at Lee College

Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

MONT BELVIEU — Barbers Hill ISD is congratulating Finance Director Chelsea McDaniel on her recent appointment as Chief Financial Officer for Lee College following nearly a decade of service to the district's "Eagle family."

McDaniel has served BHISD for nine years, a period that included significant growth for the district. In her role, she helped guide financial stewardship and strategic decision-making in support of students, staff and the community, according to the district.



Reflecting on her time at Barbers Hill, McDaniel said the experience has prepared her for the next chapter at Lee College.

"Being part of Barbers Hill's incredible growth over the last nine years has taught me so much. Working for a district that strives for excellence in all areas and understands the importance of financial stewardship has shaped my approach to financial leadership," McDaniel said. "I've learned the value of making thoughtful, strategic decisions that support students and staff while having a lasting, positive impact on the community we serve. I'm so grateful for the trust and opportunities I've been given here. The experience I've gained has played an essential role in preparing me for this next chapter at Lee College.

"I will miss my Eagle family tremendously, but I'm excited about the future and what our two organizations will accomplish together for our community."

BHISD officials said they are proud of McDaniel and excited for her new role at Lee College.

The district is now seeking a qualified candidate to fill the Finance Director position. Those interested in joining the BHISD team are encouraged to apply online at https://barbershilltx.schoolspring.com/.

Heritage Day Highlights Sheriff's K9 Partners, Office History

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

The Wallisville Museum welcomed the community for Heritage Day, last Saturday, October 31, 2026. where the Chambers County Sheriff's Office's K9 partners were highlighted and the history of the sheriff's office was shared.

The sheriff's office thanked the museum for the opportunity to celebrate its history with the community. It also thanked Senator Mayes Middleton and State Representative Terri Leo Wilson for taking the time to recognize the Sheriff's Office.



"We have amazing people who care about this county and the citizens they serve. I'm proud of them, and it means a lot to see their dedication recognized," Sheriff Brian Hawthorne said.

The sheriff's office added that it is an honor to serve Chambers County.(Source, Chambers County Sheriff's Office social media)

Barbers Hill's Landon Rose Wins Southeast Texas America250 Essay Contest

By Gerardo Hernandez,
STAFF WRITER

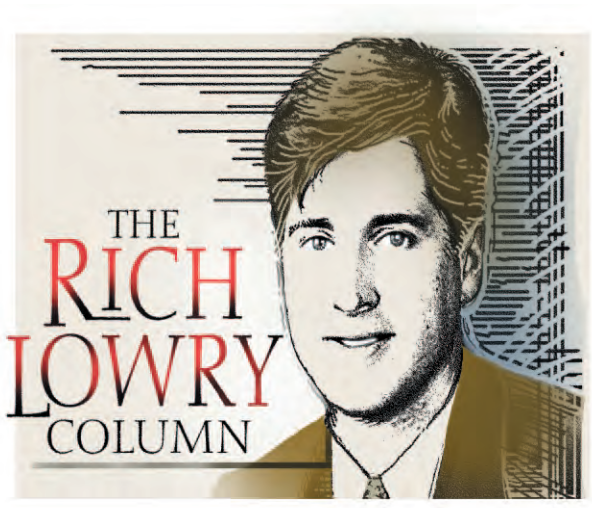


Barbers Hill's Landon Rose has been named the winner of the Southeast Texas America250 Essay Contest, presented by U.S. Rep. Brian Babin's office.

Rose's essay was selected as the top entry among many submissions from across the region. Congressman Babin congratulated Rose in person at Friday evening's game.

As an additional honor, Rose's work will be submitted into the Congressional Record. The announcement celebrating the achievement concluded: "We're proud of you, Landon!" (Source: Barbers Hill ISD social media)

☆ OPINION PAGE ☆



The Unauthorized War

President Donald Trump says that the Iran war will end "soon," a promise he's been making most of this year. Eventually, he will be right, but it hasn't happened in time for the midterm elections, and his party is bearing the brunt.

If Republicans get thumped, all the polling suggests that prices will be one of the main reasons, with the Iran war's contribution to higher costs looming large. According to a recent New York Times/Siena poll, 65% disapprove of President Trump's handling of the war in Iran, and almost 75% disapprove of his handling of gas prices, two closely intertwined issues.

Given the political risk, it's remarkable how stalwart Trump has been in prosecuting the war, the brief interlude of the misbegotten Memorandum of Understanding aside. "The quickest way of ending a war," George Orwell said, "is to lose it," and Trump has been loath to accept a strategic defeat as the way out of the conflict.

That doesn't mitigate the potential political damage. If the Iran war had been as short as initially advertised, or if it had dragged on with no appreciable cost back home, most people presumably wouldn't have cared very much, even if they weren't on board. It's the combination of a relatively drawn-out war causing elevated prices that's a killer, and it adds insult to injury that Trump has handled the matter with such high-handedness.

He didn't ask Congress to authorize the war, and barely made a public case beforehand, while giving the impression throughout that the entire enterprise depends on his whim.

It's often remarked that Trump's obsession with naming things after himself, or building things in Washington, is hurting him because it makes him seem out of touch and interested only in his own priorities. But none of this directly harms anyone — unless they, say, hold a season pass to the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center.

The Iran war, in contrast, has imposed an economic cost on nearly everyone in the country. President Trump has an idiosyncratic view of representative government. The common understanding of our system is that we elect representatives who debate and vote on important public matters, before standing for election again and finding out if their constituents still want them.

Trump's populist understanding is different — he's the people's representative. It makes sense that Trump, who has a highly personalized view of government and of his movement, has a highly personal view of himself as the tribune of the people. This tends to render the other representatives an unnecessary encumbrance, and indeed this is how Trump has largely treated Congress in his second term.

So it shouldn't be a surprise that it evidently didn't occur to him to ask Congress to authorize the Iran war. There have been comparisons made between Trump's war and George W. Bush's in Iraq, but this is a stark difference. Bush went to Congress, and by the time lawmakers authorized the war, it was a matter of national consensus (although one that fell apart).

Trump hasn't gone to Congress on his tariffs, either, but he made it abundantly clear in the 2024 campaign that he intended to drastically increase duties. Compared with that, the Iran war was a bolt from the blue.

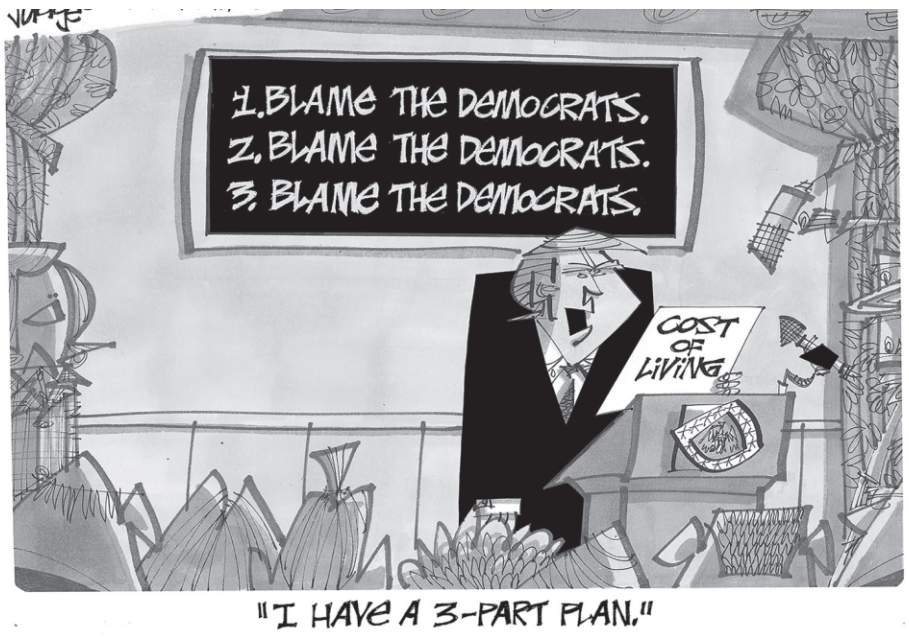
There have been ongoing efforts to cushion the conflict from public accountability. Republicans have tried to argue that it isn't really "a war," and Trump has said that a renewal of a major bombing campaign will only occur after the election, an effort to keep the war from being front and center during voting.

Now, although the war hasn't gone as planned, we need to wait to see how it turns out to make an ultimate judgment — if Trump manages to crack the regime, it will indeed be a legacy-defining achievement. The problem for now, though, is that you can't expect great patience from the public when it wasn't asked or even informed beforehand.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Talarico pledges unity, bipartisianship in Washington



Democratic U.S. senator-elect James Talarico told reporters last week after his decisive win over Republican Ken Paxton that his win was not so much a partisan triumph as a call for something different in Washington, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Talarico said his winning coalition was united by economic frustration and a desire for change.

"People across the political spectrum are hungry for a different kind of politics. Not a politics of hate, not a politics of fear, not a politics of division, but a politics of love," he said.

When asked if Democrats should concentrate on legislative priorities or investigating the Trump administration, he rejected it as a false choice.

"Our top priority has to be delivering for the people of Texas, for the people of this country," Talarico said. "They didn't send us to Washington for political retribution."

Talarico's six-year term as the state's first Democratic U.S. senator in more than 30 years begins when he is sworn in on Jan. 3.

HINOJOSA SET TO MAKE KEY APPOINTMENTS AFTER WINNING GOVERNOR'S RACE

Gina Hinojosa, the Democratic state legislator from Austin who made history by being elected the state's first Latina governor, is likely to make dozens of key appointments in her first few months of office, the San Antonio Express-News reported. She will be inaugurated on Jan. 19 on the south steps of the Texas State Capitol.

In her victory speech on Nov. 3, Hinojosa promised to fire Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath on "day one" in office. He likely is not the only appointee of outgoing Gov. Greg. Abbott facing an uncertain future. The governor has the power to reshape Texas government by appointing leaders of the state's agencies and public university systems, including the boards at the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, and Texas Tech University. She will also appoint a new Secretary of State not long after assuming office.

Hinojosa said last month that she would take each appointment on a "case-by-case basis" to find the most qualified candidates.

"What has happened in Texas is it has become a pay-to-play government, where it is Greg Abbott's donors who are appointed to everything," she said.

During her campaign, Hinojosa also vowed to end the state's $1 billion school voucher program and halt state takeovers of public-school districts. The former Austin ISD school board trustee said she would "work tirelessly to repair the damage caused by the Texas voucher scam and end an era in which our schools are sold for parts."

While she can't repeal the voucher program on her own, the new governor can use line-item veto power to eliminate funding for it.

DEMS WILL TAKE CONTROL OF TEXAS HOUSE IN 2027 SESSION

In addition to winning every statewide race on the ballot, Democrats will hold a majority in the Texas House when lawmakers convene in January. The final number of changed seats was still unknown as of two days after the election, with some races still uncalled. The Associated Press reported that Democrats flipped 14 state House seats and led in the eight uncalled races. Winning all eight would give them an 84-66 majority.

The Texas Senate is a different story, with Republicans maintaining their 19-12 majority. There will be two Senate vacancies in January when Democratic senator Sarah Eckhardt of Austin takes over as comptroller and Democrat Nathan Johnson of Dallas becomes attorney general. Lt. Gov.-elect Vicki Goodwin, another Democrat, will preside over the Senate after defeating incumbent Republican Dan Patrick for that historically powerful post.

University of Texas political scientist Joshua Blank said Goodwin, an Austin state representative, will have considerable power even if Senate Republicans unite against her.

"There are certain powers as the presiding officer over the body that Republicans will have a hard time removing from the lieutenant governor," he said.

REPUBLICANS LOST GROUND IN RURAL TEXAS

The Texas Tribune reported that voters in many of the state's most reliable red counties either voted for Democrats or stayed home, resulting in Texas Republicans losing considerable ground in rural Texas. About 90% of the counties that saw a drop in voter turnout were rural.

Talarico closed the party vote gap in rural counties by about 10 percentage points since 2018 and outperformed Beto O' Rourke's 2018 margin in exurban counties by about 15 percentage points.

"This tells us that you can't take rural Texas for granted," Drew Landry, a political science professor at Levelland College, said. "Republicans were really trying everything to gin up support, but they didn't want to talk about the big issues, and they paid the political price for it."

The largest increase in voter turnout occurred in the state's border counties, up 8.2 percentage points since 2022, followed by urban counties, up 7.9 percentage points. Rural counties, by comparison, saw turnout rise 1.4 percentage points.

PATRICK'S LOSS COULD MEAN CHANGE IN CANNABIS LAWS

Outgoing Lt. Gov. Patrick was a fierce opponent of legalizing marijuana and worked to ban the sale of any products containing THC, the primary psychoactive compound in the cannabis plant. That bill was vetoed by Abbott, but stricter regulations have since been enacted.

Patrick's defeat could mean a change, since Goodwin campaigned on legalizing marijuana, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

During her campaign, she said that tax revenues from marijuana sales could help fund health insurance coverage for the 5 million uninsured Texans.

However, with the Senate still dominated by Republicans, it remains unclear whether a legalization bill can pass that chamber.

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:

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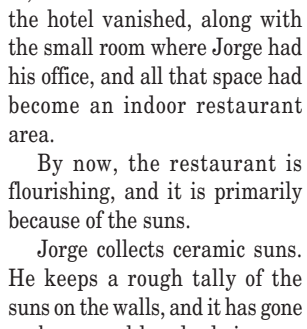
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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Tourist Attraction



We live in the middle of a tourist attraction.

Casa de los Soles is the name of the hotel in Mexico where my husband, Peter, and I spend about two months in the fall and another two months in the winter. We have been renting the same 450-square-foot apartment for five years. It is on the third floor, one of just six units in the hotel. And when we first started coming, it was just that—six apartment-style rooms and more than 3,000 suns adorning every flat surface.

But that was five years ago. In the intervening years, a lot has changed. One fall we showed up and discovered that our landlord, Jorge, had converted a storage room into a small restaurant with a counter for people to sit.

The next time we returned, the counter was gone. The kitchen was larger, and there were tables in the courtyard where people could eat. A year or so later, the leather store in front of the hotel vanished, along with the small room where Jorge had his office, and all that space had become an indoor restaurant area.

By now, the restaurant is flourishing, and it is primarily because of the suns.

Jorge collects ceramic suns. He keeps a rough tally of the suns on the walls, and it has gone up by several hundred since we started coming. "The House of the Suns," as it would be called in English, is famous, in its small way. It has an Instagram page, and people from all over Mexico and occasionally beyond come to see the suns. And now, they often stay and have lunch.

"Wow!" one person after another says, as they step into the courtyard and see thousands of suns climbing the walls, painted on the stairwells, filling the new restaurant area. Then, one after another, they get out their cameras and take a picture.

Some take selfies. Many are photographed climbing the stairs. Some sit on a painted bench, covered in suns, and have a family photo taken. Everyone is smiling. They smile for the photos. They smile at the suns. Then they smile at the food coming from the kitchen.

And Peter and I live right in the middle of it all.

This would not be for everyone; Peter and I understand that. But I think it's fair to say that Peter and I have loved it a bit more with every passing year.

This week, we learned our neighbors, who live in the only larger apartment in Casa de los Soles, will be moving out. They are both in their late 80s, and the stairs are starting to pose a hazard.

"Would you like the apartment?" Jorge asked us.

The apartment has three windows facing one of the oldest cobblestone streets in this very old town. A man sells corn from a cart every night, singing like an opera star as he sells his wares. An artisan market spills out onto the streets. Three neighboring churches ring loud bells at odd hours, and dogs bark between times, and fireworks go off early in the morning.

Renting this would mean we would no longer be hauling our stuff back and forth. No one will rent our apartment while we are away. It would be a more permanent home, right in the center of 3,000 suns.

Of course, we said "yes."

We will soon be living right over the kitchen and restaurant. The tourists will pass beneath us as they enter. And all day long, we'll hear the sound of one person after another say, "Wow!"

Till next time,
Carrie

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 11

Texans face for QB Watson when they visit Cleveland: Texas, LSU face off in elimination game in SEC



The calendar has turned to November, which means things are about to heat up in college football and the NFL.

There are a number of key games on the college schedule, highlighted by No. 10-ranked Texas visiting No. 15-ranked LSU in Baton Rouge on Saturday. Luckily for the Longhorns, this game will be played at 2:30 p.m. instead of at night, which Bayou Bengal fans love. They won't have all day to get juiced up for this one, but believe me, they will be at full throat when Steve Sarkisson's team comes calling.

There's another big one in the SEC, as No. Kentucky (aren't they a basketball school?) hosts No. 25 Florida, while No. 19 Missouri heads between the Hedges to take on No. 2-ranked Georgia.

There are two big ones in the Big 12 as well as No. 13 Texas Tech heads to Stillwater to take on a dangerous Oklahoma State team, which is coached by former Red Raider wide receiver Eric Morris. Also in the Big 12, No. 3-ranked Utah plays at No. 25 Arizona, a team that gave Tech all it could handle two weeks ago in Lubbock.

Week 10 of the NFL season begins with an NFC East contest featuring the Commanders against the Giants. Not exactly a scintillating matchup.

Week 10 in the NFL also features the Texans heading to Cleveland to take on their former QB, Deshaun Watson, in a game that should be full of emotion for both teams. Watson left on bad terms from the team that drafted him with a first-round pick, and after years of injuries and legal issues, he's got the Browns in the hunt for an AFC Wild Card spot. The Texans are in must-win mode from here on out, so it will be interesting to see if the defense, which has been inept thus far, can turn things around in the second half of the season.

There's a big one in the NFC North as Minnesota visits Green Bay. San Francisco visits a disappointing Dallas team on Sunday in the late game window on FOX Sunday afternoon. I just don't get this Cowboys team. They tend to play down to the level of competition and it bites them in the you-know-what every time. Two weeks ago, Jerry's team blew a 14-point fourth quarter lead to the lowly Cardinals and lost in overtime. That marked the fifth straight loss to Arizona, which isn't exactly one of the top teams in the league. But Jerry is gonna be Jerry. As long as he's making money, I personally don't think he cares about the product he puts on the field.

There's another good one on Sunday as New England visits Detroit.

The Sunday Night Football game should be a good one as the Steelers visit Cincinnati in a key AFC North contest for both teams.

Before we take a look at this weekend's college and NFL games, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 record brought the record to 70-37 (65%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Florida at Kentucky - No. 8 Kentucky is perhaps one of the biggest surprises in college football this season, along with UCLA. First-year head coach Will Stein has done an amazing job in his first year on the job and has led the Wildcats to a 7-1 season record and 4-1 mark in the SEC thus far. He's definitely in line to be the SEC coach of year and should be considered for national coach of the year along with UCLA head man Bob Chesney. The Wildcats host No. 24 Florida on Saturday. Kentucky has an explosive offense led by QB Kenny Minchy (1,775 yards, 14 TDs), for UT running back CJ Baxter (487 yards , 8 TDs), wideout Kenny Darby (38 receptions, 507 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Willie Rodriguez (39 receptions, 324 yards, 3 TDs). Florida also has improved under first-year head coach Jon Summeral. He has a dangerous offense as well led by QB Aaron Philo (1,367 yards, 9 TDs in 7 games), one of the nation's top back in Jaden Baugh (801 yards, 13 TDs) and a big-play wide receiver in Dallas Wilson (31 receptions, 417 yards, 3 TDs). The key for a Kentucky victory will be if the Wildcat defense can slow down Baugh, it says here they will. My pick, Kentucky 31, Florida 23

Missouri at Georgia - No. 19 Missouri heads to Athens to take on No. 2-ranked Georgia in another late-season SEC contest. Kirby Smart's team is also ranked No. 2 in the CFP rankings and knows it can't have any slip ups from here on out. The Bulldog defense will need to slow down a solid Missouri running game led by Jamal Roberts (1,009 yards, 5 TDs) and Ahmad Hardy, who returned two weeks ago after missing most of the season recovering from a gunshot wound he suffered in May. The Tigers also have a solid QB in Austin Simmons (1,952 yards, 16 TDs) and two dependable receivers in Cayden Lee (52 receptions, 747 yards, 5) and Donovan Olugbode (41 receptions, 593 yards, 7 TDs). The Mizzu offense might have its hands full with a 'Dawgs defense that allows just 14 points per game. It also has a solid offense led by QB Gunner Stockton (1,671 passing yards, 16 TDs/205 rushing yards, 1 TD), running backs Dwight Phillips (415 yards, 2 TDs) and Nate Frazier (297 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Craig Dandridge (20 receptions, 349 yards, 1 TD). Smart is too good of a coach to let the 'Dawgs play down at this point of the season. My pick, Georgia 34, Missouri 20

Texas Tech at Oklahoma State - No. 13 Texas Tech faces a tough road test against a dangerous Oklahoma St. team. Two weeks ago, Tech head coach Joey McGuire made a change at QB and started Tommy Castellanos (189 passing yards, 4 TDs/182 rushing yards, 3 TDs). The move to Castellanos seemed to ignited the Red Raider offense. He and running backs J'Koby Williams (794 yards, 6 TDs) and Cameron Dickey (276 yards, 4 TDs) will need to eat clock to keep OSU QB Drew Mestemaker (2,649 yards, 25 TDs) off of the field. The Cowboys also have a capable back in Caleb Hawkings (906 yards, 4 TDs) and solid wideouts in Justin Brock (41 receptions, 731 yards, 9 TDs) and Wyatt Young (43 receptions, 713 yards, 8 TDs). McGuire knows his team must win out to have a shot at landing a spot in the Big 12 title game. Looked for a focused Red Raider team to show up in Stillwater come Saturday. My pick, Texas Tech 34, Oklahoma St. 26

Texas at LSU - A big one in the SEC pits No. 10 Texas against No. 15 LSU in an elimination game for both teams SEC title, and perhaps CFP hopes. I expect this to be a prime time game on either ABC or ESPN. Texas is banged up, but should have star edge rusher Collin Simmons (10.5 sacks) back for this one. On offense, QB Arch Manning (1,727 passing yards, 15 TDs/114 rushing yards, 2 TDs) is playing better, but will need help from running back Ralek Brown (452 yards, 5 TDs) and banged up wideouts Ryan Wingo (36 receptions, 470 yards, 4 TDs) and Cam Coleman (23 receptions, 409 yards, 7 TDs). The UT defense will have its hands full with LSU dual-threat QB Sam Leavitt (2,173 passing yards, 17 TDs/324 rushing yards, 8 TDs), running back Dilin Jones (657 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Jackson Harris (36 receptions, 634 yards, 7 TDs). Getting Simmons back could be huge for UT in this game. My pick, Texas 30, LSU 27

Utah at Arizona - No. 3 Utah has a tough road test at No. 24 Arizona as it looks to preserve its undefeated season and land a seat in the Big 12 conference game. The Utes won their first eight games and first five Big 12 games and are in the driver's seat to play in Arlington in the Big 12 title game on Dec. 6. They have a very good dual-threat QB in Devon Dampier (1,876 passing yards, 18 TDs/394 rushing yards,5 TDs), a solid running back in Wayshawn Parker (726 yards, 9 TDs) and a dependable wide receiver in Braden Pegan (39 receptions, 505 yards, 6 TDs). Two weeks ago, Arizona lost a tough one at Texas Tech after leading for most of the game. They have a very good QB in Noah Fifita (2,481 yards, 19 TDs), a solid runner in Kedrick Reescano (321 yards, 7 TDs) and a good receiver in Isaiah Mizell (34 receptions, 675 yards, 4 TDs). Fans of Tech and BYU will be rooting for the Wildcats to pull off the upset on Saturday, but look for Utah to answer the challenge and pick up a big road win. My pick, Utah 31, Arizona 26

USC at Indiana - No. 18 USC heads to the Midwest to take on No. 6 Indiana in a key Big 10 contest on Saturday. Two weeks ago, the Trojans upset Ohio State, 30-18, but they face a tough task when they face a very good Hoosiers team on Saturday. The Indiana defense is solid, but will get tested by USC QB Jayden Maiava (2,525 yards, 20 TDs), running back King Miller (681 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receivers Trent Mosley (32 receptions, 512 yards, 6 TDs), and Kayden Dixon-Wyatt (32 receptions, 443 yards, 4 TDs) and tight end Mark Bowman (24 receptions, 283 yards, 2 TDs). Indiana needs QB Josh Hoover (1,860 yards, 19 TDs) to bring his A game on Saturday. He will get help from running backs Turbo Richard (745 yards, 6 TDs) and Lee Beebe Jr. (715 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receivers Charlie Becker (50 receptions, 875 yards, 9 TDs) and Nick Marsh (38 receptions, 669 yards, 8 TDs). Look for the Hoosiers to establish the run early to set up Hoover to make plays to Becker and Marsh in the passing game. My pick, Indiana 26, USC 17

NFL

Washington at New York Giants - Week 10 in the NFL begins on Thursday Night Football with a battle in the NFC East as Washington visits the division-leading Giants. Two weeks ago, the Commanders picked up a nice win over the struggling Eagles, while the Giants had the week off. Washington will need a big night from QB Jayden Daniels (976 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (27 receptions, 252 yards, 5 TDs) if they hope to pull off the upset. NY appears to have found its QB in J.J. McCarthy (495 yards, 1 TD in 2 starts). They can run the ball thanks to Cam Skattebo (418 yards, 2 TDs) and have an emerging star in wideout Malik Nabors (48 receptions, 605 yards, 2 TDs). The Giants also have a solid defense, which will be the difference maker come Thursday night. My pick, New York 24, Washington 14

New England at Detroit - This should be an interesting game as the Patriots visit the Lions on Sunday. Two weeks ago, NE won a tough road game at Miami, while the Lions won a hard-fought battle at home against Minnesota, handing the Vikings their first loss of the season. The Detroit defense will get tested once again by a good Patriots offense led by QB Drake Maye (1,983 passing yards, 15 TDs/216 rushing yards, 3 TDs), running back Rhamodre Stevenson (367 yards, 2 TDs) and wideout Demario Douglas (26 receptions, 332 yards, 4 TDs). The Lions have one of the top offenses in the league led by QB Jared Goff (1,964 yards, 15 TDs), running back Jahmyr Gibbs (773 rushing yards, 8 TDs/34 receptions, 285 yards, 2 TDs), wideouts Amon-Ra St. Brown (53 receptions, 571 yards, 5 TDs) and Jameson Williams (27 receptions, 437 yards, 5 TDs) and tight end Sam LaPorta (31 receptions, 367 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Lions explosive offense to make a play or two more come Sunday to pull out the victory. My pick, Detroit 33, New England 26

Houston at Cleveland - The Texans head to Ohio to take on old friend DeShaun Watson (1,806 yards, 7 TDs) on Sunday. Houston head coach DeMeco Ryans knows his team can't afford many more losses if they want to keep their playoff hopes alive. Look for the defense to play better, which it must from here on out. Texans QB C.J. Stroud (1,867 yards, 11 TDs) and Nico Collins (24 receptions, 329 yards, 3 TDs) will face a tough Browns defense, which means they will need to get their beleaguered running game going. Watson was in concussion protocol two weeks ago, but I don't expect him to miss taking on his former team. He will look to attack a suspect Houston secondary with strikes to tight end Harold Fannin Jr. (35 receptions, 411 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Denzel Boston (409 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Texans defense to finally step up and help pick up a big road win on Sunday. My pick, Houston 23, Cleveland 17

Minnesota at Green Bay - A big one in the NFC North pits the Vikings against the Packers at Lambeau Field. Two weeks ago, Minnesota saw its undefeated season come to an end with its 19-15 loss at Detroit, while the Packers defeated Carolina. The Vikings have one of the top defenses in the league, but struggle on offense behind QB Kyler Murray (1,022 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Justin Jefferson (40 receptions, 335 yards, 4 TDs). GB has a solid offense led by QB Jordan Love (2,246 yards, 16 TDs) and two solid receivers in Christian Watson (42 receptions, 708 yards, 6 TDs) and Matthew Golden (43 receptions, 619 yards, 4 TDs). The Packers offense also got a lift with the return of running back Josh Jacobs (75 yards, 3 total TDs in 2 games). My pick, Green Bay 26, Minnesota 20

San Francisco at Dallas - The 49ers head to Jerry World to take on a Dallas team that has struggled against the 49ers over the last few years. The 49ers offense should be licking its chops to take on a very bad Cowboys defense. Look for QB Brock Purdy (1,748 yards, 15 TDs), running back Christian McCaffrey (389 rushing yards, 8 TDs/37 receptions, 251 yards) and tight end George Kittle (34 receptions, 425 yards, 3 TDs). Dallas will need a big day from QB Dak Prescott (2,046 yards, 14 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (528 yards, 9 total TDs) and wide receivers CeeDee Lambe (60 receptions, 709 yards, 6 TDs) and George Picken (39 receptions, 533 yards, 3 TDs). Dallas just isn't good enough on defense to beat a team as loaded as the 49ers, so look for Jerry to have another meltdown in his box come Sunday. My pick, San Francisco 33, Dallas 21

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati - A good one in the AFC North on Sunday Night Football as the Steelers visit the Bengals. Both teams have been playing well lately and this should be a competitive contest. Pittsburgh has gotten a good season out of QB Aaron Rodgers (1,871 yards, 15 TDs), running back Jaylen Warren (704 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver DK Metcalf (33 receptions, 378 yards, 1 TD). The Bengals are loaded on offense led by QB Joe Burrow (2,115 yards, 20 TDs), running back Chase Brown (340 rushing yards, 1 TD/36 receptions, 189 yards) and big-play wideouts Tee Higgins (43 receptions, 726 yards, 4 TDs) and Ja'Marr Chase (43 receptions, 492 yards, 6 TDs). Look for the Cinci offense to be too much for the Steelers come Sunday night. My pick, Cincinnati 26, Pittsburgh 18

7 Brew Coffee to transform former Crosby Church site into Drive-Thru Destination,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prefabricated building, a walk-in cooler, drive-thru canopies and a trash enclosure. The small footprint is consistent with 7 Brew's fast-service model: customers remain in their vehicles, while employees prepare and deliver drinks from inside the stand. No public indoor or outdoor dining space is included in the filing.

Construction is scheduled to begin Nov. 30, 2026, with completion projected for Feb. 28, 2027. Those dates represent the applicant's proposed timeline and do not confirm when work will begin or when the location will open.

The development would bring a striking change to a roughly 3.69-acre tract with deep roots in Crosby's religious community. Property records describe an existing 12,254-square-foot religious building constructed in 1975 for then Crosby Assembly of God Church, suggesting the site has served as church property for more than half a century.

Over the years, three church names have been associated with the address: Crosby Assembly of God, Grace Fellowship Assembly of God and The Little Country Church, a ministry of Holy Wild Ministries.

While it began in the 1970s as Crosby Assembly of God, the property subsequently became home to The Little Country Church under Holy Wild Ministries, which acquired the site in October 2012. The church had a longstanding presence in the community until January 2026 when Pastor Jerry Hovater's congregation sold the property and refocused on their campus in New Caney, Texas.

The property was originally owned in 1949 by the McKinney family.

Property databases show Holy Wild Ministries transferred the site to an unidentified buyer in January 2026, clearing the way for the proposed commercial redevelopment.

If completed as filed, the project will turn a place long associated with Sunday services into one built around morning commutes—trading pews and pulpits for espresso shots and drive-thru lanes while opening a new chapter for a familiar Crosby property.

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Huffman Hargrave 57, Livingston 43
Humble 27, Crosby 19
Texas City 28, Baytown Lee 7



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, NOV. 12
Goose Creek Memorial (6-4) at Houston Milby (7-3), 7 p.m., Barnett Stadium, Houston

FRIDAY, NOV. 13
Barbers Hill (9-1) vs. Atascocita (6-4), 7 p.m., Eagle Stadium, Mont Belvieu
Huffman Hargrave (5-5) vs. Fort Bend Willowridge (6-4), 7 p.m., Ray Maddry Stadium, Channelview

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*Baytown Lee, Baytown Sterling, and Crosby did not qualify for the playoffs and their season is over.



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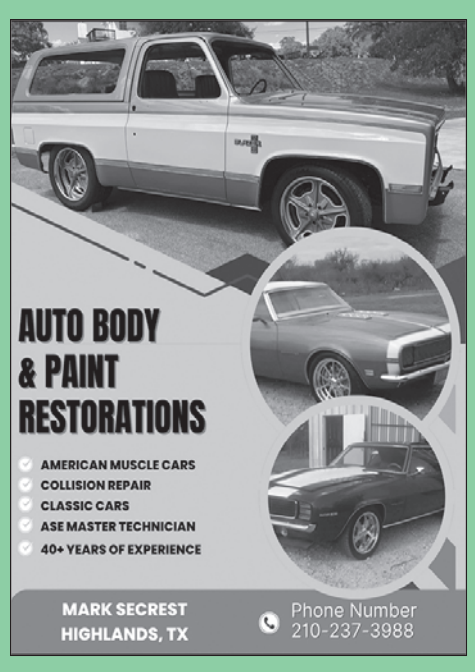
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Rose Byrne, left, and Samantha Quinn star in "The Good Daughter."

"The Good Daughter"

"Primetime" (R) — Director Lance Oppenheim has had two culturally resonant films that have been released this year: a meta-documentary film titled "You Can See Everything," and this psychological thriller led by Robert Pattinson ("The Odyssey"). Much to the real-life Chris Hansen's dismay, in "Primetime," Pattinson portrays "To Catch a Predator" journalist Chris Hansen circa 2006. The potential reveal of an extramarital affair of his causes Hansen to ramp up his efforts toward making his show a success, rather than focusing on the overall mission of catching child predators. While viewers themselves can watch Hansen slowly unravel due to pressure, they can also see him spiral through the eyes of aspiring actor Dan Plum (Skyler Gisondo), who becomes Hansen's mentee. The film is out now to rent; see if it's as "detached from reality" as the real-life Hansen said it was! (Amazon Prime Video)

"Other Mommy" (R) — Jessica Chastain ("Dreams") leads this creepy psychological-horror film based on the 2024 novel "Incidents Around the House" by Josh Malerman. The film zeroes in on a family of three: 7-year-old Bela (Arabella Olivia Clark), her father Russ (Jay Duplass), and her mother Ursula (Chastain). Ursula is laser-focused on her career, which doesn't leave her much time to spend with Russ or Bela. Craving attention from her mother, Bela begins to see a supernatural entity around her house that looks like her mom, so she names this entity "Other Mommy." (Wink.) But as the Other Mommy becomes increasingly contorted and angry, she begins to attack Bela, hoping that Bela will finally let her into her heart. Available to rent on Nov. 10. (Apple TV)

"The Good Daughter" (TV-MA) — If HBO's "Sharp Objects" was your kind of show, look no further than this new mystery series, which similarly emulates that small-town, gritty, rugged feel. Oscar nominee Rose Byrne ("If I Had Legs, I'd Kick You") stars alongside Emmy nominee Meghann Fahy ("Sirens") as a pair of estranged sisters who tensely reunite after a murder case consumes their hometown. This new case brings back dark memories from a traumatic event when they were young girls, forcing them to reconcile the past and present in order for both sisters to fully move on. Emmy winner Brendan Gleeson ("Spider-Noir") plays their endearing hospitalized father, who hopes to harmonize the relationship between them. All six episodes will be available to stream on Nov. 12. (Peacock)

"Heartland" (R) — And she's back already! Jessica Chastain ("Other Mommy") is also the lead of this mystery-thriller film premiering on Nov. 13. A completely different change of tune from the film detailed above, "Heartland" takes viewers into the underbelly of Nashville after a young 22-year-old star named Charlie Heart (Carter Faith) disappears. Her aunt, former country music star Misty Jones (Chastain), is pleaded by her brother to go to Nashville and dig around for information about Charlie herself, since she knows her way around the city. At first, Misty is hesitant to go back to this previous chapter in her life, but with Charlie's life on the line, nothing will stop her from finding her niece. (Netflix)

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Celebrity extra by Dana Jackson

Q:Is Lacey Chabert going to be in another Christmas movie this year? Isn't she considered the queen of them? — L.K.

A:Yes, Lacey Chabert is widely considered the "Queen of Hallmark" ever since she starred in "Matchmaker Santa" for the network in 2012. She's gone on to star in 16 Christmas movies and over 40 movies for Hallmark.

Next up for Chabert is "Holiday Ever After: A Disney World Wish Come True," co-starring Travis Van Winkle ("FUBAR") and Richard Kind ("Only Murders in the Building"). During a family visit to the Magic Kingdom, Lacey's character finds herself in the hotel room that's adjacent to a man she once considered a first-date disaster.

"Holiday Ever After" premieres on the Hallmark Channel on Nov. 28 at 8 p.m. ET.

***

Q:I was watching old episodes of "Law & Order" and thought I saw a young Zoe Saldana in an episode. Was it her? — E.B.

A: Yes, you very likely saw a 21-year-old Zoe Saldana in her first professional acting role. Long before she starred in blockbuster film franchises like "Avatar" and "Guardians of the Galaxy," Saldana was a guest star on a 1999 episode of NBC's "Law & Order," titled "Refuge: Part 2." Like many New York actors, she also made guest appearances on more than one episode within the "Law & Order" universe. Her second guest-star appearance was on season five of "Law & Order: SVU," where she played the daughter of a drug addict.

Years later, she described her first time on the set of "L&O" to Elle magazine: "That was the very first time I did something that my entire family, living in the States and worldwide, was able to watch. I remember that day that I shot that scene. ... I thought, 'I can get used to this, this is something I can maybe do as a career.'"

And, boy, is she having quite the life, including winning a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in the musical "Emilia Perez" and currently starring in the hit Paramount+ series "Lioness."

***



Travis Van Winkle (Upcoming in "Holiday Ever After")

Q:Is it true that they've canceled the show "Criminal Minds"? Will there be any more new episodes? — M.R.

A:"Criminal Minds" ran for 15 seasons on CBS before it was canceled in 2020. It was picked back up in 2022 by streamer Paramount+ and was retitled "Criminal Minds: Evolution." So, what's considered season 20, the final season of "Criminal Minds," will premiere sometime in 2027. Production wrapped earlier this fall, so hopefully, you won't have to wait much longer for the new episodes.

It looks like there's a glimmer of hope, however. Cast member AJ Cook, who plays special agent JJ Jareau, pointed out that in an article from Deadline, it stated, "'Criminal Minds' is ending its run (for now) across two incarnations on two platforms." Does the parenthetical aside mean that the show's simply being put on pause? Showrunner Erica Messer agrees that there are more stories to tell and hopes to "keep telling them somewhere."

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



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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.

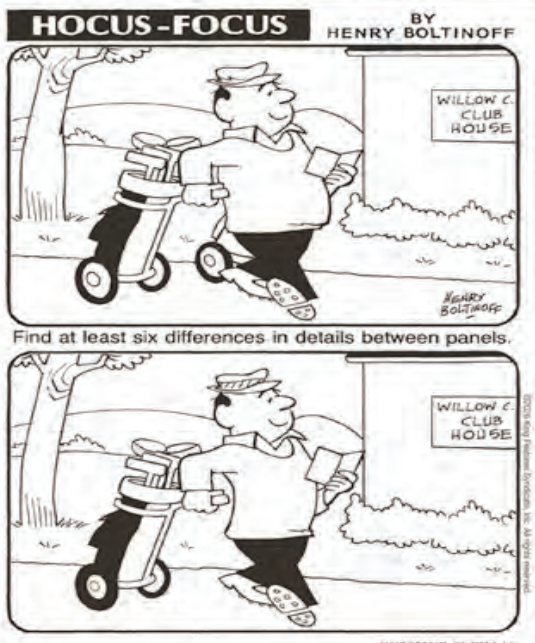
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

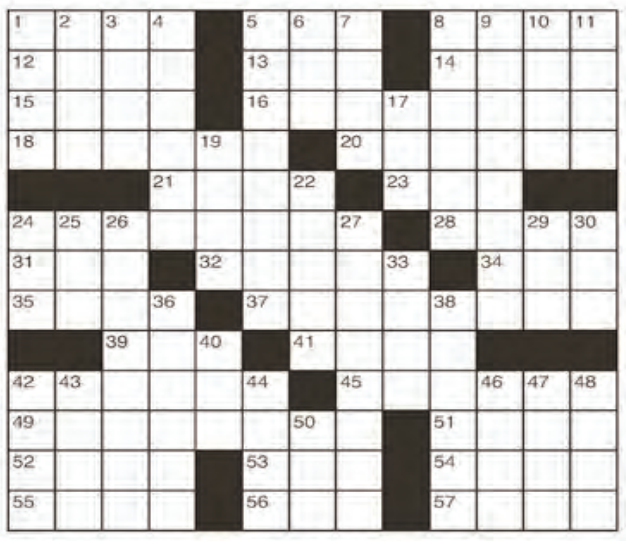


Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Bushes are taller. 2. Tree trunk is different. 3. Wheel is different. 4. Man is thinner. 5. Scorecard is longer. 6. Hat is different.

November 9, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword



ACROSS

1 Eye drop
5 Gullet
8 Grime
12 Jazz singer James
13 Financial pro
14 Body sci.
15 Hearty dish
16 Abraham Lincoln's birthplace
18 Arm bones
20 Craig of "Skyfall"
21 Ms. Rowlands
23 Qt. fractions
24 George Washington's birthplace
28 Planted, as seed
31 Anger
32 Bellini opera
34 Steal from
35 Shade of blue
37 Gerald Ford's birthplace
39 Always, in verse
41 Venue
42 Subway line in an Ellington song
45 Saint of Avila
49 Harry S. Truman's birthplace
51 Farm team
52 Worry
53 Ring decision
54 Noggin
55 Disarray
56 Junior
57 Spanish for "this"

DOWN

1 TV/radio host John
2 Words to Brutus
3 "Up and —!"
4 Steak tartare ingredient
5 "Barbie" actress Kate
6 Chest-beating beast
7 Wizard's prop
8 Intimidates
9 Cutting teeth
10 Croupier's tool
11 Texter's sign-off
17 Phone bug
19 Check
22 Buenos —
24 Sportscaster Scully
25 Roth svgs. plan
26 Flip-flops
27 Aspiration
29 Stir-fry vessel
30 Cagers' gp.
33 Prado display
36 Bakery supplies
38 Bacteriologist's study
40 Brazilian city
42 Bands on radios
43 Lose energy
44 Crazy
46 Alimony recipients
47 Bicycle part
48 — Domini
50 Former MGM rival

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of South Carolina?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to Mount Kilimanjaro?
3. COMICS: Who is Wonder Woman's mother?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What is kombucha?
5. MOVIES: What is the main family's name in "The Godfather" movies?
6. LITERATURE: Who is the author of the novel "The Martian"?
7. MATH: How many sides does a heptadecagon have?
8. TELEVISION: What is the name of the women's prison in "Orange is the New Black"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are espadrilles?
10. HISTORY: What was the main marketplace in ancient Greece called?

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— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.



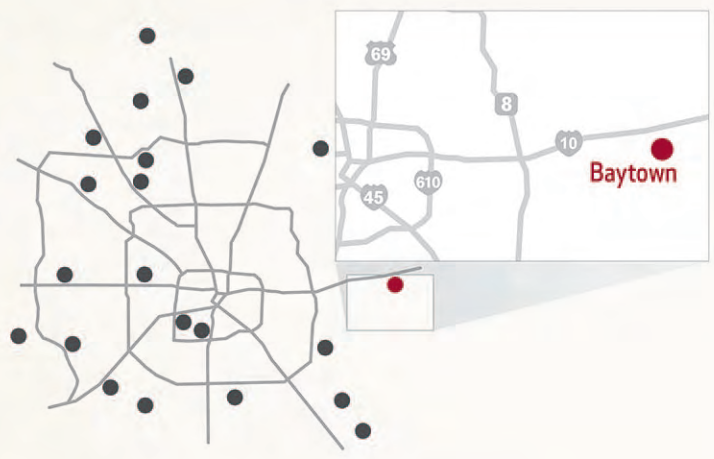
Trivia Test Answers!

1. Columbia; 2. Tanzania, Africa; 3. Queen Hippolyta; 4. Fermented tea; 5. Corleone; 6. Andy Weir; 7. 17; 8. Litchfield Penitentiary; 9. Summer footwear, usually made of canvas; 10. The Agora

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