

Senior
Jackets
Kicker #7
Juan Soto
kicked a go
ahead field
goal in
Overtime.
(Photo by
Allan Jamail)
See story
below & on
page 3

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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EPA orders Cleanup of Waste Pits to Proceed

Environmentalist Group THEA sees Victory after years of Effort

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

In a significant victory for the residents of East Harris County, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the cleanup plan for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. This decision comes after years of delays and persistent advocacy from the community, led by the Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA).

The EPA's ruling imposes over 40 additional conditions on the companies responsible for the toxic waste, International Paper Company and Waste Management subsidiary McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation. These conditions are designed to ensure a thor-

ough and effective cleanup of the site, which has been a source of dioxin and other hazardous materials for decades.

Jackie Medcalf, CEO and Founder of THEA, expressed her gratitude and relief at the EPA's decision.

"The EPA is taking decisive action to protect the community and the San Jacinto River," Medcalf said. "This is a victory for all of the residents who have been pushing for the cleanup of this environmental hazard for so many years."

The San Jacinto River Waste Pits, located in Harris County just east of Houston, have been under a court mandate to produce a final cleanup plan since 2018. While the Southern Pit was successfully



THEA Executive Director Jackie Medcalf announces the EPA Ruling, which will compel the Responsible Parties to proceed with the Waste Pits Superfund Site Cleanup. She is joined at the Press Conference, which took place near the river site of the Waste Pits, with Environmental Activists Carolyn Stone, Pam Bonta, Greg Moss, and others in the Community.

cleaned up in 2024, the plan for the Northern Pit faced numerous delays and setbacks. The companies responsible for the cleanup sought and received 565 days' worth of delays and

submitted multiple plans that did not meet the EPA's requirements.

In a letter dated September 9, 2025, the EPA approved the companies' final plan but took the un-

usual step of requiring agency approval for any changes.

"EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin has said his priority is to jumpstart the superfund site cleanup process, and this may be the most important project to see action under that policy," Medcalf noted. "We appreciate the EPA taking firm action on a project that has been allowed to languish for far too long."

The community's involvement played a crucial role in the EPA's decision.

"The people who live along the river deserve the real credit for this action," Medcalf said. "The EPA's conditions reflect many of the same requirements that the community has been pushing for, including assurances that the site will be thoroughly

tested to make sure the cleanup was done properly."

Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey, who has been actively pushing the EPA to take definitive action, also praised the decision.

"For decades, families along the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site have carried the burden of living next to one of the nation's most toxic sites," Ramsey said. "The decision by the EPA to approve the removal plans is a long-awaited victory for our community."

Despite the approval, there are still details to be finalized, including establishing a timeline and setting penalties for any

Continued. See EPA ORDERS
WASTE PITS CLEANUP, Page 2

CHANNEL CURRENTS

2025 Greens Bayou Regatta October 4th

Starting Line: Brock
Adventure Park (8201 John
Ralston Rd, Houston, TX 77044)
Race Day Registration: 7:30 -
8:15 am

Start Time: 9:00 am
Finish Line and Awards
Ceremony: Thomas Bell Foster
Park (12895 Greens Bayou St,
Houston, TX 77015)

Awards Ceremony: 12:30 pm
*Must be 18+ years old to
register. Minimum age for entry
is 12 years. Children under 16
must be accompanied by an
adult on the boat. A waiver must
be signed by a parent or
guardian. Waivers must be
signed by all participants. For
waiver.

*Entry includes tee-shirt and
lunch, while supplies last. Does
not include canoe or kayak.
*Your registration fee does not
include boat rental.

PLEASE NOTE: On-line
registration closes on Thursday,
October 2, 2025, at 11:59 pm
CST.

Sterling Raiders Squeaked by Yellow Jackets 41-34 in Overtime

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ September 18, 2025 ~ At the GPISD stadium the Galena Park Yellow Jackets under Head Coach Spiro Amarantos lost a very tight district home game 41 - 34 to HISD's Sterling Raiders. In their first 4 games the Jacket's are winless including losing 2 district games.

The Jacket's lost mostly due to a lack of discipline by committing 12 carless penalties. The game was a 28-28 toss-up at halftime, in a defensive battle neither team scored in the 3rd or 4th quarter. The game was decided in overtime.

In overtime the Jackets scored first with a three point field goal by Juan Soto (see photo) making the score 31 - 28. Then the Jackets defense could not stop the Raiders on a 4th down game ending TD



Jacket's senior running back #5 Cary Clay caught a 35 yd TD pass from QB Kendall Combs. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Continued. See YELLOW JACKETS FALL SHORT IN OVERTIME, Page 3

East Houston Democrats 10 Year Anniversary Gala



L - R: Julia Davis, Deputy Constable PCT. 3, Judge Joe Stephens & Charlotte Jackson, Pct. 3 Constable Office. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. September 19, 2025 - The East Houston Democrats (EHD) celebrated their tenth year anniversary with an

awards ceremony honoring some members who have been instrumental in the organizations success. Re

Continued. See EAST HOUSTON
DEMOCRATS 10 YEAR, Page 5

2025-2026 GP Yellow Jacket Jacketeers



Director Vanessa Boyce, Assistant Director Alyza Vasquez, Aguilar Keisi, Avalos Maggie, *Beltran Alizee, *Betancourt Aracely, Betancourt Rebecca, *Bonilla Alexandra, Castillo Camilla, Celestino Anele, Cortez Juarez Brissia, *Cruz Maliyah, De La O Meliza, Espinosa Ashley, Espinosa Brizeyda

Garcia Nevaeh, *Garza Samantha, *Gomez Kianna, Gonzalez Devany, Holiday TreJure, Jackson Desiree, Lopez Samantha, Manzano Alyssa, Martinez Alize, Martinez Yazmin, Martinez Yexalen

Minjares Martinez Geovanna, Molina Michelle, Montoya Valeria, Moreno Alize, Muro Jazlyne, Naranjo Sophia, Pruneda Jayleen, Robledo Nevaeh, *Roman Dayami, Sanchez Marissa, Teran Destiny, Torres Genesis, Torres Isabella & *Uribe Izabella (*denotes junior varsity) (Photo by Linda Jamail)

Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree Rep. Ana Hernandez Receives Prestigious MALC Award

By Allan Jamail

San Antonio, TX. September 18, 2025 ~ State Rep. Ana Hernandez was honored by MALC (Mexican American Legislative Caucus) for being the longest serving Latina in the Texas House of Representatives with 20 years of service since 2005. (and counting).

Hernandez was thrilled to accept the award from Bobby Pulido a Tejano music artist who's a current congressional candidate for US District 15. (see photo).

Ana said, "I'm proud to be a member of MALC, the oldest and largest Latino legislative caucus in the nation."



Rep. Ana Hernandez with her flower bouquet award from MALC, presented by Tejano music star Bobby Pulido.

Representative Hernandez is currently serving her tenth term in the Texas House of Representatives. She proudly represents District 143, which includes part of Hous

Continued. See REP ANA HERNANDEZ
HONORED FOR TWENTY YEARS, Page 3

Multi-Club Rotary Meeting held in Highlands

Highlands Rotary Club was the host for the annual visit and convocation of area Rotary Clubs, from Baytown, Highlands, North Shore, and Galena Park/Jacinto City.

The luncheon meeting was held last Thursday, September 18th at the Highlands San Jacinto Community Center, with over 100 Rotarians attending from the representative clubs.

District Governor Tom Kelchner was the official host, and also concluded his club visits in the area. In his remarks to the attendees, he said "It was wonderful to complete our 20th and last official District Governor visit with my home Baytown club and the Rotary Clubs of North Shore, Highlands and Galena Park/Jacinto City! Thanks to Club Presi-



Members of the North Shore Rotary Club at the Multi-Club Meeting



District Governor Tom Kelchner, center, with Club Presidents from Baytown, Galena Park/Jacinto City, North Shore, and Highlands.



Members of the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club at the Multi-Club Meeting
 dents Ledell Johnson, Mini Izaguirre, Patricia Scott and James Cline!

Thanks for the generous donations to Polio! Thanks to our fantastic Presentation Team!"

Included in the event were acknowledgements of major gifts to Rotary International, including the Highlands Rotary Club donating thousands to the Rotary International effort to eliminate Polio worldwide. The Highlands club every year raises the money for this donation from the annual Washer Throwing Tournament, with Rotarians and the community combining for fun and funds.

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.154615 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of San Jacinto Community College District.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.154615 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.155158 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.161922 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for San Jacinto Community College District from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that San Jacinto Community College District may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that San Jacinto Community College District is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON October 6, 2025 AT 7:00 PM AT District Administration Building Rm 104 4624 Farimont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas 77504.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, San Jacinto Community College District is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of San Jacinto Community College District at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal:

Keith Sinor	Erica Davis Rouse
Michelle Cantu Wilson	Dan Mims
Larry Wilson	Judy Harrison
Position 5 Vacant	

AGAINST the proposal: N/A

PRESENT and not voting: N/A

ABSENT: N/A

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

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by San Jacinto Community College District last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by San Jacinto Community College District this year.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.154868	\$0.154615	decrease of -0.000253 per \$100, or -0.16%
Average homestead taxable value	\$182,166	\$188,322	increase of 3.38%
Tax on average homestead	\$282.12	\$291.17	increase of 9.05, or 3.21%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$133,631,371	\$135,124,850	increase of 1,493,479, or 1.12%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for San Jacinto Community College District at 713-274-8000 or Tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.



Ken and Cyntia Wimbley were acknowledged as Major Donors at the Multi-Club Meeting

EPA orders Waste Pits Cleanup to Proceed,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

failure to follow the plan. THEA and its coalition remain committed to ensuring the companies are held accountable until the hazardous material is removed.

"Residents have lost loved ones. Many have developed cancer and other illnesses themselves, but they never stopped," Medcalf said. "This community isn't going anywhere, and they aren't going to stop pushing for a full, effective cleanup."

The EPA's decision marks a new phase in the long battle to clean up the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. The community, along with local officials and THEA, will continue to monitor the progress

and ensure that the cleanup is done right, done safely, and done quickly.

"This is our river, our home, our future, and we are determined to see this cleanup is done right," Medcalf emphasized.

As the legal wheels begin to turn, the community remains vigilant.

"We will keep watching. We will keep demanding transparent timelines, clear expectations, and accountability to make sure every one of EPA's conditions is met and that the remedy moves forward without further delay," Medcalf said. "We have fought too long to accept anything less than the safest and most expeditious cleanup possible."

At a press conference in Meadowbrook Park, just yards away from the actual Superfund site, Medcalf gave the details to the media and interested parties from the community.

In the background, teens of fish were jumping in the river, none of which can be eaten without fear of dioxin contamination.

Residents were relieved that in their lifetime, the river may finally be restored to its original state.

"This decision is not the end. It's the start of a new phase. The legal wheels will now turn, and we will keep fighting to ensure that the cleanup is done right," she concluded.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING:

Sheldon ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on October 21, 2025 in the Ney Administration Board Room, 11411 C.E. King Parkway, Houston, TX 77044. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Sheldon ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Priceless Gifts

Earlier this week, as I sat down to update my weekly planner I could not help but realize that this would be the first birthday in fifty-one years that I would not have the opportunity to reach out to my childhood friend to wish him a happy birthday. It has just been three months since I received a phone call that changed my life. I learned that my seventh-grade physical science lab partner had passed away. Not only did he pass away but was found days later. Some friends shared that he had been such a bright light to so many that it was sad he passed away at home and alone. Friends remembered him as always smiling, always helping others and always smiling, always helping others and yet he was alone at the end of his life.

He had graduated from North Shore and went on to college as well as the Catholic seminary. He returned to serving our community in a time when immigration was a hot topic. He recognized issues with the environment that were concerning. He began to see holes in some of the things he had been taught. As time went on, he served in several other positions in the city and yet despite the injustices that he had seen earlier in his life, he recognized that he had to be true to himself.

He had some personal battles he had to face and overcome. Over the years, he asked me to attend several support groups with him. He called me from the Emergency Room multiple times after feeling like life was too difficult. He called many times, sometimes 20 times a day, needing to know somebody cared for him. He would reach out to others, including my mother, wanting to talk and wanting to know that he would be remembered years later. Each time, he would thank us for being there.

I would tell him that was what friends were for. He would remind me that he felt like we were family. He loved to end our conversations with the words "I love you more!" So many precious memories from our first Science class with Mr. Walter Lilly, to our last hug at Niko Niko's.

God is so very good as before the afternoon was over, I received a message on social media from someone who attended college with my friend. He was overwhelmed in learning of our friend's death. He had memories that he wanted to share. Within a few minutes, we both knew that even in our friend's death, he was still showing love. With this new friendship will come smiles, tears and the sharing of memories, both sad and happy. But truly this is a priceless gift we will cherish.

Life is too short not to recognize the gifts that are given to us each day. When someone crosses your mind, pick up the phone, call them. When you see a stranger, smile. When you have been hurt, forgive. Remind someone that they are loved today.

Rep. Ana Hernandez honored for twenty years of service,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ton (Second Ward, Magnolia Park, Denver Harbor, Port Houston, North Shore, and Clinton Park), part of Baytown, the communities of Channelview and Cloverleaf, and the cities of Galena Park and Jacinto City. She serves as Vice-Chair for the House Committee on State Affairs, and on the House Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures, the House Calendars Committee and on the Permanent Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Broadband.

Ana was born in Reynosa, Mexico, and raised in Pasadena, Texas. She comes from a very close-knit and hardworking family, and is the younger of two daughters. She enjoys spending time with her son, Gregory Eli.

Ana graduated from Sam Rayburn High School in Pasadena and received her Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Psychology from the University of Houston. She went on to receive her Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law in May of 2004. In addition to representing District 143 in the Texas House of Representatives, she is also a practicing attorney in Houston.

ABOUT MALC: The Mexican American Legislative Caucus was founded in 1973 in the Texas House of Representatives by a small group of lawmakers of Mexican American heritage for the purpose of strengthening their numbers and better

representing a united Latino constituency across the state.

In the 1990s, MALC recognized the growth of the Hispanic population in Texas and anticipating a new ethnic majority, they opened membership eligibility to House members of any race or ethnicity who represent majority-Latino constituencies.

As of 2017, MALC has a membership of 42 House members from all parts of the state and is the second largest caucus in the Texas Legislature. MALC Members sit on all but 3 House Committees in the Texas House of Representatives and work together on matters of consequence to our state's large and growing Latino constituency.

Latinos today represent Texas' fastest growing political and economic sector. To meet the needs of this rapidly growing population, MALC serves as an information clearinghouse to Caucus members and non-members alike. By researching the implications of policy on Texas' Hispanic communities and by voting together, the Mexican American Legislative Caucus ensures that the interests of all Texans are represented.

MALC's educational outreach initiatives, conducted between bi-annual sessions of the Texas Legislature, strive to raise the level of Latino engagement in Texas government and politics.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "What is the Hand of Faith?"

In 1980, the Hand of Faith Gold Nugget was found by Kevin and Bep Hillier near the township of Weedburn, Australia.

MEET KEVIN AND BEP

September 25th, 1980, is a date that will be forever etched in Bep Hillier's mind. She and her husband Kevin were detecting, like they did most days throughout that spring, when they made a discovery that most **gold prospectors only dream about**. It was a Friday afternoon and after spending the morning detecting near Moliagul, and Rheola, they decided to stop at Kingower, on their way back to Bridgewater, to pick up their four kids



from school. The family had been living in a bus at the Bridgewater caravan park for five weeks while Kevin recovered from a back operation. It had been suggested by his doctor that he should walk every day to strengthen his back. Kevin followed his doctor's orders and decided to kill two birds with one stone, and whilst walking, he decided to do some gold detecting at the same time.

A FAINT SIGNAL

When Kevin and Bep stopped at the Kingower State Park to continue detecting, they both went their separate ways. After some time, Bep thought she heard a scream. She lifted her headphones but heard nothing. She continued to detect and eventually wandered back to the car. That was when she heard the screaming again and Kevin calling out, 'Darling, Darling!' At first Bep thought Kevin had hurt himself and rushed through the bush to find him. When she found Kevin, he was kneeling in the bush, and in tears. He was praying and looked shaken. He had heard a faint signal through his headphones and started digging. In front of him was a hole which revealed, what would turn out to be, just the tip of the gold nugget. They both started digging around the side of the nugget, which seemed to increase in size and never end. Finally, they did get to the bottom, and managed to lift out of the ground, a nugget weighing 27 kilograms or 868.07 Troy Ounces. They placed it in the car and slowly started driving back towards Bridgewater in shock.

That day on the **Victorian Goldfields**, Kevin and Bep Hillier unearthed a gold nugget that would go on to fetch just over a million dollars when it was sold to the Golden Nugget Casino, Las Vegas. After the sale, the family moved to Western Australia and purchased their first home. After three years, they decided to move back to Victoria, to be close to the Goldfields, where their luck began, and continued their love of prospecting.

For more insights, expert advice, and exciting stories like this one, stay connected and informed via our website www.PineforestJewelry.com.

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

Yellow Jackets fall short in overtime,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



GP Yellow Jackets Team Captains: L - R: #98-Matthias Valenzuela, #4-Armando Esqueda, Jr., #5-Cary Clay & #72-Andres Palacios. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

running play. Final score 41-34.

On the bright side for the Jackets they finally have included in their offense some passing instead of mostly running plays. Senior quarterback Kendall Combs connected to senior Cary Clay on a 35 yd TD pass putting the Jackets ahead 14 to 8 at the end of the first quarter.

Cary Clay led the Jackets offense, he rushed for 188 yds and one TD while picking up 8.5 yds per carry, and also picked up 39 receiving yds and one score. Clay's rushing has been exceptional good as that marked his third straight game with at least 188 rushing yds. Kendall Combs was another key player, rushing for 79 yds on only ten carries plus a pass for a TD. Linda Jamail, statistician.

The Jackets next game will be against the Milby Buffs at HISD's Barnett Stadium, Friday, September 26th at 7pm.



Jackets sophomore #2 Chase James scored on a 11 yd running play. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

She still makes you laugh like no one else

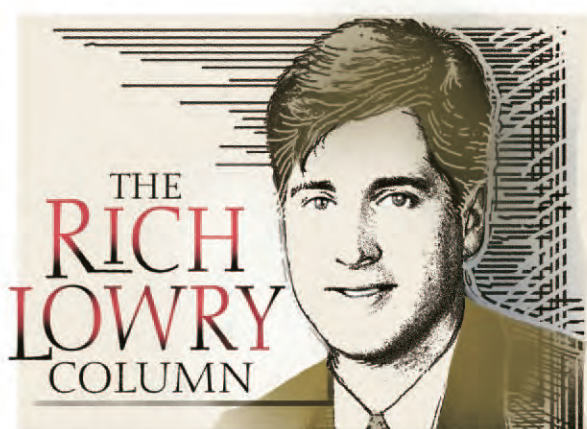


Happy anniversary to the happiest part of your life.



Diamond Jim's
Pineforest Jewelry
Experience

OPINION PAGE



The Siren Song of Despair

The siren song of despair

Charlie Kirk was a one-man answer to campus illiberalism. He rose to prominence at a time when university administrators and progressive students were working in league to make campuses no-go zones for conservatives.

They effectively banned them from their faculties. They didn't invite them on campus, or if they did, they were liable to disinvite and cancel them. They banned so-called hate speech. They shouted down speakers they didn't like. They created "safe spaces." In short, they did everything they could to render the opposing point of view illegitimate and indefensible.

Kirk showed not only that it was possible to punch through these obstacles and get a hearing, but to win the argument despite them.

He created a student movement that he leveraged into a huge, multifaceted organization and that he mobilized to vote in 2024, to great political effect.

He was provocative, occasionally outlandish and sometimes wrong, but always interesting and brave.

His events on campus should be viewed as a public service. All of the best, most creative college deans could have gotten together to figure out how to routinely get thousands of energized students to events about public affairs, and never managed it. No worries. Kirk figured it out for them. That he was shot while he engaged in an act of peaceful persuasion makes his murder all the more devastating.

Kirk wasn't a literary figure, but his assassination was a little like, say, William F. Buckley or James Baldwin getting gunned down in the midst of their famous 1965 debate at the Cambridge Union.

What Kirk was doing drew on some of the finest traditions of civilized life. Gathering on a hill to hear people speak and argue, like what we saw at Utah Valley University prior to the shot ringing out, is as old as the Pnyx in ancient Athens.

The university as a battleground of ideas, with clashing worldviews vying for influence, goes back to the Middle Ages. Founded in 1231, the University of Paris quickly became "a forum where great questions of theology, society, and government were analyzed and answered," writes historian Dan Jones.

More fundamentally, language and abstract reasoning make us distinctly human; violence, the tool of brutes, does not. What are young people on the right to conclude from the horror at Utah Valley? Progressives viewed Kirk as a "MAGA troll" (as a New Republic headline put it in the immediate aftermath of his shooting), but for his fans, he was a figure of hope and inspiration.

It's also important to realize that Kirk worked diligently and effectively to bring disaffected kids into mainstream politics. He pushed back against anti-semitism and other poisonous influences. The far-right envied and hated him.

It would be natural for Utah Valley to become the Right's equivalent of Kent State in the 1970s, a shattering experience, and a radicalizing one.

Charlie Kirk did it the right way, and now he's gone. He espoused the Christian faith, and what did it get him? He believed in open debate, and it left him defenseless unto his enemies. He did his enemies the favor of taking their arguments seriously, whereas (presumably) one of them used a bullet to silence him forever.

To quit on persuasion, though, is the counsel of despair. Political violence in a free society is always wrong. There's no substitute for convincing our fellow citizens, and we should also assume — as Kirk did, even with the odds stacked heavily against him — that they can be convinced by good arguments made sincerely and passionately.

Kirk's murder will long be remembered as a symbol of the irrationality and hatred of this era, with, one fears, worse to come. His life's work, on the other hand, is a testament to how one person can, with enough pluck and talent, move the needle of our politics.

Kirk fought back against illiberalism, and his supporters — when the shock and grief subsides — should be equally committed to his mission.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Talarico Launches U.S. Senate Campaign

State Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, announced last week that he is entering the Democratic primary next March for U.S. Senate. The San Antonio Express-News reported Talarico hopes a new face and approach will give Democrats a chance to garner their first statewide win in more than three decades.

Talarico faces Collin Allred, the former Dallas congressman who unsuccessfully challenged U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz in 2024, and former NASA astronaut Terry Virts in the Democratic primary. Others could enter that race as well.

Incumbent GOP Sen. John Cornyn is facing a stiff challenge on the Republican side from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

"There's a moment here where I think people are ready for something very different," Talarico said. "It's been 10 years of Trumpian politics, politics as blood sport, politics as professional wrestling. And I think people are tired of it."

ABBOTT LIMITS THC PRODUCTS TO THOSE 21 AND OLDER

After two special sessions ended without lawmakers agreeing on how to regulate the state's THC market, Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order restricting the use of products infused with the psychoactive cannabis compound to adults age 21 and older, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The order goes into effect immediately and comes after Abbott vetoed an outright ban on THC products passed during the regular session.

"Absent the kinds of regulations that apply to other psychoactive substances that may safely be enjoyed by adults like alcohol and tobacco, minors have been allowed to purchase these products without any safeguards," Abbott said in his order. "The Legislature did not pass any legislation concerning consumable hemp products, not even a ban for minors, leaving in place the status quo."

Texas outlawed THC vapes effective Sept. 1, but other products such as snacks, gummies and drinks are still legally available for anyone 21 and older. Since hemp



products became legal in 2019, more than 8,000 retailers across the state are selling them.

TEXAS TROOPERS TAKE IN MILLIONS IN OVERTIME PAY

State troopers dispatched to the border under Operation Lone Star are taking in millions of dollars in overtime pay, even as border crossings have dropped to record lows, the Houston Chronicle reported. Data obtained by Hearst Newspapers indicates that the Department of Public Safety is on track to spend about \$77 million on overtime this year, surpassing what it spent in 2023 when crossings peaked and thousands of migrants were arrested.

As of June, approximately 1 in 10 troopers were on track to double their annual salaries through overtime. Operation Lone Star now accounts for a third of DPS' total overtime spending.

DPS officials say their focus is shifting from policing the Rio Grande to arresting drug smugglers and human traffickers across the state and assisting ICE in finding immigrants with outstanding warrants.

"It is true, you no longer see troopers simply stationed along the riverbanks — that is not where they are needed at this time," said Ericka Miller, a DPS spokeswoman. "Troopers, special agents, Texas Rangers and others are working at various locations — some many miles from the physical border — to apprehend criminals and criminal illegal immigrants and crack down on crime connected to the border including drug cases, human smuggling, human trafficking, weapons trafficking, stash houses and more."

COST OF OWNING A HOME IN TEXAS ON THE RISE

Despite lawmakers' efforts to dramatically reduce property taxes, the cost of owning a home in Texas grew in 2024, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Texas Tribune reported other home ownership costs, such as insurance and utilities, have eaten into money saved on property taxes. The median Texas homeowner last year paid \$1,452 in monthly costs — up 2.7% from 2023.

Texas homeowners' monthly costs last year were about 7% higher than in 2019, and the typical Texas homeowner with a mortgage spent 22.2% of their income on home costs.

Texas renters are seeing some relief after several years of steep rent hikes. The median Texas rent rose 1.4% in 2024, a slower pace than the previous two years.

PERMIAN BASIN COUNTIES DRIVE U.S. OIL GROWTH

Eight Texas counties within the Permian Basin accounted for 93% of the nation's oil output growth over the past four years, the Chronicle reported. That production growth comes even as employment numbers have stagnated or dropped.

"We are, through mid-year 2025, producing record volumes of crude oil and natural gas in Texas, with fully 1/3 fewer direct upstream oil and gas employees in Texas compared to the industry peak in 2014," said Karr Ingham, president of the Alliance of Texas Energy Producers. "That is an otherworldly achievement in terms of efficiency and productivity growth, and in many respects releases those resources to other endeavors."

When oil production from two New Mexico counties included in the Permian Basin are added, the 10 counties account for almost 40% of the country's total crude oil and lease condensate output.

FLEA-BORNE TYPHUS MAKING COMEBACK IN TEXAS

Typhus is making a comeback in Texas, carried by fleas despite having almost been eradicated in previous decades, the Texas Standard reported.

The state has reported the most flea-borne typhus cases in the nation, with more than 6,700 cases recorded from 2008-2023. About 70% of patients were hospitalized, and 14 deaths attributed to typhus.

One of the reasons for the increase in typhus cases is climate change, with warmer conditions allowing fleas to reproduce faster and spread the typhus bacteria. Symptoms include fever, headache, rash and cough, and in rare cases more serious illnesses if left untreated. Typhus is successfully treated with antibiotics.

State health officials emphasize pet flea control, yard cleanup (removing brush and outdoor food sources that attract rodents and opossums), and promptly seeking care for unexplained fever — especially after flea bites or exposure to pets and wildlife.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Saggy Belly



My mother told me she was worried that her cat, Katy, needed to lose weight. Privately, I agreed.

My sister and I spent the weekend with my parents up at their cabin in the woods. Their cat, Katy, is now middle-aged and not as active as she used to be. She is no longer allowed outside because she is an excellent bird killer. So Katy spends a lot of her time napping—something cats are very good at (and something I think is a good idea for people as well). But over the years, Katy developed a saggy belly. My mother, who feeds her, felt responsible and worried that she might not be healthy.

"Look at all that flab!" my mother said.

My parents had a cat before Katy, Maggie, and she was undeniably overweight. But Maggie became their cat after she was found out in the winter cold, eating bird food beneath the feeder. After she nearly starved and the tips of her ears froze off, I think everyone decided that Maggie should get to eat as much as she wanted—and she did. My father promised they would put Maggie on a diet only if the veterinarian recommended it.

When the vet recommended that Maggie lose a little weight, my father's response was, "What do vets know?"

Maggie remained a lovely, rotund kitty cat. But Katy does not have this kind of sad origin story. Katy was adopted as a kitten from the local humane society and has never missed a meal. So my mother has reduced her daily allowance from four little scoops to three, although she still gets an afternoon treat called "Katy, Katy Good Stuff."

"I don't think Katy looks bad," my sister said, in Katy's defense. "She just has some flab on her belly," my sister added. Then, because she is my sister and a teacher, she picked up her phone and asked it, "Why do cats have saggy bellies?"

No one was expecting any surprises. Everyone was wrong.

"Primordial pouch," my sister read.

"What?" my father and my mother and I said, in unison.

"It's not fat," my sister said. "It's called a primordial pouch, and cats are born with them. It's described as, 'A saggy, hanging flap of loose skin and fur located on a cat's underside.'"

Now my sister was laughing. My father looked skeptical, as he did with a lot of new information discovered on the internet and not otherwise verified. My mother just looked very surprised. I thought it was hilarious. But we were all looking at Katy in a new way.

My sister kept reading. "The pouch, which develops as a cat matures, is believed to have served evolutionary purposes such as protecting vital organs during fights and enhancing flexibility for running. A prominent pouch is not an indicator of a cat's overall health or weight."

Katy noticed everyone was staring at her and blinked.

"Well! There you have it," I said. "Katy is not fat. She just has an admirably large primordial pouch!"

My sister was now laughing a lot, and my dad was shaking his head. I'm sure I imagined it, but Katy looked pleased. "Finally!" I told her. "Someone understands you!"

My sister was still looking at photos of cats with particularly impressive primordial pouches (many of them more substantial than Katy's), and it occurred to me that I had never stopped to consider that a cat's body could be all different shapes—how there was room for variety and different kinds of beauty.

Katy was exactly as she should be.

Till next time, Carrie

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 5: Huge matchups in college; Parsons returns to Dallas

It's going to be quite a week-end for high school, college and NFL fans this weekend.

In college action, there are a number of intriguing matchups involving nationally ranked teams that could very well determine what 12 teams will earn slots in the College Football Playoff (CFP).

And in the NFL, the folks at NBC have to be happy as former Cowboys defender Micah Parsons returns as a Green Bay Packer as his new team will visit his old squad when GB visits Dallas on Sunday Night Football.

It should be interesting to see if Parsons and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones have any interaction prior to the game. Jones traded one of the league's best pass rushers in August after the two sides failed to come to an agreement on a new contract for the 26-year-old Parsons, who had 1.5 sacks (the team had 8 in two games) in his first two games in Green Bay.

The hometown Texans play their second straight AFC South game when they host Tennessee and No. 1 overall draft pick Cam Ward on Sunday at NRG Stadium. After their first two games, this team has some worrisome issues. Of course, the offensive line still can't protect anyone or open holes for a questionable running game. QB C.J. Stroud appears to be regressing and the defense, although decent at times, seems to disappear at the most important times in games as it did allowing Tampa Bay to drive for the winning score two weeks ago that resulted in a 20-19 loss. Texans fans had better hope this team does not play down to the level of competition on Sunday, or it could be another long day in NRG.

The defending Super Bowl champ Eagles head to Florida to take on Tampa Bay, while Baltimore visits Kansas City to take on a Chiefs team that lost its first two games of the season. It could be desperation time for Patrick Mahomes and his Chiefs.

The college schedule is loaded with big games this weekend (I personally will be in Iowa to watch the Hawkeyes take on No. 19-ranked Indiana. Ah, retirement is grand!). There are a couple of big ones in the SEC, as No. 3-ranked LSU visits No. 13-ranked Ole Miss, while No. 14-ranked Alabama heads to Athens to take on No. 5-ranked Georgia in prime time at 6:30 p.m. on ABC.

Also in the SEC, No. 22-ranked Auburn heads to Kyle Field to take on No. 10-ranked Texas A&M, which two weeks ago picked up a huge road win at Notre Dame with a 41-40 win over the Irish. The Aggie offense is thriving under second-year QB Marcel Reed, but that unit should get a good test from a solid Auburn defense. There's also a huge one in the Big 10 as No. 6-ranked Oregon visits No. 2-ranked Penn State. This will be an interesting matchup between an Oregon offense that averaged 54 points in its first three games and a very stout Penn State defense that allowed just 17 points in its first three contests.

Before we take a look at this weekend's schedule, let's review last week's record. A 6-6 week brought the season record to 17-17 (50%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Notre Dame at Arkansas - These are desperate times for No. 24-ranked Notre Dame, which lost its first two games of the season and can't afford to lose another game this season if it hopes to remain in the CFP picture. Two weeks ago, the Irish defense, especially its secondary, was badly exposed in its 41-40 loss at home to A&M. That unit will face another tough test this Saturday in Fayetteville when it faces an Arkansas team that averaged 47 points in its first three games. The Hogs are led by dual-threat QB Taylen Green (866 passing yards, 11 TDs/307 rushing yards, 2 TDs), running back Mike Washington (260 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout O'Mega Blake (18 receptions, 266 yards, 3 TDs). ND needs to get its two-headed running game going with Jeremiyah Love (127 yards, 1 TD) and Jadarion Price (113 yards, 2 TDs) to keep the Hogs offense off of the field and set up the passing game for QB C.J. Carr (514 yards, 2 TDs), tight end Eli Raridon (9 receptions, 182 yards) and wide receiver Malachi Fielders (8 receptions, 125 yards). This will be a tough environment for the Irish, but look for Love to have a bust out game to lead ND to the victory. My pick, Notre Dame 33,



Arkansas 30

LSU at Ole Miss - A good one in the SEC has No. 3-ranked LSU traveling to Oxford to take on No. 13-ranked Ole Miss. The Tigers will bring one of the best defenses in the country to face a high-scoring Rebels team. The defense led the way to a 20-10 conference-opening win over Florida two weeks ago, while the Ole Miss offense led the way in a 41-35 victory over Arkansas. Something tells me LSU QB Garrett Nussmeier (687 yards, 3 TDs), running back Caden Durham (196 yards, 2 TDs) and wideout Aaron Anderson (18 receptions, 247 yards) will get going against a suspect Rebels defense. The Ole Miss offense will face its first true test of the season after averaging 44 points in its first three games. The Rebs are led by QB Austin Simmons (580 passing yards, 4 TDs), running back Kewan Larcy (290 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Harrison Wallace III (15 receptions, 339 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the LSU defense to slow down the Ole Miss offense, while its offense erupts in Oxford. My pick, LSU 34, Ole Miss 20

Auburn at Texas A&M - Another good one in the SEC has the No. 24-ranked Auburn Tigers visiting the No. 10-ranked Texas A&M Aggies at Kyle Field. Two weeks ago, the Ags improved to 3-0 on the season with a wild 41-40 road win at Notre Dame. Auburn also won its first three games and appears to have found a QB in Jackson Arnold (501 passing yards, 4 TDs). The Tigers also have weapons in running back Jeremiah Cobb (314 yards, 4 TDs) and wideout Cam Coleman (10 receptions, 149 yards, 1 TD). A&M also has a big-play QB in Marcel Reed, (869 passing yards, 9 TDs), who has improved immensely as a passer. Reed has two big-play wideouts to throw to in Mario Craver (20 receptions, 443 yards, 4 TDs) and KC Conception (13 receptions, 227 yards, 3 TDs) and a solid runner in LeVon Moss (168 yards, 4 TDs). The Aggies also have a pretty solid defense, which should be the difference maker come Saturday at Kyle Field. My pick, Texas A&M 33, Auburn 17

Alabama at Georgia - Another big one in the SEC pits No. 14 Alabama against No. 5 Georgia on prime time (6:30 p.m., ABC, Channel 13) between the Hedges in Athens. After losing their opener at Florida State, the Crimson Tide ran off to convincing victories before their first (of two) bye week of the season, while Georgia overcame a 14-point deficit in Knoxville to knock off Tennessee, 44-41 in overtime. Bama QB Ty Simpson (862 passing yards, 9 TDs) seems to be settling into the role as the man under center after an underwhelming opening game performance. It helps that he has one of the best wide receivers in the country in sophomore Ryan Williams (10 receptions, 195 yards, 2 TDs) on his side. Williams missed the second game of the season with a concussion, but returned with a big game in the Tide's 38-14 rout of Wisconsin two weeks ago. Simpson also has another top target to throw to in Germie Bernard (15 receptions, 275 yards, 3 TDs). Bama needs the run the ball better and it appears head coach Kalen DeBoer has turned to Kevin Riley (120 yards) to handle that job. The Bulldogs have a dual-threat QB in Gunner Stockton (721 passing yards, 4 TDs/124 rushing yards, 3 TDs), a solid running back in Nate Frazier (189 yards, 2 TDs) and a decent receiver in Zachariah Branch (11 receptions, 181 yards, 2 TDs). Georgia will be out to avenge last year's road loss in Tuscaloosa and it says here Kirby Smart's team gets the job done. My pick, Georgia 31, Alabama 27

Oregon at Penn State - A big one in the Big 10 has No. 6-ranked Oregon traveling to State College to take on No. 2-ranked Penn State in prime time (6:30 p.m. NBC). This game will pit the Duck's high scoring offense (54 points per game) against Penn State's stifling defense (5 points per game). Oregon is led by QB Dante Moore (657 passing yards, 2 TDs), speedy runners Dierre Hill Jr. (161 yards, 2 TDs) and Noah Whittington (159 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wideout Malik Benson (11 receptions, 161 yards, 2 TDs). While Penn State has an

excellent defense, it also has key veterans back on offense led by QB Drew Allar (626 passing yards, 4 TDs), and running backs Kaytron Allen (273 yards, 2 TDs) and Nicholas Singleton (179 yards, 5 TDs). Look for head coach James Franklin to give Oregon a steady dose of Allen and Singleton to control the clock keep Oregon's offense off of the field. I think the Nittany Lions also have the better defense, and that unit will make a key play or two late to secure the victory for PSU. My pick, Penn State 26, Oregon 23

NFL

Philadelphia at Tampa Bay - The Eagles head to Tampa to take on a Buccaneers team that could very well challenge Philly for the NFC title come January. The Bucs are solid on both sides of the ball and have a big-play QB in Baker Mayfield (382 passing yards, 5 TDs), a solid runner in Bucky Irving (148 yards, 2 TDs) and two big-play wideouts in veteran Mike Evans (10 receptions, 107 yards) and rookie sensation Emeka Egbuke (8 receptions, 96 yards, 3 TDs). Two weeks ago in their 20-19 win over the Texans, Mayfield led his team on a lengthy drive late in the game to pull out the victory. This bunch is beginning to believe in itself. Tampa will see how really good they are when they take on the defending Super Bowl champs. The Eagles opened with wins over the Cowboys and Chiefs, but the offense has yet to put up the big numbers it did a year ago. Jalen Hurts (253 passing yards/77 rushing yards, 3 TDs) and Saquon Barkley (148 yards, 2 TD) might have another tough day putting up big numbers. It would help if Hurts got a little more production out of wide receivers DeVonta Smith (9 receptions, 69 yards) and A.J. Brown (6 receptions, 35 yards), who have both gotten off to slow starts. Look for the Florida heat and the Bucs defense to be the difference maker come Sunday as Tampa pulls off the big upset. My pick, Tampa Bay 23, Philadelphia 20

Tennessee at Houston - It might not be panic time just yet for DeMeco Ryans' Texans, but it could be getting close, especially if the Texans don't take care of business against a young Tennessee team. The Texans fell to 0-2 two weeks ago when they lost their home opener at Tampa Bay on Monday Night Football. The Titans have also got off to an 0-2 start behind rookie QB Cam Ward (287 yards, 1 TD). The Texans need their QB, C.J. Stroud (395 yards, 1 TD) to start making plays to big-play wideout Nico Collins (6 receptions, 77 yards, 1 TD). Look for the Houston offense to get after Ward and look to rattle him and force a turnover or two. My pick, Houston 26, Tennessee 12

Baltimore at Kansas City - Speaking of teams that have gotten off to a slow start, that would be the Chiefs, who lost their first two games of the season and host a very good Ravens team Sunday in KC. KC QB Patrick Mahomes (445 passing yards, 2 TDs/123 rushing yards, 2 TDs) has pretty much been a one-man team. He's gotten little help from his running game and thus far, has only two competent receivers to throw to in wideout Marquise Brown (15 receptions, 129 yards) and tight end Travis Kelce (6 receptions, 108 yards, 2 TDs). Head coach Andy Reid needs to find Mahomes some help. Baltimore, on the other hand, is loaded on offense and has been quite productive as evidenced by averaging 40 points in their first two games. QB Lamar Jackson is off to a hot start (434 passing yards, 6 TDs/83 rushing yards, 1 TD), along with running back Derrick Henry (192 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Zay Flowers (14 receptions, 218 yards, 1 TD). Something tells me this game could turn into a shootout as Mahomes and Jackson try to out do one another come Sunday. My pick, Kansas City 34, Baltimore 31

Green Bay at Dallas - The Packers and Micah Parsons pay the Cowboys a visit on Sunday Night Football and you had better believe Parsons wants to put on a show against owner Jerry Jones, the man who traded him

East Houston Democrats 10 year Anniversary Gala,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ceiving the awards were Joe Stephens, Justice of the Peace, Pct.3 Position 1, Julia Davis, Pct. 3 Deputy Constable and Charlotte Jackson staffer of Pct. 3 Constable office and a North Channel Star writer.

Anthony Bass Chaplain of HCCO PCT 3 opened the meeting with a prayer. The award's event was held at the Hampton Inn on the East Beltway 8 which included a dinner and included comments from elected officials and candidates for office.

EHD President Provost-Evans said "It's important for Democrats on the Eastside to celebrate our efforts. The challenge ahead of us is great but as we saw tonight, the Eastside is a family that can never be divided by politics, religion or misinformation."

"The daily news coming out of Washington D.C. has galvanized the base and we're mobilizing the grassroots. East Houston Democrats are up for the challenge," President Evans has said before.

Judge Joe Stephens upon receiving his beautiful shaped engraved award said, "I'm humbled and grateful to be recognized with this award. He said, "I'll forever cherish the award and keep it on my desk as a reminder of the honor given me." Former EHD President Linda Britton when presenting the award said, "Judge Stephens is most deserving of the award for his sig-

nificant contributions and help given to the EHD.

Stephens is a product of the area having been educated in the GPISD schools and graduated from North Shore High School.

Julia Davis a Pct 3 Deputy Constable said, "I am truly honored to be named the 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award. Volunteering has never been about recognition it's about giving back, building connections, and helping others thrive. This award is a reflection of the incredible community I've had the privilege to serve alongside. I share this honor with every volunteer, neighbor, and friend who gives their time and heart to make a difference. Together, we've proved even small acts of kindness can create lasting changes. Thank you again EHD for this recognition it inspires me to keep giving back."

Charlotte Jackson, a staffer of Pct. 3 said, "It was truly an honor to be recognized as the EHD Legend Volunteer. In the words of John Bunyan "You haven't lived life to the fullest until you do something for someone who can never repay you."

"I am truly blessed to have had some role models who went above and beyond serving others starting with my mother, Pat Oldham, who truly loves serving people, and it's something she has exposed me to my entire life. She has been active in everything from being the representative from St.

Andrew's Catholic Church during with the founding of North Channel Assistance Ministries to continuing to serve the homeless in our community. Her passion has always been serving others. And so when people tell me that I remind them of my mother, it's not just a physical characteristic of our white hair, but also with our love for this community," Jackson concluded.

Lucy Bates, Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 Position 2 read and gave a formal proclamation to Tujuana Hunter the daughter of the late Dr. Tujuana Hunter. Bates said her mother was an unwavering dedicated community leader in East Houston who touched countless lives. She devoted her life to serving as an advocate for at-risk youth, individuals battling substance abuse, and struggling with mental health challenges, her work was driven by a deep commitment to empower those in need. She was a member of EHD and a precinct chair. Judge Bates spoke of many more things Dr. Hunter was instrumental in making positive changes in the community.

The delicious meal of a salad, rolls, fried chicken wings, Chicken Alfredo, tea and a cake decorated with the EHD 10th anniversary message. It was catered by Classie Cooks (classiecooks@gmail.com). Photography was done by Tim Oliver, Blue Peaches Photography (@bluepeachesphotography).

Mark your calendar! The next opportunity to make your voice heard is Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

This election is filled with state constitutional amendments and more! Here's a list of important election dates in Harris County.

Save these dates and begin preparing!

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Thursday, Sept. 18
Houston Sterling 34, Galena Park 31

Friday, Sept. 19
C. E. King, BYE WEEK
Channelview, BYE WEEK
North Shore, BYE WEEK

THIS WEEK'S GAMES
Thursday, Sept. 25
North Shore at Humble at 7 p.m., at Turner Stadium in Humble

Friday, Sept. 26
C. E. King vs. Atascocita at 7 p.m., at Panther Stadium
Channelview at Summer Creek at 7 p.m., at Turner Stadium in Humble
Galena Park at Houston Milby at 7 p.m., at Barnett Stadium



to GB in August. Parsons leads a defense that recorded 8 sacks in its first two games and should be stoked to get after Dallas QB Dak Prescott (549 passing yards, 2 TDs). Prescott has gotten off to a decent start and it helps that he has two quality receivers to throw to in CeeDee Lamb (16 receptions, 222 yards) and George Pickens (8 receptions, 98 yards, 1 TD). The Cowboys are also get-

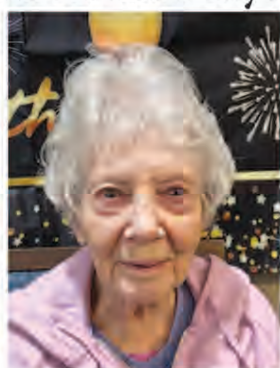
ting nice production from new running back Javonte Williams (151 yards, 3 TDs), but their best weapon is kicker Brandon Aubrey, who kicked a 64-yard field goal to force overtime two weeks ago against the Giants and then won the game by nailing a 46-yarder in the extra period. While the Dallas offense has been competent, the defense was exposed by a weak Giants team two

weeks ago, allowing 37 points to a bad team. This week, they face a much better offense led by Packers QB Jordan Love (480 yards, 4 TDs), running back Josh Jacobs (150 yards, 2 TDs), and tight end Tucker Kraft (8 receptions, 140 yards, 2 TDs). Look for Parsons to have a big night as he reminds Cowboy fans what a good player Jones let get away. My pick, Green Bay 33, Dallas 18

★ OBITUARY

Jane Bruce Maybin

Jane Bruce Maybin, a beacon of faith and selfless love, passed away peacefully on September 13, 2025, in Deer Park, Texas, at the age of 97 surrounded by family and praising the Lord with worship music. Born on February 20, 1928, in Gonzales, Texas, to the late Hazel and Robert Enderli, Jane's life was a testament to her unwavering spirit and dedication to her family and community.



in-law, Sharon Maybin; her adored grandchildren, Tammy Stewart and her husband Bubba, Brandon Maybin and his wife Kristina, Jessica Culp and her husband Gordon, Earl Brock and his wife Donna, Allen Brock and his wife Heleshia, and Chad Nguyen and his wife Lindsay; great grandchildren, Samantha and husband Dewayne, Michael and wife Cori, Justin and wife Vanessa, Priscilla, Bailee, Travis, Brandon Jr., Madison, Tyler, Roman, Rosston, Scotlind, Krew, Cody, Amber, Ashley, Alexis and Josh. She was also a cherished matriarch to numerous great-great-grandchildren, each of whom brought immense joy to her life.

Jane's journey through life was marked by her compassionate service as a registered nurse, where she provided care and comfort to countless individuals throughout her selfless career. Her calling extended beyond her profession, as she embraced her role as an ordained minister. Jane's Christian faith was the cornerstone of her existence, and she lived to embody the principles of love and kindness that she preached. The church was not just a place of worship for Jane; it was her life. She spent countless hours praying for others, always putting their needs before her own.

Despite the loss of her beloved husband, Hubert Ray Maybin, and her cherished children, Travis Maybin, Patricia Reddick, and Carolyn Dennison, Jane's strength never wavered. She was also preceded in death by her sisters, Margaret J. Lively and Bobbie Kridner. Her resilience in the face of sorrow was a source of inspiration to all who knew her.

Jane's legacy continues through her loving family, including her daughter-

Her presence was a comforting constant in the lives of her family members, and her absence will be deeply felt.

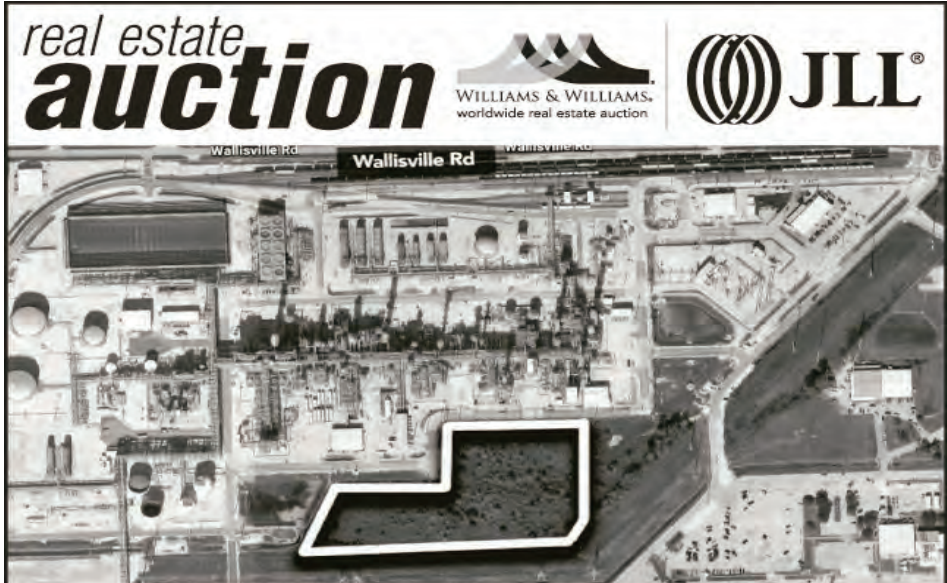
The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the personal caregivers, Sherry, Freda, and Susan, who provided Jane with love and support during her last few years. They would also like to thank the many Aides and other workers at Sodalis Assisted Living Facility that all loved and cared for Jane. Their dedication to her well-being allowed her to live her final years with dignity and grace.

Jane Bruce Maybin was the epitome of a loving, selfless, and faith-filled woman. Her impact on the world was profound, and the memories she created with those she loved will be treasured forever.

As we bid farewell to this remarkable woman, we celebrate a life well-lived, full of purpose and unwavering love. Jane's spirit will continue to guide and inspire us, and her legacy will endure through the many lives she touched.

Please join the family for a visitation at Carter-Conley Funeral Home the evening of Wednesday, September 17, 2025 from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Funeral services for Jane will take place the following morning on Thursday, September 18, 2025 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home at 1:00 P.M. Graveside services are to follow at San Jacinto Memorial Park Cemetery at 2:30 P.M. under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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Jessica Chastain stars in "The Savant."

"The Savant"

"The Fantastic Four: First Steps" (PG-13) — Marvel Studios had a good start with the first film in Phase Six of their Marvel Cinematic Universe...

their child's future and superpower capability. The cherry on top is a threat to Earth from the planet-devouring Galactus...

kidnapped. Known more for using his fists than his words, DD is more than up to the task and even has an eccentric team behind him to help him save the day.

"The Savant" (TV-MA) — This new crime-thriller series is inspired by a story that ran in Cosmopolitan and featured a woman nicknamed "The Savant," who attempted to infiltrate hate groups online to prevent domestic terrorism attacks.

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Carrie Preston as Elsbeth Tascioni in "Elsbeth"

Q: When does the new season of "Elsbeth" start? Also, is anyone else from "The Good Wife" or "The Good Fight" going to join the show? — S.B.

A: Season three of the hit CBS series "Elsbeth" returns Sunday, Oct. 12, at 9:30 p.m. ET, with Carrie Preston returning as the quirky attorney she originated on "The Good Wife" and later played on its spin-off, "The Good Fight."

Guest stars for season three also include Annaleigh Ashford ("Happy Face") and William Jackson Harper ("The Good Place").

Q: I heard that the teen show "Euphoria" is coming back to HBO. Will it have the same cast? Aren't they too old now to be high schoolers? — P.M.

A: Yes, "Euphoria" is gearing up to start filming its third season this coming January with most of its original cast scheduled to return.

Sharon Stone ("Basic Instinct") recently confirmed that she has signed on with the show. It's not known what role she'll play, but the Oscar-nominated star will

surely make a memorable impression. ***

Q: I saw that the film "Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale" just released in theaters. Is it really the final film of the franchise? — O.B.

A: With the film "Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale" out now, it would appear that the final chapter of the beloved British historical drama has been written.

In the meantime, you should check out the HBO series "The Gilded Age," if you haven't. Fellowes is the co-showrunner of the historical drama with Sonja Warfield...

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. Includes a small HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip.

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip by Henry Boltinoff. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

September 22, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword puzzle grid and word list.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions on general knowledge, movies, geography, and more.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. A horse; 2. Richard Dreyfuss; 3. Moscow, Russia; 4. Detroit, Michigan; 5. Panem; 6. Four; 7. 8 minutes, 20 seconds; 8. 10; 9. "Hill Street Blues"; 10. 26



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