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NORTHEAST ★ NEWS

Football Schedules



See Page 5 for CLIP & SAVE Complete High School Football Schedules

NEWS NOTES

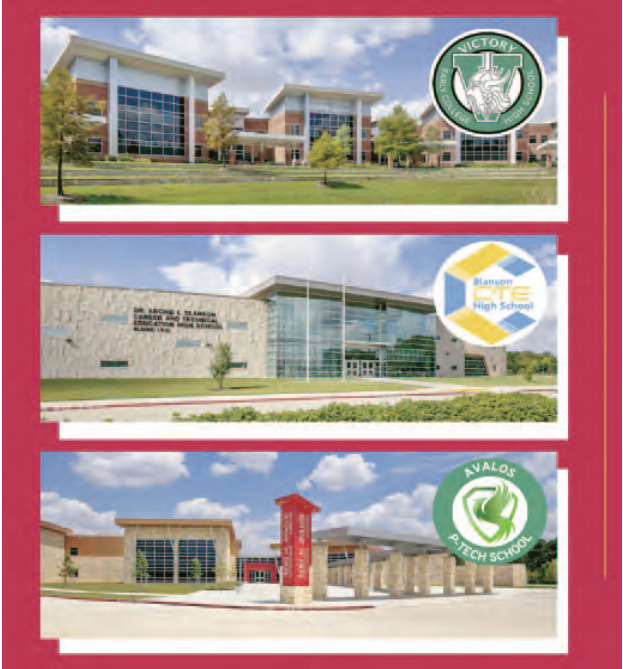
AUG. 28, FRIDAY.

Adult Mental Health First Aid training set
EAST ALDINE — An Adult Mental Health First Aid training session will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, at the BakerRipley East Aldine Campus, 3000 Aldine Mail Route Road, Houston. The free training is designed to help participants recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges and learn how to respond appropriately. The session will be conducted in English. Caren Fisher, Mental Health Awareness Training program manager with the Bay Area Council on Drugs & Alcohol (BACODA), will serve as the instructor. Registration is required, and seating is limited. To register, call (346) 570-4463. For more information, contact Fisher at caren.fisher@bacoda.org.

East Aldine District: Futbol Para Todos Soccer Camp
Building Skills & Community! Our soccer clinics are making a big impact in East Aldine! Kids are learning new skills, staying active, and building confidence on the field. With strong daily turnout, the program is creating a fun, inclusive space for young athletes to grow. Interested in learning about the next opportunity, visit <https://eastaldine.futbol/>

3 Aldine ISD High Schools Earn U.S. News Best High Schools Recognition

Three Aldine ISD high schools have earned recognition in the 2026-27 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings, placing each campus among the top 40% of ranked public high schools nationally and qualifying them to display the U.S. News Best High School Award Badge. Victory Early College High School, Blanson CTE High School, and Avalos P-TECH School also ranked among the top high schools in Texas and the Houston metropolitan area, reflecting the academic opportunities and specialized pathways available to Aldine ISD students.



Victory Early College High School earned the highest ranking among the three Aldine schools, placing No. 620 nationally with an overall score of 96.55 out of 100. The school ranked No. 88 among Texas high schools and No. 24 in the Houston metropolitan area. Blanson CTE High School ranked No. 1,200 nationally with an overall score of 93.31 out of 100. Blanson ranked No. 154 among Texas high schools and No. 41 in the Houston metropolitan area. Avalos P-TECH School ranked No. 1,542 nationally with an overall score of 91.41 out of 100. The

school ranked No. 193 among Texas high schools and No. 55 in the Houston metropolitan area. Blanson CTE made significant progress from the 2025-26 rankings, improving from No. 2,137 nationally and No. 223 in Texas to No. 1,200 nationally and No. 154 in Texas this year. Together, the three Aldine ISD Choice School campuses reflect the variety of college and career pathways available to Aldine ISD students. Avalos P-TECH provides opportunities in cybersecurity, computer networking,

Continued. See ALDINE ISD HS SHINE IN 2026-27 U.S. Page 3

Lone Star College System board approves no tuition increase in FY 2027 budget

HOUSTON (Aug. 6, 2026) – The Lone Star College System Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget of \$577.5 million for fiscal year 2027 at the Aug. 6 board meeting. “We’re very thankful that this budget is built on strong financial foundations,” said Kristy Vienne, Ed.D., LSCS vice chancellor, Finance and Administration. “This balanced budget maintains our operational needs while positioning the system to invest in initiatives that will advance student success, workforce development, employee excellence and long-term institutional resilience.”



Lone Star College System Board of Trustees approved the fiscal year 2027 budget on Aug. 6. Students will not see a tuition increase in the 2026-2027 academic year.

LSCS anticipates the projected revenue will fully support planned operational expenditures with no funding coming from cash reserves. Anticipated

revenue includes \$118 million in state allocations, \$162 million in student revenues, \$263 million from local taxes and \$34.5 million from miscellaneous

activities. **Compensation plans in the budget include:** A 2% across-the-board increase for full-time instructional and non-instructional employees hired by March 31. A 2% across-the-board increase for part-time hourly, non-instructional employees, excluding student assistants and college work-study participants. A 2% per contact hour adjunct across-the-board increase. Earlier this year, the board adopted an in-district tuition rate of \$111 per credit hour for 2026-2027, reflecting no increase since 2024-2025. “It’s cheaper to get my

core classes out of the way here than it would be to immediately go to a university, which is very expensive,” said David Muñoz, an LSC-North Harris student who plans to pursue a career in aerospace engineering and own his own business one day. “The education here is also the same high-quality education you would get there. It’s a no-brainer for me.” Budgeted tax revenues for FY 2027 are estimated based on a tax rate of \$0.1058 per \$100 taxable value and an 8% homestead exemption. While

Continued. See LSC STUDENTS WILL NOT SEE A TUITION, Page 2

East Aldine District Hosts Successful Youth Night to Celebrate End of Summer



East Aldine District wrapped up the summer with a vibrant Youth Night, bringing together students for an evening of fun and excitement. The event featured laser tag, game trucks, free food, and exciting giveaways, all aimed at wishing stu-

dents a successful beginning for this started school year. The district expressed heartfelt gratitude to Break N’ Bread and BGirlCity for their generous support, which played a crucial role in creating a joyful and energetic atmosphere for the

youth. Their contributions helped instill a sense of community pride as students prepare for the upcoming school year. East Aldine District extends its best wishes to all students for a fantastic school year ahead.

FOOTBALL SEASON PREVIEW: Texans look to reach NFL mountaintop: UT hopes this is their magical year

The 2026 football season is right around the corner with a handful of college games on the final weekend of August. Things kick into high gear over Labor Day weekend when there will be a full slate of college games, and the NFL will kickoff on Wednesday, Sept. 9 when a rematch of Super Bowl 60 when the defending champs the Seattle Seahawks host AFC champion New England on NBC. Optimism is high locally for the Texans and UH Cougars, while in Austin, Texas Longhorn fans are eyeing a return trip to the College Football Championship playoffs. UT won 10 games a year ago, but was denied a third straight CFP berth. Fifth-year head coach Steve Sarkisian has perhaps his deepest and most



KEENEY'S KORNER
BY
MIKE KEENEY

talented roster during his time on the Forty Acres. Texas and the rest of the college football world will battle for the 12 CFP berths that will be announced on Sunday, Dec. 6. This will mark the second straight year of a 12-team CFP field and some are pushing for a 16 or even 24 team field in the future. I'd say 16 would be the max the NCAA should go. The college football world will be aiming to unseat

Indiana as the top dog in the land. Curt Cignetti's Hoosiers finished 16-0 a year ago and look poised to make another CFP run. In two years in Bloomington, Cignetti has forged a 27-2 record. He took the worst program in college football and turned it into a national title winner and appears IU will be for as long as Cignetti is running the

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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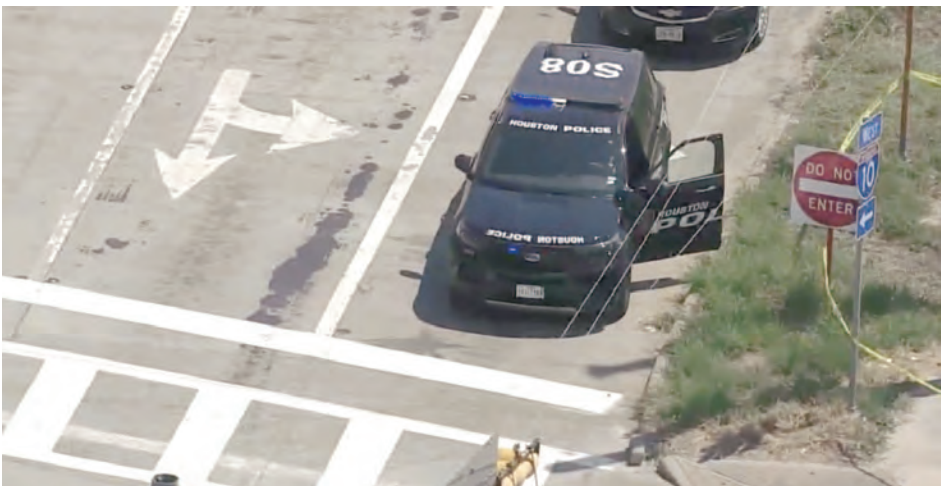
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COMMUNITY WATCH

HPD Investigate Death of Man Found with Trauma at 810 Jensen Drive



Houston police are awaiting autopsy results in the death of a male found at 810 Jensen Drive about 8:40 a.m. August 24.

The identity and cause of death of the male is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant M. Brady and Detectives W. Elliott and D. Hobson reported:

Officers responded to a report of a person down at the above address and located an unresponsive male. The male's body had signs of trauma. Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced the male deceased at the scene.

The investigation is pending the male's cause of death, to be determined by an autopsy.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600.

LSC students will not see a tuition increase in the 28-27 academic year,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

certified property values have not been received, the board is expected to vote on a property tax rate in early October.

"We always want to make sure that we're operating under the best business principles," Vienne said. "We really have taken conservative estimates on both revenue and expenses. We would rather overperform and have extra left over at the end. In addition to financial sustainability, we want to express responsible stewardship and strategic investment with every dollar that you see presented in the budget."

Learn more about the budget at [LoneStar.edu](#).

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL

THURSDAY, AUG. 27

EISENHOWER AT KLEIN FOREST, 7P.M., KLEIN MEMORIAL STADIUM

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.100000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 25**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.098725 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.105567 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.115189 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2026 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25 from the same properties in both the 2025 tax year and the 2026 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, AT 7:00 PM AT 4105 LAUDER ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77039.

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 25 SHALL TAKE ACTION ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, AT 7:00 PM FOLLOWING THE HEARING TO BE HELD.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25 at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

Property tax amount=(tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal:	David Lindeen	Vester Melancon
	Carol King McGee	Royce Sunday
	Catherine Plasencia	
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

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 Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25 this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.100000	\$0.100000	Increase of 0.000000 per \$100, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$176,895	\$186,346	Increase of 5.34%
Tax on average homestead	\$176.90	\$186.35	Increase of \$9.45, or 5.34%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$3,207,603	\$3,218,108	Increase of \$10,505, or 0.33%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25 at 713-274-8000 or visit www.hctax.net for more information.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.03 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.030000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.029673 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.033080 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2026 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2** from the same properties in both the 2025 tax year and the 2026 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 8, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. at Station No. 1, 14418 Beaumont Highway, Houston, Texas 77049. Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 shall take action on the proposed tax rate on September 8, 2026, following the hearing to be held.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2** is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2** at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal: **Sonya Anderson, Johnnie McClelland, Buster Gates, Earl Skank and Charles Anthony**

AGAINST the proposal: **None**

PRESENT and not voting: **None**

ABSENT: **None**

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 **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2** this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0300	\$0.0300	Increase of 0.0000 per \$100 or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$219,172	\$213,354	Decrease of -2.65%
Tax on average homestead	\$65.75	\$64.01	Decrease of -\$1.74 or -2.65%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$2,048,382	\$2,089,299	Increase of \$40,917 or 2.00%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2** at (713) 652-6500 or npierce@smithmur.com or visit <https://districtdirectory.org/harris-county/harris-county-emergency-services-district-no-2/>.

Aldine ISD high schools shine in 26-27 U.S. News Ranking,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

teaching and training, paralegal studies, and non-destructive testing. Blanson CTE offers 17 career and technical education programs across multiple industry sectors, while Victory Early College blends high school and college coursework through its partnership with Lone Star College.

“These rankings are a reflection of the hard work and commitment of our students, teachers, and campus leaders,” Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney said. “At Aldine, we believe every student should have choices, opportunities and pathways that allow them to discover their strengths and prepare for their future. The success of Avalos P-TECH, Blanson CTE and Victory Early College demon-

strates what is possible when we put students first and provide them with high-quality opportunities aligned with their goals.”

U.S. News developed the rankings in partnership with RTI International. The publication ranked nearly 18,000 public high schools out of more than 27,000 it reviewed nationwide. The rankings are based on six factors: college readiness, state assessment proficiency, state assessment performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth, and graduation rate.

The recognition continues a strong history for Aldine ISD’s Choice School campuses in the U.S. News rankings. U.S. News has recognized Victory Early College for more than a

decade, while Blanson CTE has consistently appeared among the nation’s best since 2013. Avalos P-TECH earned its first U.S. News recognition in 2025.

The continued success of the three campuses reflects Aldine ISD’s commitment to student choice through its Accelerate strategic plan and Portrait of a Graduate. Whether students are preparing for college, entering a career pathway, or earning college credit while completing high school, Aldine provides opportunities designed to help students build the futures they envision.

The latest U.S. News rankings offer another reason for families to explore the choices and possibilities available through Aldine ISD.

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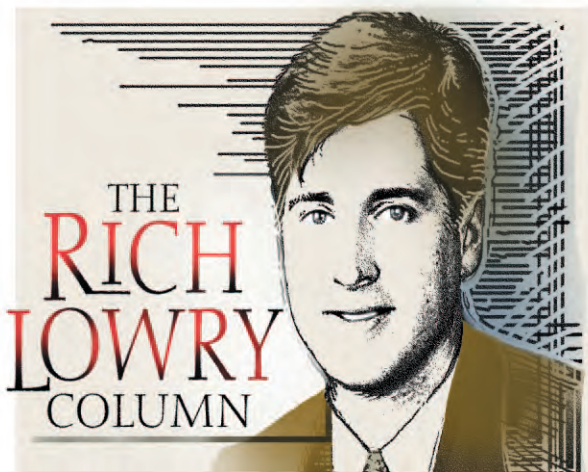
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Trump’s fondness for kim Jong Un sends the wrong signal

It’s hard to believe that Kim Jong Un is really this charming. President Trump touted his fond relationship with the North Korean dictator in a Truth Social post calling for scaling back a long-running annual military exercise with the South Koreans.

“Based on my very good relationship with Kim Jong Un,” Trump wrote, “I am not happy with the fact that the United States has, long ago, agreed to participate in Joint Military Exercises with South Korea.” According to Trump, the exercises “send a signal that is totally inappropriate and hostile, to a Country that, as long as Donald J. Trump has been President, has been unthreatening and respectful.” Then he added that South Korea had recently declined to take a role in the Iran war, clearly irking Trump, as he subsequently explained to reporters at the White House.

The joint exercises have been a key element of the U.S.-South Korea military alliance for decades. They are meant to ensure that the two countries are prepared in the event of a North Korean assault, and perhaps now have an added importance given the experience North Korea has gained in high-intensity modern warfare by bolstering Russian forces in Ukraine.

Much more important than the practical effect of Trump’s fusillade, though, is the signal it sends, yet again, that he is easily disenchanted with long-time allies whose friendship should be considered a strategic boon to the United States.

Whether musing about making Canada the 51st state, briefly campaigning to take control of Greenland, imposing tariffs on friend and foe alike or hammering NATO, Trump has been careless of the goodwill of our allies.

They need us more than we need them, which means they are willing to put up with a lot, but sowing dissension unnecessarily is a foolhardy game at a time of growing international threats.

South Korea has been a treaty ally since 1953, and is a wealthy, technologically advanced democracy that occupies strategically important ground in Northeast Asia. It is obviously both threatened by and a bulwark against potential North Korean adventurism.

Pete Hegseth visited South Korea last year and said, “Our alliance is stronger than ever before, 72 years strong.” He described the inspiring sight of U.S. and South Korean soldiers standing “shoulder to shoulder working together.” South Korea has been committed to increasing its defense spending to 3.5% of GDP. In light of this, Hegseth subsequently averred, “Model allies that step up, like Israel, South Korea, Poland ... will receive our special favor.”

Such assurances by administration officials are always subject to change, depending on Trump’s animosities at any given time. It’s certainly true that South Korea owes its existence to us. We fought to preserve its independence at a great cost in blood and treasure during the Korean War, and we have nearly 30,000 troops on the peninsula to deter North Korea from assaulting the South again. Seoul has lent support to recent U.S. military operations, typically in noncombat roles, but it’s understandable that it wouldn’t be enthused about taking part in an Iran war that hasn’t gone as planned and that has no clear endgame.

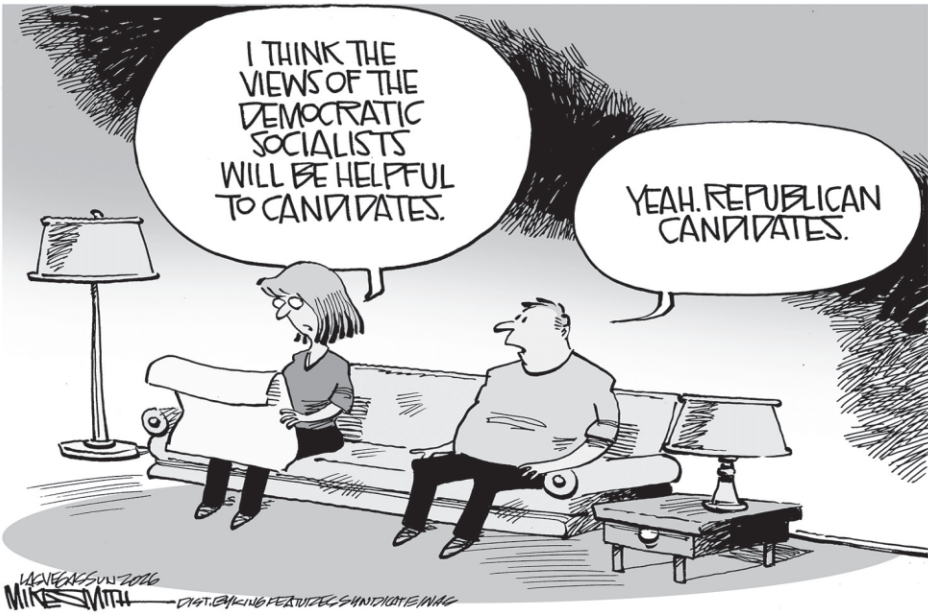
As for the North, it isn’t our friend. It is firmly within the China-Russia axis, and has been developing its nuclear and missile arsenal apace. There is no reason to believe that any blandishments from Trump will change its behavior, and Kim has been clear that the U.S. needs to abandon its “obsession” with denuclearization.

What we most need from South Korea is for it to be as strong as possible to deter North Korea, and we shouldn’t be lending any credence to its claim that U.S.-South Korean exercises are provocations, or sowing doubt about our commitment to allies.

Such diplomatic episodes, though, are an inherent part of Trump’s governance. To paraphrase the Roman writer Publilius Syrus: Prosperity makes friends, adversity tries them, and Trump distresses them — unnecessarily.

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



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

SpaceX, Tesla make grimes plant official

What CEO Elon Musk says will be the world’s largest computer chip manufacturing plant is planned for Grimes County, east of College Station, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

In a joint announcement last week, Space X and Tesla unveiled an initial \$16.8 billion investment in a plant called Terafab. It is expected to employ at least 3,000 people. Many of those jobs are expected to go to residents of Grimes and neighboring Brazos counties.

“We’re now embarking on the most epic chip-building effort,” Musk, CEO of both companies, said in a statement. “The Terafab is bringing cutting-edge manufacturing to America, creating thousands of high-paying jobs in the Lone Star State and enabling us to produce AI chips at scale for use on Earth and in space.”

Gov. Greg Abbott confirmed last week that the project is receiving a \$30 million Texas Enterprise Fund grant from the state. Grimes County has previously approved a property tax waiver in exchange for annual payments of \$20 million.

The plant would eventually span 100 million square feet.

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS’ GUN BAN UPHELD BY APPEALS COURT

A Texas appeals court upheld a handgun ban at the State Fair of Texas, rejecting the state’s claim that the city of Dallas unlawfully allowed a private operator to prohibit guns on city-owned property, according to The Dallas Morning News.

The 15th Court of Appeals affirmed a Dallas County judge’s dismissal of a case originally filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and three gun owners. It rejected the state’s argument that the restriction on cities banning guns doesn’t automatically apply to private tenants operating on public property. The ban will remain in place unless the Texas Supreme Court intervenes.

“The decision to prohibit firearms on the fairgrounds is the correct decision to protect the safety of our patrons,” Karissa Condoianis, a State Fair of Texas spokesperson, said. This will be the third year the ban will be in place.

TALARICO VOTED USING PARENTS’ ADDRESS, REPORT SAYS

Democratic Senate nominee James Talarico voted in five elections using his parents’ address after buying a nearby home for himself, according to The Texas Tribune and ProPublica, a practice that may have violated state voting laws. The revelation comes weeks after Talarico accused Pax-



ton, his GOP opponent, of voting from his estranged wife’s address despite not having lived there for two years.

Talarico has taken advantage of a state law that allows some public officials to redact personal information, such as home addresses. The news organizations pieced together the information from unredacted records provided by the Talarico campaign.

Texas law requires that residents register to vote where they live. The Talarico campaign declined to answer questions about his residency and voting history, saying “right-wing actors” have made threats about trying to locate the candidate and his family.

Talarico’s house is in the same county as his parents’ home. Both residences are located in the same state House district he represents, but in different jurisdictions for some local elections, according to The Tribune.

WILDFIRE DANGER INCREASING AS CONDITIONS TURN DRY

August is typically the peak month for wildfires in Texas. The Texas A&M Forest Service expects wildfire potential to increase due to dry vegetation, particularly in the Panhandle and North Texas.

The state is deploying numerous wildfire response resources as a result, including the state’s mutual aid system and assistance from a number of state agencies.

There were two active wildfires as of Sunday. The 200-acre Round Up fire west of Amarillo was zero-percent contained at that time.

The service recently acquired three multi-mission aircraft, adding to its first dedicated, state-managed wildfire aviation fleet. It previously had acquired two wildfire suppression helicopters.

“Every wildfire is different, which is why a diverse aviation fleet is so important,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief Jared Karns. “Having multiple aircraft types available, including multi-mission aircraft platforms

that can serve a variety of roles, allows us to respond effectively to the unique demands of each incident.”

SALMONELLA CASES LINKED TO JALAPEÑOS

The popular jalapeño pepper has been linked to 345 cases of salmonella illness in 27 states, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The San Antonio Express-News reported three cases in Texas, stemming from peppers imported from Sinaloa, Mexico.

No deaths have been reported nationwide, but 36 people have been hospitalized, according to the CDC. Nearly all of the cases were reported by people after eating at a Mexican-style chain restaurant.

Two affected chains, Chipotle Mexican Grill and Qdoba, said they had taken steps to remove potentially contaminated peppers.

TALARICO UNVEILS HIS ‘AFFORDABILITY AGENDA’

Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico last week unveiled an “affordability agenda” that would help Texans buy homes, cancel medical debt, raise the minimum wage and expand the child tax credit, according to The News.

“The top 1% put the American Dream behind a payroll,” Talarico told about 1,300 people at an Arlington rally. “For too many of our neighbors, for too many Texans, the American Dream has become an American Nightmare.”

Talarico also touted the endorsements of former Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, a Republican, and Arlington Mayor Jim Ross, a self-described independent.

“He’s the most corrupt politician that Texas has ever seen,” Whitley said of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the Republican nominee.

Paxton has faced numerous ethical and legal challenges during his time in office. He has denied wrongdoing and was acquitted by the Texas Senate in his impeachment trial.

At the Arlington rally, Talarico blamed both parties for economic policies that he said benefit the wealthy at the expense of working families.

“Republicans and some Democrats sold the false Gospel of trickle-down economics,” he said. “Trickle-down economics isn’t a theory. It’s a theft.”

DISTRACTED DRIVING PUTS SCHOOL CHILDREN AT RISK

As the school year begins, the Texas Department of Transportation is urging drivers to pay special attention in school zones. More than 3,200 traffic crashes in school zones involved school buses last year. Distracted driving and speeding were the most common contributing factors in these crashes.

“School zones can be chaotic places, with people in a rush and children not always watching for cars while they hop on and off buses or in and out of cars. Drivers can become impatient or distracted, which leads to mistakes,” TxDOT said in a news release.

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

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Habit Forming



I am made entirely of habits. This is not an original observation. Annie Dillard wrote: “How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.” I either love that quote or hate it, depending on how I spent my day.

I am thinking about this because I was trying to break a habit of mine: sitting up late at my computer, mindlessly scrolling and snacking. I do this because I am tired — not hungry — and I feel too lazy to read a book or do anything useful, but it seems too early to go to bed. So instead, I end up full of peanuts and chocolate chips. I don’t sleep well, and I don’t fit into my jeans. I have concluded that this is not a good habit. So I resolved to break it.

It was very hard the first night. Once again, I was tired and convinced I was hungry. I was not, but weariness and hunger are close cousins, and I had grown accustomed to managing weariness with food. I resisted and had a hard time sleeping. I felt rather discouraged about the whole idea of breaking an old and cherished habit.

But I did it again the second night, and I was surprised that it was noticeably easier. The night after that, it took almost no effort at all. I don’t want to get ahead of myself, but I am now going on a week without my late-night snacks, and I am starting to feel that this is not such a great sacrifice after all. It’s starting to feel normal. It’s becoming a habit.

Over time, habits become a lot more than habits; that’s what I realized. Habits are who I am. I am in the habit of walking five miles a day — therefore, I am a walker. The neighbors say “hello” as I go by. The dogs know me. I have a habit of writing every day. Writing every day is no longer a habit — I am a writer.

The habits that define me are both good and bad. I consume too much social media, and it shapes how I view the world. I eat a lot of vegetables, and I become healthier. I started meditating, and now I feel unsettled if I don’t do it regularly. If I practiced my Spanish, I would become a Spanish speaker — but I don’t.

One after another, the habits are acquired — and very occasionally dropped — and they define and redefine who I am. Because my life is ruled by habits. Most of the time, this isn’t a bad thing. I make surprisingly few actual decisions in the course of the day. Very little energy, thought or willpower is put into most of what I do because I did it yesterday and the day before that. Only a change takes effort.

I now wonder if I don’t have a lot of habits that I engage in every day without noticing. I judge situations too quickly and get annoyed with people too easily simply because they are not doing something I expect them to do. I do this habitually — usually without thinking.

Before I can change anything, I first have to notice what I am doing. I have to stop long enough to recognize that, somewhere along the line, this habit has become me. These habitual attitudes are harder to see. But now that I’m looking for them, I’m not sure it’s harder to change these habits than any other habit.

It surely can’t be harder than resisting peanuts and chocolate chips before bedtime.

Till next time,
Carrie
Carrie is the author of “Loon Point.” “The Turnip House” will be released in January 2027.

Photos and other things can be found on Facebook at CarrieClassonAuthor.

NORTHEAST NEWS

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FOOTBALL SEASON PREVIEW:

Texans look to reach NFL mountaintop:
UT hopes this is their magical year

program.
The top four seeds will earn first-round byes, while Seed 5-8 will host first round games at their home stadiums the weekend of Dec. 18-19. Second-round games will be held Dec. 30 and Jan. 1 at the VRBO Fiesta Bowl, the Cotton Bowl, the Peach Bowl and the Rose Bowl. Those games will be televised by TNT, TRU TV and ESPN. The first national semifinal game will be held on Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Capital One Bowl, with the second semifinal being held Jan. 15 at the All State Sugar Bowl. The CFP National Championship game be held on Monday, Jan. 25 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

Turning our attention to the NFL, it was a busy offseason as a record 10 new head coaches were hired to turn their team's fortunes around. The 10 new head men are: Joe Brady at Buffalo, Jeff Hailey at Miami, John Harbaugh with the New York Giants, Klint Kubiak, with Las Vegas, Jesse Minter, Baltimore, Mike McCarthy, Pittsburgh, Mike LaFleur, Arizona, Kevin Stefanski, Atlanta, Todd Monken, Cleveland and Robert Saleh, Tennessee.

Those 10 teams, along with the 22 other NFL teams all have their sights set on making it to Super Bowl 61, scheduled for Feb. 14 (yes, Valentine's Day) at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. This will mark the latest date that a Super Bowl has ever been played.

So, without further ado, let's take a look at how the 2026 college and NFL season might shake out this season.

NCAA
NOTRE DAME - ND head coach Marcus Freeman



has a loaded team heading into the 2026 season. After losing their first two games last year (to Miami and Texas A&M), the Irish ran off 10 straight wins, but were denied a CFP berth. This year, Freeman welcomes back his starting QB in C.J. Carr, four of five offensive linemen and nine starters on defense for the No. 5-ranked Fighting Irish. ND also has a favorable schedule. They play a very good BYU team in Provo on Oct. 17 and host Miami on Nov. 7.

BIG 12 - This should be a three-team race between No. 12 Texas Tech, No. 15 BYU and No. 23 Houston. Tech won the Big 12 regular season and Big 12 title game beating BYU twice and finished with a school record 12 wins. Head coach Joey McGuire welcomes back a strong nucleus on both sides of the ball, especially on defense. The key will be how QB Will Hammond responds after suffering a torn ACL last Oct. 25. Hammond is a dual-threat QB. The Red Raiders have two talented and productive running backs in J'Koby Williams and Camerron Dickey. Look for Tech to feature those two early as Hammond settles in at QB. BYU also finished 12-2 a year ago and have one of the top dual-threat QBs in Bear Bachmeier and a top back in LJ Martin. UH finished 10-3 a year ago with a bowl win over LSU in Willie Fritz's second season. The Coogs return Conner

Wegman at QB and signed the nation's No. 1 recruit in Spring Legacy QB Keisean (6-5, 195 pounds). UH has a big early date against Tech on Sept. 17 in Lubbock.
BIG 10 - The Big 10 has won the last three national titles and will look to make it four in a row. This is a deep and talented league, but the top three teams, No. 1-ranked Ohio State, No. 2-ranked Oregon and No. 6-ranked Indiana are the class of this league. The Buckeyes should be explosive on offense behind veteran QB Julian Sayin, sophomore running back Bo Jackson (no, not THAT Bo Jackson) and star wide receiver Jeremiah Smith, who could be the No. 1 overall pick in the 2027 NFL draft. They will reload, not rebuild, on defense after losing six starters to the NFL draft. Oregon finished 13-2 a year ago and returns star QB Dante Moore. He has a load of weapons around him and you can bet Dan Lanning's defense will be solid as well. Indiana returns four starters on both sides of the ball, but Cignetti is a master of the transfer portal. He brought in former TCU QB Josh Hoover (, 9,629 yards, 71 TDs in three years in Fort Worth) to replace Heisman Trophy winner and No. 1 draft pick Fernando Mendoza.
SEC - The SEC should be called Quarterback U because there are so many talented signal callers that call the league home this



year. No., 4-ranked Texas (10-3 in '25) has Arch Manning, No. 3-ranked Georgia has Gunner Stockton, No. 7-ranked Ole Miss has Trinidad Chambliss, No. 8-ranked Texas A&M has Marcel Reed and LSU and new head coach Lane Kiffin brought in Sam Levitt from Arizona State. This is not going to be your grandfather's SEC, where defense dominated and teams won brutal defensive battles back in the day. This year, the ball will be flying all over the field from Austin to Oxford. UT returns a strong nucleus led by Manning, a star wide receiver Cam Camerson who comes over from Auburn. Texas also has one of the top defensive ends in Collins Simmons (12 sacks), a sure first-round draft pick. Ole Miss also has a stud running back in Kewan Lacy (rushed for over 1,500 yards and scored 24 TDs last year). Georgia is a year older and wiser and you know Kirby Smart's team will play tough defense. Alabama is the big question mark here. Head coach Kalen DeBoer is entering his third year in Tuscaloosa and the natives are getting restless. 'Bama did earn a CFP berth last year, but were embarrassed in the Rose Bowl by Indiana. Crimson Tide fans expect more, especially after being spoiled by Nick Saban's six national titles during his 17-year run. Saban did win his first national title in his third year, and this just happens to be DeBoer's third year in Tuscaloosa. We shall see.

ACC - The ACC will be a two-team race between Miami, last year's national championship runnerup, and SMU. The Hurricanes are loaded on offense led by Duke transfer Darian Mensah at QB and returning running back Mark Fletcher and star wideout Malachi Tony. SMU will pin its hopes on starting QB Kevin Jennings.

NFL
AFC SOUTH - The Texans will go as far as QB C.J. Stroud takes them, along with an offensive line that has been the team's weakest spot the last few years. If Stroud takes his game to the next level, Houston could advance deep into the AFC playoffs. The running game should be improved with the acquisition of David Montgomery from Detroit. He should help near the goal line, where the team struggled to score last year. The offense suffered a huge blow in training camp when second-year wideout Jalen Higgins was lost for the season with a torn ACL. The defense is good enough to carry this team far, but Stroud must prove he can win in clutch time. Jacksonville should contend for the division as well behind QB Trevor Lawrence.

AFC NORTH - This will be an interesting division to watch. Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Cincinnati should contend for the division title. The Steelers have a new head coach in Mike McCarthy who is reunited with Aaron Rodgers. The two had a lot of success in Green Bay. Rodgers has another weapon on offense to go with DK Metcalf as former Colt wideout Michael Pittman Jr. was added to the mix. running back in Derrick Henry and an up-and-coming star in wide receiver Zay Flowers. The Bengals are hoping that QB Joe Burrow can stay healthy for the entire season because he is surrounded by a load of talent in running back Chase Brown and big-play wideouts Ja'Marr Chase and Tee Higgins.

AFC EAST - This will be a two team race between the New England, the defending AFC champs, and Buffalo. NE gave QB Drake Maye a huge weapon in the offseason when they

acquired big-play wide receiver A.J. Brown from the Eagles. Brown will open up the deep passing game for Maye and put him firmly in the MVP conversation. Buffalo has a pretty fair QB as well in former MVP Josh Allen a true dual-threat QB (14 rushing TDs in '25). The front office provided Allen with a new weapon as well trading for former Chicago wideout D.J. Moore. The Bills also have one of the top running backs in the league in James Cook and are moving into a new stadium. Nothing would be finer than for the Bills to host the AFC title game in January in their new digs.

AFC WEST - This is the best division in the AFC as Denver, the Los Angeles Chargers and the Kansas City Chiefs should all contend for the division crown and playoff spots. Denver won the division a year ago and provided QB Bo Nix with a deep threat when it acquired speedy wideout Jaylen Waddle from Miami. He will pair with the steady Courtland Sutton to give Nixon plenty of options in the passing game. Look for a breakout year from second-year running back R.J. Harvey. The Denver defense is a top five unit. The Chargers helped QB Justin Herbert when it hired former Dolphins head coach Mike McDaniels as the team's new offensive coordinator. McDaniels is an offensive genius and should help Herbert step up his game. Herbert has two solid targets in wideouts Ladd McConekey and Quentin Johnson. If second-year running back Omar Hampton has the breakout year many expect, this offense could be down right scary. The Chiefs had a bad year in 2025, falling to 6-11 and lost QB Patrick Mahomes late in the season to a knee injury. But Mahomes looks like he will start the season opener against Denver. He has a new toy to play with in former Seattle running game Kenneth Walker III, which should help KC's passing game. Look for wide receiver Rasheed Rice to have a big year and Mahomes still has dependable tight end Travis Kelce to throw to in the Red Zone.

NFC EAST - This will be a two-team race between Dallas and Philadelphia. I think the Giants are year away. I think Dallas wins the East because of its high-powered offense led by QB Dak Prescott, running back Javonte Williams and big-play wideouts CeeDee Lamb and George Pickens. Dallas was dreadful on defense a year ago, but the front office spent the offseason improving that side of the ball with trades, free agent signings and the drafting of Ohio State All-American safety Caleb Downs, who should solidify a shaky secondary. Philly QB Jalen Hurts lost his go-to guy when Brown was traded to the Patriots. How he responds will be interesting to see. The Eagles could use a bounce-back year from running back Saquon Barkley, which would take a lot of pressure off of Hurts.

NFC NORTH - This will be a fun division to watch as Chicago, Green Bay and Detroit are all talented enough to make deep playoff runs. The Bears won 12 games a year ago and won the division behind QB Caleb Williams. Williams has a lot of talent around him, but the defense will be the key to how far this team advances. The secondary is suspect. The Packers also made the playoffs a year ago behind QB Jordan Love, running back Josh Jacobs, tight end Tucker Kraft and wide receiver Christian Watkins. The defense is solid and will get a huge boost in October when star pass rusher Micah Parsons returns from an ACL injury. It appears Parsons in on

track to return to face his old team, the Cowboys on Oct. 18 in GB. The Lions missed the playoffs a year ago but have too much offensive talent to be taken for granted, led by QB Jared Goff, star running back Jahmyr Gibbs and big-play wideouts Amon-Ra St. Brown and Jameson Williams.

NFC WEST - This division is home the the SB champion Seahawks and a Rams team that took them down to the wire in the NFC title game a year ago. Seattle took a big hit in the offseason when Walker, their best running back, bolted for KC. His departure will put more pressure on QB Sam Darnold and star wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba. The defense returns intact and Seattle has one of the best young head coaches in the NFL in Mike McDaniels. The Rams are hungry to host another Super Bowl and have enough talent on both sides of the ball to get the job done. MVP QB Matthew Stafford threw 46 TD passes a year ago and he has two stud receivers in Puka Nacua and Davante Adams. He also has a solid running back in Kyren

Williams. The front office vastly improved the defense trading for Defensive Player of the Year Myles Garrett (23 sacks) from Cleveland. The 49ers could be in the mix, as long as running back Christian McCaffrey stays healthy.

NFC SOUTH - This is the worst division in the entire league, so who knows who's going to win it. Tampa Bay seems to have the most solid team, but watch out for Atlanta with Stefanski running things now. The Falcons also have one of the top two backs in the league in Bijan Robinson, who can hurt teams as a rusher and pass catcher.

So, without further ado, here is one man's predictions on how he sees the college and NFL season playing out in 2026.

NCAA
BIG 12 - TEXAS TECH OVER HOUSTON
BIG 10 - OHIO STATE OVER INDIANA
SEC - TEXAS OVER GEORGIA
ACC - MIAMI OVER SMU

12 TEAM CFP FIELD:
TEXAS, GEORGIA, TEXAS A&M, ALABAMA, OHIO STATE, INDIANA, OREGON, USC, MIAMI, NOTRE DAME, BOISE STATE AND NORTH DAKOTA STATE

CFP TITLE GAME - TEXAS OVER OHIO STATE

NFL
AFC SOUTH - HOUSTON
AFC NORTH - BALTIMORE
AFC EAST - BUFFALO
AFC WEST - LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

AFC WILD CARDS - KANSAS CITY, DENVER, NEW ENGLAND

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP - BUFFALO OVER HOUSTON

NFC EAST - DALLAS
NFC NORTH - CHICAGO
NFC WEST - LOS ANGELES
NFC SOUTH - TAMPA BAY

NFC WILD CARDS - PHILADELPHIA, DETROIT AND SEATTLE

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP - LOS ANGELES OVER DALLAS

SUPER BOWL 61- LOS ANGELES RAMS OVER BUFFALO

FOOTBALL SCHEDULES 2026
NORTHEAST NEWSPAPER

Aldine		
Aug. 28	Friday	Aldine vs. Sam Rayburn, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Sept. 4	Friday	Aldine at Cleveland, 7 p.m., Indian Stadium
Sept. 10	Thursday	Aldine at Caney Creek, 7 p.m., Moorhead Stadium
Sept. 18	Friday	BYE WEEK
Sept. 24	Thursday	Aldine vs. Nimitz, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 3	Saturday	Aldine at Davis, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 9	Friday	Aldine vs. MacArthur, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 15	Thursday	Aldine at Dekaney, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium
Oct. 22	Thursday	Aldine vs. Westfield, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 31	Saturday	Aldine vs. Eisenhower, 2 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Nov. 5	Thursday	Aldine at Spring, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium
Davis		
Aug. 28	Friday	Davis at Waller, 7 p.m., Daikin Stadium
Sept. 3	Thursday	Davis at Cy Lakes, 7 p.m., Pridgeon Stadium
Sept. 12	Saturday	Davis at Fort Bend George Bush, 7 p.m.
Thorne Stadium		
Sept. 18	Friday	BYE WEEK
Sept. 25	Friday	Davis at MacArthur, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 3	Saturday	Davis vs Aldine, 2 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 9	Friday	Davis at Dekaney, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium
Oct. 17	Saturday	Davis vs. Westfield, 2 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 23	Friday	Davis at Eisenhower, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 29	Thursday	Davis vs Spring, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Nov. 6	Friday	Davis at Nimitz, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Eisenhower		
Aug. 27	Thursday	Eisenhower at Klein Forest, 7 p.m., Klein Memorial Stadium
Sept. 4	Friday	Eisenhower vs. Klein, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Sept. 10	Thursday	Eisenhower at Lee, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium
Sept. 18	Friday	BYE WEEK
Sept. 24	Thursday	Eisenhower at Westfield, Planet Ford Stadium
Oct. 1	Thursday	Eisenhower vs. MacArthur, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 8	Thursday	Eisenhower vs. Spring, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 16	Friday	Eisenhower at Nimitz, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 23	Friday	Eisenhower vs. Davis, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 31	Saturday	Eisenhower at Aldine, 1 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Nov. 5	Thursday	Eisenhower at Dekaney, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium
MacArthur		
Aug. 28	Friday	MacArthur at Cypress Ridge, 7 p.m.,
Pridgeon Stadium		
Sept. 3	Thursday	MacArthur vs. Channelview, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Sept. 11	Friday	MacArthur vs. Porter, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Sept. 18	Friday	BYE WEEK
Sept. 25	Friday	MacArthur vs. Davis, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 1	Thursday	MacArthur at Eisenhower, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 9	Friday	MacArthur at Aldine, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 15	Thursday	MacArthur at Spring, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 23	Friday	MacArthur at Dekaney, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium
Oct. 30	Friday	MacArthur vs. Nimitz, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Nov. 6	Friday	MacArthur at Westfield, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium
Nimitz		
Aug. 28	Friday	Nimitz at Barbers Hill, 7 p.m., Eagle Stadium
Sept. 5	Saturday	Nimitz vs. Jersey Village, 6 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Sept. 10	Thursday	Nimitz at Cypress Ranch, 6:30 p.m., Cy Fair FCU Stadium
Sept. 18	Friday	BYE WEEK
Sept. 24	Thursday	Nimitz at Aldine, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 2	Friday	Nimitz at Dekaney, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium
Oct. 8	Thursday	Nimitz at Westfield, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium
Oct. 16	Friday	Nimitz at Eisenhower, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Oct. 22	Thursday	Nimitz at Spring, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium
Oct. 30	Friday	Nimitz at MacArthur, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Nov. 6	Friday	Nimitz vs. Davis, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalms 44:8-10

In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever. But now you have rejected and humbled us; you no longer go out with our armies. You made us retreat before the enemy, and our adversaries have plundered us.

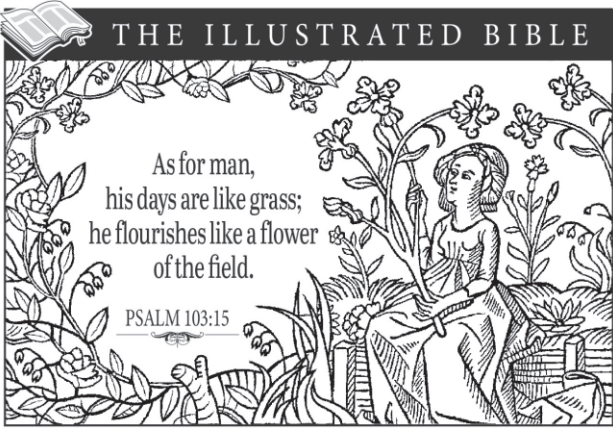
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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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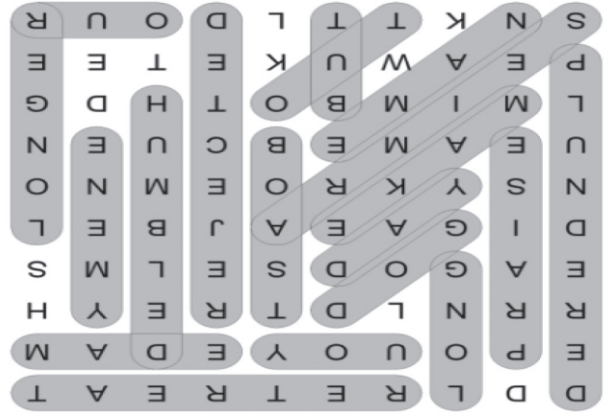
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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Hebrews (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. To whom did God say, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations"? Daniel, Jeremiah, Noah, Thomas
3. From 1 Chronicles 29, how many years did David reign over Israel? 7, 33, 40, 57
4. What do the seven lampstands represent in Revelation 1:20? Continents, Angels, Seas, Churches
5. What was Aquila's profession in Corinth? Tentmaker, Harp player, Mapmaker, Servant
6. Manasseh was the elder of whose two sons? Matthew, Joash, Joseph, Timothy

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Jeremiah, 3) Forty, 4) Churches, 5) Tentmaker, 6) Joseph
More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.
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Answers
BIBLE WORD SEARCH

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Aiysha Hart, left, and Anthony Mackie star in "Desert Warrior."

“Outer Banks: Season 5.”

“The Whisper Man” (R) — Based on the novel by Alex North, this crime thriller film, premiering Aug. 28, was produced by the Russo Brothers (“Avengers: Endgame”) and stars Robert De Niro (“The Alto Knights”), Michelle Monaghan (“The White Lotus”), and Adam Scott (“Severance”). Although it’s deemed a crime thriller, it’s got the tone of a full-on horror flick, and with the dark subject matter at hand, it’s sure to keep the hairs on your arms standing. Scott portrays Tom, a widowed father to an 8-year-old son, who decides to move his family to a quiet town named Featherbank to start anew. Featherbank, however, used to be tormented by a serial killer named the Whisper Man, and somehow, the killer has escaped. Tom’s son is subsequently taken, leaving him with no choice but to reach out to his estranged

father, a detective named Pete (De Niro), to help find the missing boy. (Netflix)

“The Last Sunrise” (R) — Maia Reficco from the rebooted “Pretty Little Liars” series leads this steamy romantic drama premiering Aug. 26! Based on the 2025 novel of the same name, “The Last Sunrise” follows Ry, a young American woman who accompanies her mother, Isolde (Eva Longoria), on a business trip to Majorca, Spain. With health issues weighing her down mentally, Ry isn’t expecting much out of this trip ... until she meets a local boy named Julian (Fernando Lindez). A passionate affair between the two is inevitable, but their romance gets threatened when Isolde reveals to Ry that she needs to buy out Julian’s family’s docks to bring her business deal to fruition. (Amazon Prime Video)

“Girls Like Girls” (R)

— Actress and singer Hayley Kiyoko got her start in the 2011 film “Lemonade Mouth,” a Disney Channel original film. Since then, she’s had a steady career in music, film and TV. In 2015, she released the song “Girls Like Girls” with a music video that’s somewhat of a sneak peek of the new “Girls Like Girls” film, which just released on Peacock. This coming-of-age drama film is directed by Kiyoko and stars Maya da Costa (“Descendants: Wicked Wonderland”) and Myra Molloy (“He’s All That”). Da Costa plays 17-year-old Coley, who begins a new chapter of her life in rural Oregon with her estranged father, Curtis (Zach Braff). Soon after she moves, Coley meets another girl named Sonya (Molloy), and they form a deep emotional connection that’s bound to leave one girl heartbroken. (Peacock)

“Desert Warrior” (R) — AGC Studios made an interesting choice in producing a \$150-million historical-action film led by Anthony Mackie (“Captain America: Brave New World”). While Mackie is incredibly talented, his latest “Captain America” installment didn’t fill theater seats like Chris Evans’ previous three films, and “Desert Warrior” didn’t even make \$1 million at the box office. Still, this film could be a great choice for those who enjoy period-piece action films. Mackie takes on the role of Hanzala, a legendary bandit in 7th-century Asia who agrees to assist an exiled princess in her revolution against a tyrannical empire. Not only must he unite tribes against Emperor Kisra (Ben Kingsley), but he must also face the emperor’s ruthless soldier Jalabzeen (Sharlto Copley) in direct combat. Premieres Aug. 28. (Hulu)

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Q:Is Johnny Depp making a comeback anytime soon? I haven’t seen him in anything since all the bad publicity he had with his ex-wife. — S.T.

A:It’s been four years since the defamation trial between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, but his career has never regained the heights that it achieved in the early 2000s. He portrayed King Louis XV in the French historical film “Jeanne du Barry” back in 2023, and his future has been looking brighter since. He’s starring in the action thriller “Day Drinker” with Oscar winner Penelope Cruz (“Vicky Cristina Barcelona”), which is set for a March 2027 release. This November, however, he’ll play the title character in the holiday film “Ebenezer.”

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer did say at D23: The Ultimate Disney Fan Event that he’s in talks with Depp about reprising the role of Captain Jack Sparrow in “Pirates of the Caribbean 6.” A screenplay is in progress, but this sequel will center on a new female lead played by Margot Robbie and place Depp in more of a supporting role.

Q:Isn’t Marvel making a movie or TV series with Paul Bettany’s character called “VisionQuest”? Whatever happened with this? — C.E.

A:It’s understandable that one would think that Disney has abandoned the planned “WandaVision” spin-off “Vision-Quest” because it’s been years in the making. The original series with Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany ended in 2021, and we were treated to the first “WV” spin-off — “Agatha All Along” starring Kathryn Hahn — in 2024. Disney recently released the trailer for the upcoming series “VisionQuest” at the recent D23 Disney event.

In the preview, we see Bettany as “a humble guy working in a British pub,” according to TVLine, “[who] takes a trip inside his own mind and his own memories, admitting that ‘I was an Avenger, but I’m not a hero anymore.’” James Spader also stars as Ultron, who tries to convince Vision that his memories are indeed real and urges him, “Free us all and save your son.” The new series is expected to premiere on Disney+ on Wednesday, Oct. 14. In addition to Bettany and Spader, the cast in-



Johnny Depp (Upcoming in “Day Drinker”)

cludes Faran Tahir (“Iron Man”), Emily Hampshire (“Schitt’s Creek”), Todd Stashwick (“12 Monkeys”), and T’Nia Miller (“The Haunting of Bly Manor”).

Q: Is Ryan Gosling starring in a new “Star Wars” movie? I thought they finished making them with this past trilogy. — A.B.

A:Yes, there’s another “Star Wars” movie in the works, but it’s an entirely original story that, according to director Shawn Levy, is neither a prequel nor a sequel. In “Star Wars: Starfighter,” Ryan Gosling (“Project Hail Mary”) plays a rogue pilot named Kade Auberon. Auberon, according to Entertainment Weekly, has a decommissioned G17 starfighter in his possession that he claims is “the fastest ever built.”

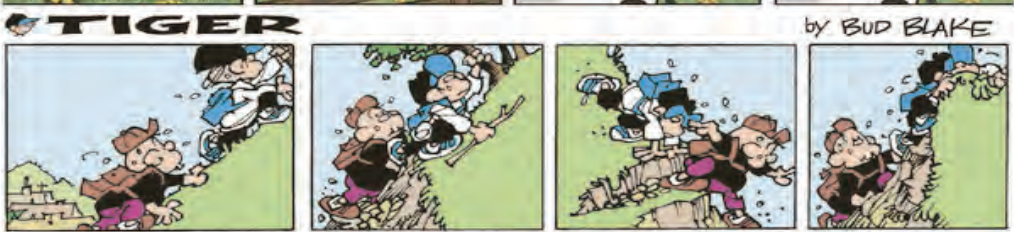
Levy, who directed “Deadpool & Wolverine,” is excited to team up with novelist and screenwriter Jonathan Tropper (“The Adam Project,” “Your Friends & Neighbors”) and Gosling, of course. Look for what’s sure to be another blockbuster hit for the “Star Wars” franchise in theaters on May 28, 2027.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

3	8		2					1
1			3		6			
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, across, each column down and each small 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. Glass is larger; 2. Hand is moved; 3. Bow tie is missing; 4. Ring is reversed; 5. Arm is longer; 6. Lipset is missing.

August 24, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Doves' home

5 Coach

8 Parseghian

12 Beach crawler

13 Pizza cooker

14 Greyhound vehicle

15 — Martin (cognac)

16 Bread sellers

17 Sheltered

18 Hogwash

19 Thespians

21 Sheriff's star

24 Hold sway

25 Jealousy

26 Stalks for soups

30 Finale

31 Give it a go

32 Man-mouse link

33 Sets of prayer beads

35 Big gulp

36 Eyeglass frames

37 Lake flock

38 Hoi —

41 Enjoy Aspen

42 Mayberry young 'un

43 Officials with seals

48 Ivy in Philly

49 Literary collection

50 Corporate symbol

DOWN

1 Corn core

2 Eggs

3 Shatner's "— War"

4 Vigor

5 Slightly

6 Regret

7 Military attacks

8 Moon cavity

9 Move, in Realtor lingo

10 Pt. of U.S.A.

11 Tournament passes

16 Caviar base

20 "Pinocchio" fish

21 "Cheers" order

22 Part of A.D.

23 Film formats

24 Point —

26 Peninsula

26 Record holder?

27 "The Music Man" setting

28 Ireland

29 Droops

31 Small combo

34 Dahl of films

35 Marble cake patterns

37 Reggae relative

38 Vatican leader

39 Pundit's piece

40 TV journalist

41 Lisa

41 Remain

44 Lennon's partner

45 Charged bit

46 Conceit

47 Plant seeds

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Trivia Test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only mammal that can't jump?

2. MOVIES: Which movie has the tagline, "They're young, they're in love, and they kill people"?

3. HISTORY: When is Labor Day celebrated every year in the United States?

4. LANGUAGE: What's the name of a punctuation mark that combines a question mark and an exclamation point?

5. GEOGRAPHY: Which country was called Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979?

6. ASTRONOMY: What are the names of the twin stars in the GEMINI constellation?

7. MYTHOLOGY: What is the only thing left in Pandora's box after it was opened?

8. FOOD & DRINK: Which country is associated with the fermented cabbage dish kimchi?

9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who is the first president to die in office?

10. TELEVISION: What are the Halloween episodes of "The Simpsons" called?

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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HCC Transportation COE wraps up summer with Automotive STEM Camp



Houston City College's (HCC) Transportation Center of Excellence (COE), with support from a grant and presenting sponsor BP America, wrapped up the summer with its Automotive STEM Camp for middle and high school students.

Hosted at the Automotive Training Center on HCC's North Forest Campus, the camp provided an engaging, hands-on learning experience designed to introduce students to automotive technology, engineering principles and future transportation careers.

Through interactive activities using remote-controlled vehicles, students disassembled, built, troubleshot and raced mini cars while exploring the fundamentals of engines, electrical systems, drivetrains and vehicle safety. Participants also gained exposure to emerging transportation technologies, including electric, hybrid and autonomous vehicles.

The camp combined



STEM learning with teamwork, problem-solving and friendly competition, creating a fun and educational environment.

HCC Transportation COE faculty, instructors and industry professionals guided students through real-world demonstrations and career exploration activities, offering valuable insight into the latest transportation technologies. These experiences helped inspire interest in careers as skilled technicians, engineers and transportation professionals.

Thanks to the support of BP America, the college

was able to provide students with learning kits, safety equipment, instructional materials and lunch throughout the program. The sponsorship helped create meaningful educational experiences that prepare young learners for future opportunities in the evolving automotive and energy industries.

The Automotive STEM Camp reflects HCC's continued commitment to developing the next generation of innovators and workforce leaders through hands-on education and industry partnerships.

9-year-old killed after being ejected from pickup in a crash

HOUSTON — A 9-year-old boy was killed early Sunday after he was ejected from a pickup truck involved in a collision with a Harris County Sheriff's Office vehicle, authorities said.

The crash occurred about 12:40 a.m. last Sunday near T.C. Jester Boulevard and Tomlinson Trail Drive in northwest Houston.

According to the Harris County Sheriff's Office, a marked patrol vehicle was traveling south on T.C. Jester when a Toyota pickup traveling north turned west across the patrol unit's path. There is no traffic signal or stop sign controlling traffic on T.C. Jester at the intersection, authorities said.

The collision sent the sheriff's vehicle into the brick entrance of a nearby subdivision. The pickup spun from the impact before coming to rest facing south.

A man believed to be in his 50s or 60s was driving the pickup, with a child under age 12 in the front passenger seat, according to authorities.

The child, identified as **Jadiel Molina**, was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the pickup during the crash.

A deputy began performing CPR at the scene, and emergency personnel continued resuscitation efforts as Jadiel was taken to a hospital. He was later pronounced dead.

Harris County Sheriff's Office Major A. McConnell said investigators believe the lack of a seat belt and the child's ejection were the primary factors in the fatality.

"I don't believe this was a serious enough accident to cause a death, but because the child was not seatbelted and was ejected, that is the main cause at this point for that child's death," McConnell said at the scene.

Video shared through social media showed people gathering near the crash site shortly after the colli-



sion as they attempted to help.

One neighbor, who asked not to be identified, described the emotional scene and said the incident left her thinking about her own grandchild.

"It's a feeling that gives you chills, makes you nervous. I haven't slept. I'm just thinking about the baby," she said.

The sheriff's office said the pickup driver showed signs of intoxication following the crash. Investigators are seeking a warrant to obtain a blood sample from the driver. If testing confirms impairment, the driver could face an intoxication manslaughter charge involving a child.

McConnell urged members of the community to support Jadiel's family following the tragedy.

"If you know this family, reach out to them. They're gonna need your support," McConnell said. "If you don't know this family, please pray. They're gonna need your support."

The crash also injured two people inside the sheriff's vehicle. The deputy was assigned to the Sheriff's Of-

fice Crisis Intervention Response Team and had a clinician riding in the passenger seat. Both suffered minor injuries and were transported to a hospital for treatment.

The sheriff's vehicle was not responding to a call when the collision occurred.

Investigators said they have found no indication that excessive speed contributed to the crash. Authorities plan to download data from both vehicles and examine any available video as the investigation continues.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs Division and the Harris County District Attorney's Office Vehicular Crimes Division are handling the investigation.

The neighbor said the deputy also appeared deeply affected by the child's condition.

"She was pretty messed up too," the neighbor said. "Because she kept asking him, she was begging like, 'Baby, please just breathe for me. Baby please just breathe for me.'"

The investigation remains ongoing.

Abbott Recognizes Two Service Members With Texas Legislative Medal Of Honor

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today presented the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to Army Sergeant Rickey Wittner and to the family of Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator First Class Nathan Gage Ingram at the Texas Capitol. The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration conferred to a service member of the Texas military forces.

"Today, we honor two men who answered the call for our nation," said Governor Abbott. "They continued a tradition of heroism that the United States of America was built on. We will never forget the sacrifices they made for our country and for their fellow service members."

The Governor was also joined at the ceremony by Senator Brent Hagenbuch, Senator Tan Parker, Representative Ben Bumgarner, Representative Cole Hefner, Representative Joanne Shofner, and Texas Military Department Adjutant General Thomas Suelzer.

Army Sergeant Rickey Wittner was awarded the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor in recognition of his valorous actions on July 10, 1970. He demonstrated bravery in the face of grave danger, saving 12 lives.

Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator First Class Nathan Gage Ingram was posthumously awarded the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor in



recognition of his extraordinary courage, heroic action, and selfless dedication to duty on January 11, 2024. Without hesitation or regard for his own safety, he voluntarily entered the water in an attempt to save the life of his teammate. Ingram gave his life to uphold the highest traditions of the United States Naval service.

U.S. Army Sergeant Rickey Wittner enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1969 and underwent helicopter training at Fort Eustis, Virginia, before beginning his service in the Vietnam War with the U.S. Army 242nd Assault Support Helicopter Company, 269th Aviation Battalion. In recognition of his actions on July 10, 1970, Specialist Wittner was awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroism; he also received the Purple Heart and the Air Medal. Following the completion of his active-duty army service in 1975 at the rank of Specialist Fifth Class, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve, transferring to the Texas Army National

Guard headquarters company in Marshall as a member of the 5th Battalion, 112th Armor. In 1987, he was honorably discharged at the rank of sergeant.

Nathan Gage Ingram, Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator 2nd Class was a beloved husband, son, brother, and friend who was lost at sea while on a night mission off the coast of Somalia. Gage enlisted in the Navy on September 25, 2019, and graduated boot camp at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois on November 22, 2019. He graduated Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training Class 346 in December 2021 and reported to his first operational tour as SEAL Team THREE. Gage's awards and decorations include the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and other personal and unit awards.

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