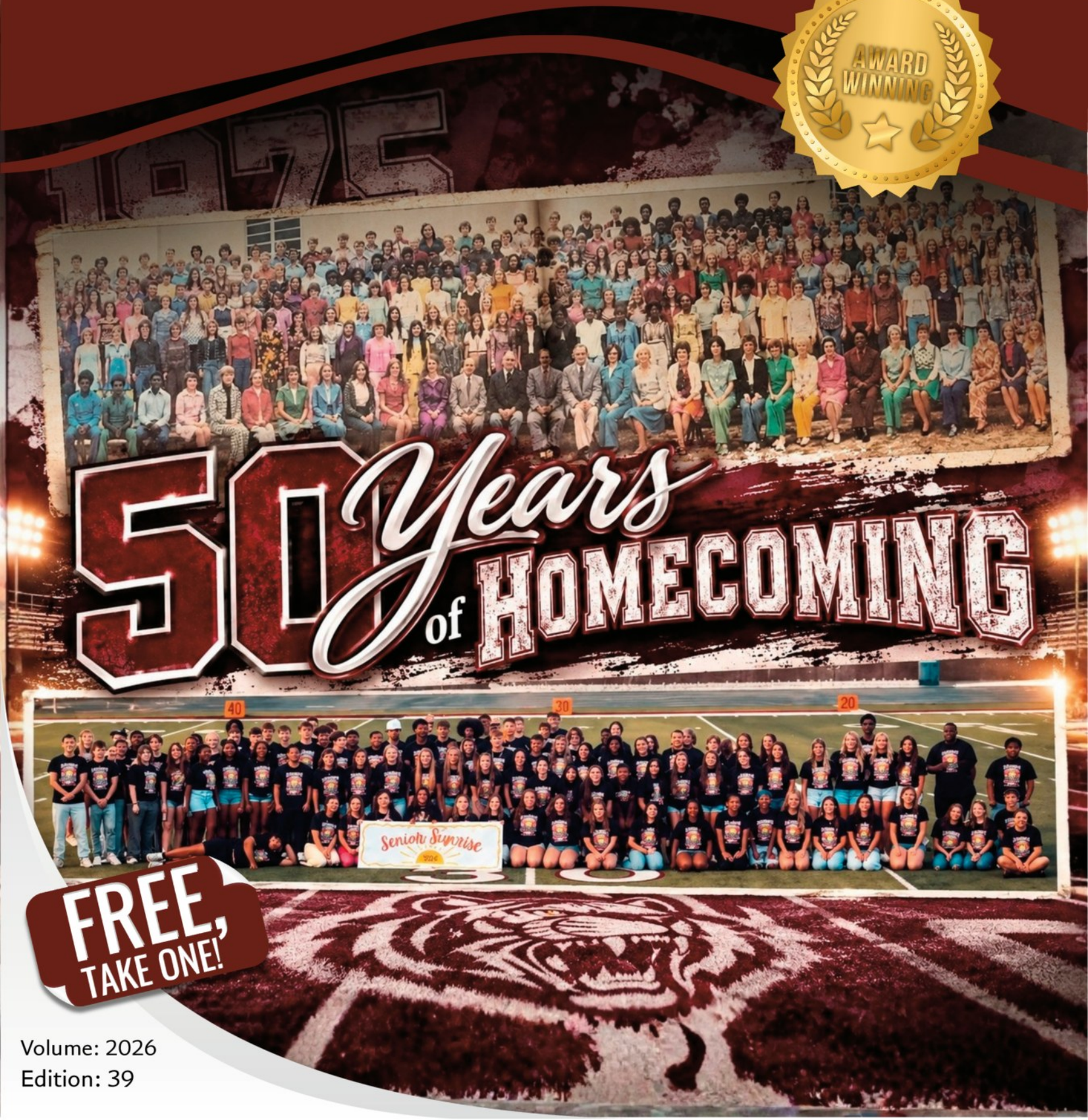
# SATSUMA VALLEY STANDARD

*Your **Standard** for Local News & Events*

October 9, 2026

AWARD WINNING




Volume: 2026
Edition: 39

# SILSBEE HOMECOMING 2026

## 50 YEARS OF TIGER PRIDE!

BY: JOHN MARBLE

Fifty years can change almost everything.

The cars look different. The music sounds different. The buildings change, businesses come and go, technology transforms daily life, and the way teenagers communicate can become almost unrecognizable.

But in Silsbee, some things have remained remarkably familiar.

As the Silsbee High School Class of 2027 moves toward graduation, its members are preparing to cross the same milestone reached by the Class of 1977 exactly half a century earlier. The two classes grew up in very different versions of America, and, in many ways, very different versions of Silsbee, yet they are connected by the same hometown, the same Tiger traditions and the same experience of wondering what comes after high school.



For those young men and women, 2027 probably seemed impossibly far away.

There were no smartphones in their pockets, no social media accounts waiting to document graduation night and no text-message groups coordinating senior activities.

If someone wanted to talk to a friend, they called the house phone, drove over or found them in person.

Photographs were taken on film and developed later. Music came through records, 8-tracks and radio. News arrived through television, radio and newspapers instead of notifications appearing instantly on a screen.

A high school student's entire social life could unfold without a single photograph appearing online.



For the Class of 2027, the opposite is almost unimaginable.

Today's seniors have grown up in a world of smartphones, streaming services, social media, online classrooms, digital photography, GPS navigation and instant communication. A student can photograph a Friday night football game, send the picture across the country and have hundreds of people see it within minutes.

The world became bigger.

And somehow, smaller.

Silsbee Was Growing

The Silsbee of the 1970s was a community experiencing significant growth. According to the Handbook of Texas, Silsbee's population had reached 7,271 by 1970 and would climb to 7,684 by 1980. Timber, oil, railroads and agriculture had helped build the community's economic foundation, with the Kirby Lumber operation playing an especially important role in local life.



The school district was growing as well.

When students returned to school in September, Silsbee ISD reported an enrollment of 3,759 students, 91 more than the previous year. Silsbee High School alone reported 1,077 students, while administrators expected average class sizes of around 25 students.

That number provides a glimpse into just how active the community was at the time.

For many families, jobs connected to timber, industry and the surrounding natural resources represented stability. The lumber industry was woven deeply into the identity of the community.

But change was coming.

# SILSBEE HOMECOMING 2026

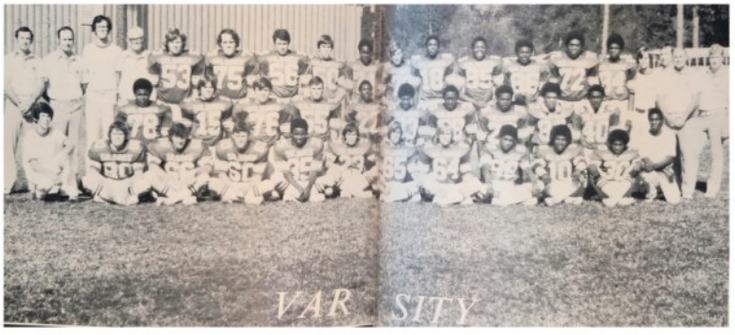
## 50 YEARS OF TIGER PRIDE!

A decade later, the closure of the former Kirby Lumber operation would become one of the defining economic moments in modern Silsbee history, costing hundreds of jobs and forcing the community to rethink portions of its economic future.
The students graduating in 1977 could not have known everything their hometown would experience during the next 50 years.
Neither can the students graduating in 2027.
While technology and lifestyles have changed dramatically, a description of Silsbee High School life from 1977 sounds surprisingly familiar.
A retrospective published after the 1976-77 school year described students returning to campus with excitement surrounding the marching band, cheerleaders, Tigerettes and football team.
Football season brought pep rallies and packed crowds.
That particular Tiger team went on an extraordinary run, playing 14 weeks of football before eventually meeting Dickinson in the Astrodome. The newspaper described the enthusiasm surrounding the season as the famous “Tiger Spirit.”
Today's seniors may discover what the Class of 1977 already knows:
Silsbee will change. The world will change. But there will always be something about being a Tiger that time cannot quite erase.





Don Muckleroy waves the Spirit Flag he stole from the Sopho-mores.




Fifty years later, that phrase would still make perfect sense. Friday nights still matter in Silsbee. Students still paint signs. Bands still practice music in the heat. Cheerleaders still lead crowds. Parents still fill stadium seats.
Children still grow up dreaming of wearing maroon and gold.
And generations of graduates still understand what someone means when they say, “Once a Tiger, always a Tiger.”
The uniforms may change. The scoreboards may become digital. The photographs may now be taken on phones instead of film cameras.

But the pride behind them remains recognizable.


'50's Pep Rally William Bass and Arthur Barnes went all OUT!!

Perhaps nowhere is the difference between 1977 and 2027 greater than inside the classroom.
A student researching a paper in 1977 might have used textbooks, encyclopedias, library reference books and newspaper archives.
A student in 2027 can carry access to millions of books, articles, photographs, videos and databases inside a device that fits in a backpack — or a pocket.
Calculators that once seemed advanced have been replaced by computers capable of solving complex equations in seconds.
Students can collaborate on documents without sitting in the same room. Teachers can distribute assignments electronically. Colleges can be researched and applied to online.
And artificial intelligence , something that belonged mostly to science fiction when the Class of 1977 walked the halls , is now part of discussions about education, careers and the future of work.
The jobs waiting for the Class of 2027 will include careers that barely existed when their grandparents were teenagers.
Some careers awaiting today's seniors may not even exist yet.

Silsbee itself looks different.

# SILSBEE HOMECOMING 2026

## 50 YEARS OF TIGER PRIDE!

The population has fluctuated considerably over the decades. After reaching 7,684 in 1980, Silsbee counted 6,935 residents in the 2020 Census. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated the city's population at approximately 6,613 in 2025. Businesses have opened and closed. Buildings have disappeared. New ones have taken their place. Roads have changed. Families that once dominated certain neighborhoods have moved away, while new families have arrived.
Some familiar names that were once fixtures around town now live only in photographs, memories and stories told around dinner tables.
Yet Silsbee continues.

That may be one of the most important similarities between the Classes of 1976 and 2027.
Both classes grew up in a community that was changing around them.
The Class of 1976 graduated during the presidency of Jimmy Carter.
The original Star Wars opened in theaters just days before their commencement.
Elvis Presley was still alive. Personal computers were only beginning to enter public consciousness.
The internet as today's students understand it did not exist.
There were no iPhones.
No Facebook.
No TikTok.
No Google.
No YouTube.
No streaming television.





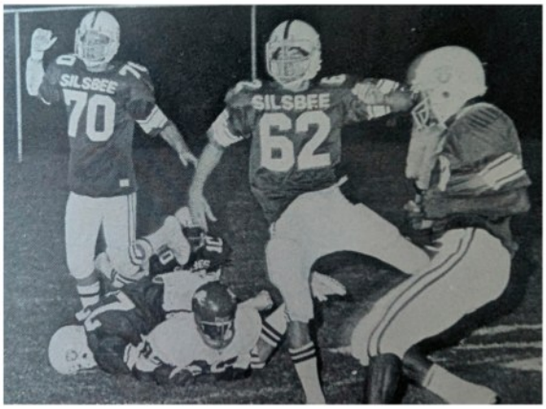
Students graduating in 2027 have never known a world without the internet. Many have never known life without smartphones. Their photographs are largely digital, their friendships often continue online after school, and their connection to national and world events is nearly instantaneous.
Yet place the two graduating classes together and their conversations might quickly become familiar. Who was your favorite teacher? Who did you sit with at lunch? Who did you date? What happened at the football game? Who got in trouble? Who made everyone laugh? Where did everyone hang out? What were you going to do after graduation?
Those questions cross generations remarkably well.
Because technology changes much faster than people do.
The members of the Class of 1977 are now approaching, or already enjoying, retirement years.
Many became parents. Many became grandparents. Some stayed in Silsbee.
Others traveled across Texas, across the country or around the world. Some built businesses.
Some became teachers, tradesmen, nurses, professionals, homemakers, ministers, public servants or community leaders.

Some classmates have passed away, leaving empty seats at reunions and memories that grow more valuable with time.
And somewhere along the way, high school stopped feeling recent.
The Class of 2027 cannot yet understand how quickly that happens.
Today, graduation may feel like the ending of something enormous.
Fifty years later, many members of the Class of 1977 would probably tell them it was actually the beginning.
The things that seem overwhelmingly important at 17 or 18 often become small stories later.
Other moments, conversations with grandparents, rides home with friends, evenings at football games, sitting in a favorite teacher's classroom, become precious memories nobody realized they were making.

# SILSBEE HOMECOMING 2026

## 50 YEARS OF TIGER PRIDE!

There is something special about measuring a town through its graduating classes.
Buildings tell part of Silsbee's history.
Businesses tell another part. Newspapers record another.
But generations tell perhaps the most important part. In 1977, 245 seniors prepared to walk across a stage at Kirby Memorial Stadium and step into an uncertain future.In 2027, another group of Silsbee seniors will do the same.
Their clothes will be different.
Their music will be different.
Their technology will be almost incomprehensible compared with what existed 50 years earlier.
Their opportunities will be different, too.









But when their names are called, families will still cheer.
Parents will still take pictures.
Teachers will still feel proud.
Friends will still promise to stay in touch.
And another generation of Tigers will walk away from Silsbee High School carrying a little piece of this town with them.
Fifty years separates the Class of 1977 from the Class of 2027.
Yet beneath all the changes, the story remains much the same.
A group of young people grew up in Silsbee, wore the maroon and gold, made memories together and eventually reached the moment when their hometown had to let them go discover what came next.
And fifty years from now, when someone writes about the difference between the Class of 2027 and the Class of 2077, today's seniors may discover what the Class of 1976 already knows: Silsbee will change. The world will change. But there will always be something about being a Tiger that time cannot erase.



October 2026

Hello, Pumpkin

# LIFE WITH LAUREN

## HELLO, OCTOBER!

October is here, and Southeast Texas is finally thinking about cooling off! Between Friday night lights, Homecoming, pumpkin patches, Halloween plans, and all the fall fun, this is one of my favorite times of year. Here's to busy weekends, cooler evenings, and soaking up all the little things that make October feel like home!






## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 SHS HOMECOMING WEEK WEAR PJ'S | 10 SHS HOMECOMING WEEK WEAR ONE COLOR | 11 SHS HOMECOMING WEEK WEAR CAMO! | 12 SHS HOMECOMING WEEK WEAR FLOOR, NEON GREEN & BLUE! | 13 HOMECOMING GAME VS. JASPER 7:30 | 14 HOMECOMING PARADE & TIGER PROWL |
| 15 | 16 COLUMBUS DAY SILSBEE ISD NO SCHOOL | 17 SILSBEE ISD NO SCHOOL | 18 | 19 | 20 TIGERS VS. WEST ORANGE STARK 7:00 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 TIGERS VS. HAMSHIRE-FANNETT 7:30 | 28 SILSBEE DOWNTOWN HALLOWEEN BASH |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 TIGERS VS. HJ 7:30 SENIOR NIGHT | 4 HALLOWEEN |

## OCTOBER

### Tips from the Kids

Jude says, "Always check your Halloween candy. You know... for safety."

Ellie says, "It's never too early to start planning your Halloween costume."

Rosie says, "If you're scared of a haunted house, just close your eyes."

## OCTOBER HOME CHECKLIST

**A little fall maintenance now can save a headache later!**

Change those air filters, clean gutters, check smoke-detector batteries, inspect weather stripping around doors and windows, clean up the porch and flower beds, and give your heating system a quick check before the first random Texas cold front shows up.

*"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." Psalm 126:3*



### Hardin County Snapshot — What's Happening Right Now

The Fall Market Is Here!

Fall can be a great time to make a move! There may be fewer buyers competing than during the busy spring and summer months, but serious buyers are still out there. For sellers, that means pricing right, keeping your home show-ready, and making a great first impression are especially important.

And buyers—don't assume you have to wait until spring! Less competition can sometimes mean a little more breathing room when you find the one.

Thinking about buying or selling before the holidays? Let's talk!


LAUREN CAMACHO
REALTOR®

409.782.1066
listwithlaurencamacho@gmail.com

CONNECT REALTY

BY: JILL POSKEY

Shortly after turning 21, Kevin Camden took a leap into entrepreneurship and launched Aligned Fencing Solutions. Officially established in early 2022, the Southeast Texas company has grown tremendously over the past three years.

Having grown up around many business owners, Camden saw firsthand the impact a local business can have on its community.

"I've always seen how you're able to help the community and give back through business," Camden said. While his entry into the fencing industry was somewhat spontaneous, Camden had previously built fences before starting the company. What began as an unexpected opportunity quickly developed into a thriving business serving homeowners and businesses throughout Southeast Texas. Aligned Fencing Solutions officially launched in early 2022.



Today, the company specializes in both residential and commercial fencing. Its services range from standard cedar privacy fences and residential chain-link fencing to commercial chain-link fencing, gates and operators. Whether a customer is looking for privacy, security, durability or a solution tailored to a specific property, Camden says every fence is built with the homeowner's individual needs in mind.



What sets Aligned Fencing Solutions apart is its focus on quality, communication and continuously raising its own standards within the industry.

"We strive to offer higher-quality products and material to give our customers the best outcome for their money," Camden said. "Along with spending countless days working to increase our own 'standards' within the industry."

Above all, Camden believes clear communication between a contractor and client is essential throughout the entire project. From the initial consultation to the completion of the fence, the team works to ensure customers understand the process and feel confident in the work being done.

For homeowners considering a privacy fence, Camden often recommends investing in upgrades that can improve the fence's longevity and performance. Three of the most important upgrades include the posts, gates and cedar pickets.

Aligned Fencing Solutions offers PostMaster V3 posts, high-end steel, powder-coated posts rated for winds exceeding 80 miles per hour and backed by a limited lifetime warranty. Metal-framed gates are another upgrade that can help eliminate common problems such as sagging, dragging and warping. Cedar pickets can also provide an upgrade over traditional options by helping reduce the chances of cracking, warping and checking.

While privacy and chain-link fences remain among the most popular options for homeowners, Camden emphasizes that there is no one-size-fits-all solution.

"Every fence is built to fit a specific need for the homeowner," he said.

As a local business, serving the Silsbee community is especially meaningful to Camden. Aligned Fencing Solutions has completed extensive work throughout the area, and Camden says the support from local homeowners has been incredible.

"One of my favorite parts of my job consists of meeting with new people, and familiar faces," he said.



Camden and the team at Aligned Fencing Solutions are grateful to every past, current and future customer who has trusted the company to find solutions to their fencing needs and get the job done.

With a commitment to quality materials, craftsmanship, communication and community, Aligned Fencing Solutions continues to build more than fences throughout Southeast Texas, it continues to build lasting relationships with the people and businesses it serves.

BY: JILL POSKEY




For JD and Bonnie Bateman, owners of Color & Craft Co., creativity is a family affair and the perfect blend of their individual talents. Both military veterans and married for 15 years, the Batemans have built a business that combines Bonnie's artistic vision with JD's ability to bring those ideas to life.

Bonnie has always been artistically inclined, often transforming small, ordinary items into something beautiful. After years of watching her create, JD encouraged her to take her talent to the next level by painting murals and sharing her artistic expression with others.

Color & Craft Co. is a reflection of the Batemans' unique partnership. Bonnie brings the color, design and artistic vision, while JD focuses on turning those ideas into reality. Whether that means building furniture, creating a treehouse or helping bring a mural to life, JD is always ready to make Bonnie's vision a reality and proudly serves as her biggest hype man along the way. Together, they work with clients to transform spaces into something personal and meaningful.

While technology and artificial intelligence have made it easier to visualize ideas, the Batemans understand the importance of balancing those concepts with what is realistically possible to paint. They work with each client to develop a design and color palette that brings their vision to life.

Every mural has a story. The murals created for Mr. Bohler, for example, reflect the things that bring him happiness, using loud, bright and fun colors. One of the Batemans' favorite projects is the Shine Shack Bigfoot mural, which reminds them of the places they have traveled and family members who live in Boise.






Looking toward the future, JD and Bonnie hope to create painted yard games that encourage families to spend more time outdoors enjoying good, clean fun together. They also hope to continue creating murals that bring color and joy to the community.

At the heart of Color & Craft Co. is the belief that art can change the way people see the world. Through their work, the Batemans hope to help people see more color, find more joy and perhaps even view life with a little more of a "glass half full" perspective.



# SILSBEE CONTINUES STORM DEBRIS PICKUP, SETS OCT. 14 DEADLINE FOR RESIDENTS

The City of Silsbee is continuing to assist residents inside the city limits with minor debris cleanup following Tropical Storm Edouard.

Because Hardin County did not meet FEMA's eligibility criteria for federally funded debris removal, the city is handling limited tree-debris pickup for residents affected by the storm.

Residents who place tree debris along the roadway are asked to call Silsbee City Hall at 409-385-2863 to request pickup.

City officials are also reminding residents not to place debris on top of water meters, gas meters or near fire hydrants.

The pickup service applies only to tree debris caused by Tropical Storm Edouard.

Residents needing debris removed must call in their pickup request before Oct. 14, 2026. No pickups will take place after that date.

City officials are encouraging residents with qualifying storm debris to make arrangements as soon as possible before the deadline.

**NOTICE TO RESIDENTS INSIDE CITY LIMITS:**

The City of Silsbee is assisting with minor debris clean up through Tropical Storm Edouard. Due to Hardin County not meeting FEMA's eligibility criteria for federally funded debris removal.

If you put tree debris out by the road, please call City Hall at (409) 385-2863 to request pickup.

Please **DO NOT** place debris on top of water meters, gas meters or near fire hydrants.

The City will pick up tree debris **ONLY** from Tropical Storm Edouard.

Please call-in pickups before October 14th, 2026, no pickups will occur after said date.

MONDAY - SATURDAY 6AM-5PM & SUNDAY 8AM-4PM




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| FRI | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 88° / 64° | 35% 85° / 67° | 88° / 61° | 86° / 67° | 87° / 73° | 87° /74° | 88° / 76° |

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10:00 AM

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FIELDS OF FAITH

OCTOBER 21, 2026 | 7:00 PM

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10/10/2026
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Silsbee, TX

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DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION & SILSBEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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---

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$1 CONCESSIONS
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SILSBEE PUBLIC LIBRARY




## OCTOBER 2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | **17** |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | **23** | **24** |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | **29** | **30** | **31** |

OPEN DATES ARE **RED**

**$15** GENERAL ADMISSION

**$20** VIP SKIP LINE

**$10** RE-ENTRY SAME NIGHT

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**7PM - 11PM**
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# 36 STUDENT ACROSS SILSBEE ISD MAKE ALL-REGION CHOIR







The sound of success is ringing throughout Silsbee Independent School District as 36 talented choir students from Silsbee High School and Silsbee Middle School have earned recognition in the 2026 All-Region Choir selections, showcasing the musical talent, dedication, and determination of the district's young performers.

From the halls of Silsbee Middle School to the classrooms of Silsbee High School, these students have demonstrated that the Fighting Tiger spirit extends far beyond the athletic fields and into the world of fine arts.

Silsbee High School Celebrates 13 All-Region Selections

At Silsbee High School, 13 choir students earned positions in the 2026 Region 10 All-Region Choir, with nine of those students advancing to the Pre-Area round of competition.

Students earning All-Region recognition include Thomas Cartwright, Kennedy Hope, Davis Perdue, and Lincoln Stewart. Nine additional students earned All-Region honors and advanced to Pre-Area: Isabella Butler, Landen Doleman, Aidyn Everitt, Ja'Marius Green, Raphael Perez, Cooper St John, Kaden Steed, Mickey VanDerdoes, and Collin Weathington. Advancing to Pre-Area represents another significant step in the competitive process, bringing these students closer to the possibility of earning a place in the Texas All-State Choir.

Their accomplishments reflect hours of preparation, discipline, and a commitment to developing their musical abilities.

Silsbee Middle School Celebrates 23 All-Region Choir Members

Not to be outdone, Silsbee Middle School is celebrating an impressive accomplishment of its own, with 23 students earning positions in the 2026 Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-Region Choir.

The middle school students were recognized across four vocal sections: sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses.

Sopranos: Chloe Benton, Ava Satterwhite, Rebecca Jeselink, Emma Williford, Grace'Lynn McDaniel, K'Lynn Cheshire, and Lilah Patterson.

Altos: Kaedance Raughton, Dixi Collard, Molly Chapman, and Zyiah Arthur.

Tenors: Luke Lawson, Westley Wilson, Samson Drake, and Brandon Boulwen.

Basses: Gunner Hooks, Emmanuel Pille, Kashton Allen, Jayce Knox, Gage Hicks, Myles Ringo, Bryce Jordan, and Kole LeJune.

Several middle school students earned particularly impressive placements in the competition.

Chloe Benton and Ava Satterwhite earned positions among the Top Five Chairs in their vocal section, while Rebecca Jeselink, Gunner Hooks, Emmanuel Pille, and Kashton Allen earned Top Ten Chair recognition.

These distinctions highlight the students' strong performances in a competitive audition process and demonstrate the musical talent being developed at the middle school level.

Behind every successful audition are hours spent learning music, mastering vocal techniques, practicing difficult passages, and developing the confidence necessary to perform under pressure.

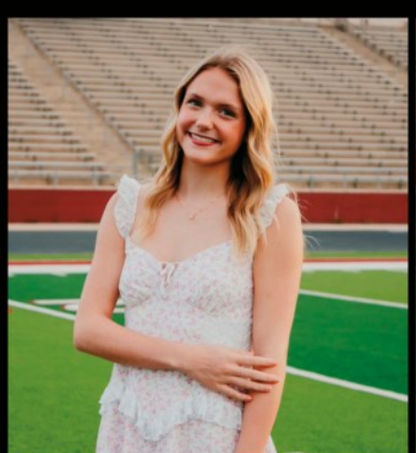
Choir teaches students much more than how to sing. It develops discipline, perseverance, teamwork, leadership, and the ability to work toward a common goal.

For many young musicians, participation in an All-Region Choir can become a defining moment in their educational journey, providing opportunities to perform alongside other talented singers and encouraging them to continue pursuing music.

The Satsuma Valley Standard congratulates every student recognized for these outstanding achievements and extends its appreciation to the choir directors, educators, and families who continue supporting music education in Silsbee.



# 2026 SHS Homecoming Court











Lana Rivas, Addison Durant, Aidyn Everitt, Averie Brooks



Brooklyn Miller, Valentina Aboytes, Anniston Miller, Romi Calhoun

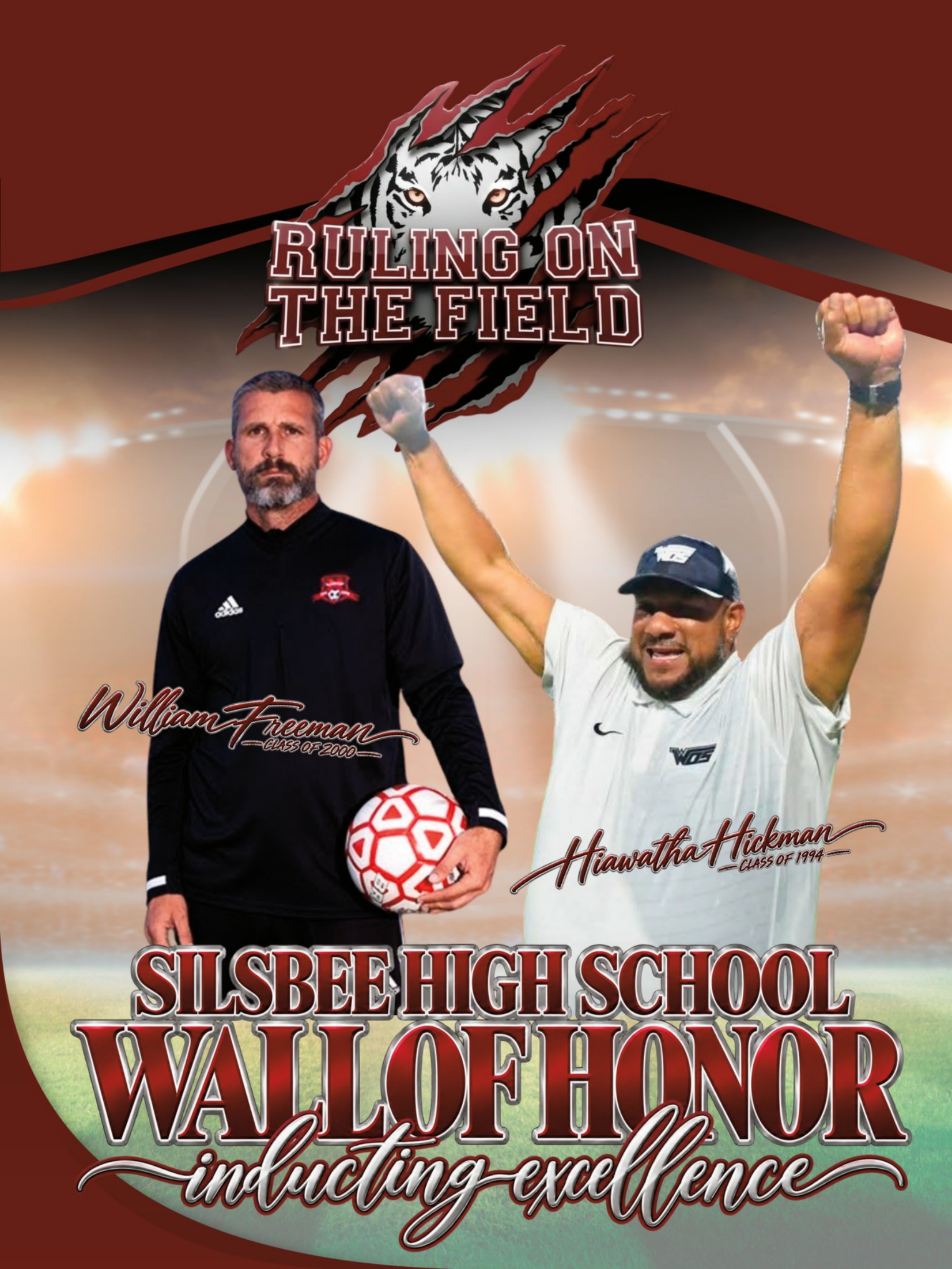


Madison Hill, Ann Margaret Harkey, Lillie Blythe, Brianna Lazo



Lexi Murphy, Brooklynn Kelly, Brielle Foster, Kensley Stanley

RULING ON THE FIELD



William Freeman
CLASS OF 2000

Hiawatha Hickman
CLASS OF 1994

# SILSBEE HIGH SCHOOL WALL OF HONOR

*inducting excellence*

# WALL OF HONOR

## A WALL BUILT ON LEGACY

Some names are written in record books.

Others are remembered in locker rooms, on sidelines and in stories told long after the final whistle.




At Silsbee High School, those names have a permanent home.
The Silsbee High School Wall of Honor was born from the vision of Coach Charlie Woodard, who believed the athletes who wore Silsbee colors and those who came before them at SHS and Waldo Mathews High School deserved to have their accomplishments remembered by generations still to come.
Through Woodard and others hard work and dedication, that vision became reality.
In 2009, the Wall of Honor welcomed its first two members, James Hunter, Class of 1972, and William Graham, Class of 1978. Since then, the tradition has continued to grow, honoring athletes whose accomplishments helped shape the proud athletic history of Silsbee. This year, that history grows again.
Hiawatha Hickman and William Freeman will become the 33rd and 34th members of the Silsbee High School Wall of Honor. And both men represent exactly what the Wall of Honor was created to preserve , excellence during their days as Tigers, followed by lives that continued to influence young athletes long after their own playing careers ended.

## HIAWATHA HICKMAN: FROM TIGER STANDOUT TO COACH



Hiawatha Hickman: From Tiger Standout to Coach
A member of the Silsbee High School Class of 1994, Hiawatha Hickman made his presence known in more than one arena.
Hickman excelled in football, track and powerlifting. On the football field, he earned All-District honors on both offense and defense during the 1992 and 1993 seasons and helped lead the Tigers to a 10-3 record and a playoff appearance in 1993.
That same season, Hickman received All-State honors as a nose guard and was selected to the Golden Triangle Super Gold Team. He was also a Willie Ray Smith Award finalist.
His accomplishments extended beyond football. Hickman was a regional qualifier in track in 1991, 1992 and 1993 and qualified for regionals in powerlifting in both 1992 and 1993.
His performance at Silsbee earned him a full football scholarship to McMurry University, where he became a four-year letterman and earned All-Conference honors at defensive tackle in 1996 and 1997.

He graduated in 1999 before later earning a Master of Education degree from Lamar University.
But Hickman's impact on athletics did not end when he stopped wearing a uniform.
He built a lengthy teaching and coaching career in Southeast Texas, including 10 years as defensive coordinator at Silsbee ISD. He later became head coach and athletic director at West Orange-Stark, where the Mustangs reached the state final in 2025.
For Hickman, induction into the Wall of Honor brings his journey full circle, from a young Tiger making plays under Friday night lights to a coach entrusted with shaping the lives and careers of young athletes himself.

# WALL OF HONOR

## WILLIAM FREEMAN: EXCELLENCE BEYOND THE FIELD



William Freeman, a member of the Silsbee High School Class of 2000, built his Tiger legacy as a true multi-sport athlete.
Freeman excelled in soccer while also competing as a distance runner in track and cross-country. He lettered four years in soccer, earning All-District recognition all four seasons and All-Region honors in 1999 and 2000.
He was named Utility Player of the Year in 1999 and Defensive Player of the Year in 2000. During his senior season, Freeman was selected to the Beaumont Enterprise Super Gold Team and chosen to compete in the TASCO Senior Showcase.
His talents weren't limited to soccer.
Freeman earned two letters in cross-country and qualified for regionals in 1999 and 2000. He was also a three-year track letterman, qualifying for regionals in the 800 meters in 2000, and contributed to the Tiger football program as a two-year letterman and kicker.

Freeman continued his soccer career after high school, attending Sterling College before transferring to Tyler Junior College. After redshirting his first season at Tyler, he became the starting goalkeeper and helped lead the team to a 13-3-2 record.
He later finished his collegiate career at Midwestern State University, helping the Mustangs compile a 36-5-4 record over two seasons. Freeman also spent time playing with the Dallas-Fort Worth Tornadoes after college.
Like Hickman, Freeman eventually found himself giving back to athletics through coaching. His career has included more than 16 years coaching in the area, including three years at Granbury High School before becoming the soccer and cross-country head coach at Goose Creek Memorial High School.

## WE REMEMBER OUR TIGER PRIDE!



The Wall of Honor has evolved over the years.
In its early days, inductees were recognized with receptions at different locations around Silsbee High School before being honored again during halftime of the Homecoming football game.
At Coach Woodard's insistence, the recognition eventually grew into a banquet held on the Thursday before Homecoming in the Silsbee High School cafeteria.
There, inductees receive their Wall of Honor ring. During the halftime program at the Homecoming game, they are presented with a certificate confirming their membership.
It is more than a ceremony. It is Silsbee saying, “We remember.” We remember the touchdowns. We remember the races. We remember the tackles, goals, championships, long practices and sacrifices that happened when nobody was watching.
And perhaps most importantly, the Wall of Honor recognizes that an athlete's legacy does not have to be measured by how far they went after high school.
The committee emphasizes that the Wall was created to recognize outstanding athletes from both Silsbee High School and Waldo Mathews High School. Some honorees never competed at the collegiate or professional level, but that does not diminish what they accomplished while representing their schools.
That philosophy is an important part of what makes the Wall of Honor special.A young athlete does not have to become a professional star to matter. Sometimes greatness is found right here at home.

# WALL OF HONOR

## KEEPING SILSBEE'S ATHLETIC HISTORY ALIVE

The Wall of Honor committee also encourages the public to help ensure deserving athletes are not forgotten.
Those interested in nominating a former athlete may request a nomination packet by emailing shswoh@aol.com. The packet contains both a nomination form and the criteria used by the committee.
Applicants are asked to complete the form and provide supporting documentation. Once a nomination is accepted, that person remains in the pool of nominees and does not have to be nominated again. Additional supporting information can be submitted later if new material becomes available.
Members of the Wall of Honor selection committee may not submit nominations themselves, making community participation especially important.
The committee encourages those making nominations to conduct the necessary research and provide as much information as possible to support the athlete they believe deserves consideration.
Keeping Silsbee's Athletic History Alive
The Wall of Honor continues through support from Silsbee ISD and donations from those who believe local athletic history is worth preserving.

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Every community has people whose accomplishments deserve to outlive the moment in which they happened.
For Silsbee, the Wall of Honor makes sure they do.
This year, when Hiawatha Hickman and William Freeman join the men and women already represented there, they will become part of something larger than any individual statistic, trophy or season.
They will become permanent pieces of Silsbee's story.
And somewhere, a young Tiger may look at those names on the wall and realize that the uniform they are wearing today carries a history...and that perhaps, someday, their own name could become part of it.










# Silsbee HOMECOMING

## TIGERS READY TO ROAR AGAINST BULLDOGS IN OVER CENTURY YEAR OLD RIVALRY

BY: RULING ON THE FIELD







All roads lead to Homecoming...Homecoming in Silsbee always carries a little extra excitement, but this year there will be even more at stake when the Tigers take the field.

Silsbee will welcome longtime rival Jasper to town Friday, Oct. 9, for a matchup between two programs whose history stretches back more than a century.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Silsbee High School, with the game serving as the district opener for both teams. Silsbee enters the contest at 4-1 overall, while Jasper comes to town with a 2-3 record.

But records tell only a small part of the story when Silsbee and Jasper meet.

The rivalry dates all the way back to 1922, making this year's meeting part of a football tradition now spanning more than a century. Jasper holds the historical edge in the series at 43-38-2, but in recent years the rivalry has belonged overwhelmingly to the Tigers.

Silsbee enters Friday riding a seven-game winning streak against Jasper and has won nine of the last 10 meetings between the two schools. Jasper's last victory over Silsbee came in 2014.

That recent dominance has also extended throughout Head Coach Randy Smith's tenure, as Smith has yet to lose a game against the Bulldogs.

Last year's meeting was another convincing chapter for the Tigers, with Silsbee defeating Jasper 49-14 during the 2025 season.

This time, however, the rivalry carries additional significance.

It's Homecoming Week in Silsbee, meaning the stands are expected to be packed with students, alumni, families and generations of Tiger fans returning home. At the same time, Friday marks the beginning of district competition, where every victory becomes increasingly important in the race toward the postseason.

Silsbee enters district play with momentum.

The Tigers are coming off a 49-30 victory over Stafford, improving their record to 4-1 and giving Silsbee back-to-back wins following its only loss of the season against Nederland.

Silsbee's season began with a dramatic 42-39 overtime victory over Vidor before the Tigers rolled past Worthing 51-0. After falling 28-24 at Nederland, Silsbee responded by shutting out Bridge City 39-0 and then putting 49 points on the board against Stafford. Through five games, the Tigers have scored 205 points while allowing 97.

Several Tigers turned in notable performances against Stafford, with Corde Wilson, Carter Howard and Jakob Love receiving Player of the Game recognition following the victory. Silsbee piled up 296 rushing yards in the win, continuing to show its ability to move the football on the ground.






# Silsbee TIGER PRIDE

Jasper arrives in Silsbee with momentum of its own.

The Bulldogs defeated Center 21-16 in their most recent outing, improving to 2-3. Jasper's other victory came against Lumberton, 14-7. The Bulldogs have also suffered losses against East Chambers, Little Cypress-Mauriceville and Woodville.

Statistically, the matchup could produce an interesting battle in the trenches. Jasper enters averaging 219.6 rushing yards per game, while Silsbee averages 208.6. Overall, however, Silsbee holds the advantage in total offense, averaging 333.6 yards per game compared with Jasper's 313.8.

And while Friday night will ultimately come down to blocking, tackling, execution and avoiding mistakes, there is something about a Silsbee-Jasper game that statistics simply cannot capture.

For decades, players from both communities have grown up understanding what this game means.

Parents remember games from years ago. Grandparents can tell stories about matchups long before today's players were born. Former Tigers will return to the stands remembering when they once wore maroon and white against the same Bulldogs standing across the field Friday night.

That's what happens when a rivalry survives for more than 100 years. Players change. Coaches change. Generations come and go.

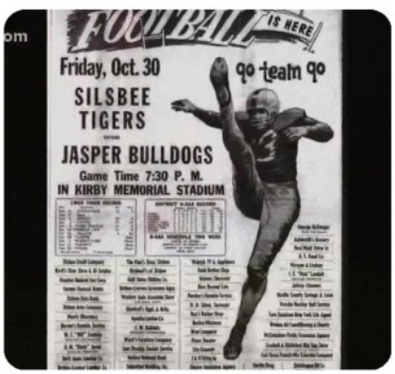
But Silsbee versus Jasper remains.

And for the Tigers, Friday night provides an opportunity to add another chapter to that history — while defending their home field, celebrating Homecoming and beginning the district season with one of the biggest rivalry games on the schedule.

Silsbee has controlled the rivalry in recent years.

Jasper would like nothing more than to end that streak.

And under the Friday night lights in Silsbee, another chapter of a rivalry that began in 1922 is about to be written.



















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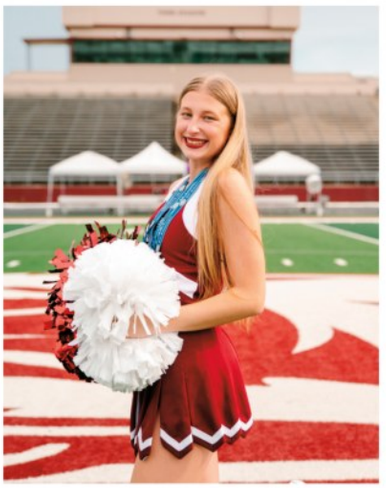
# TIGERS OF THE WEEK

## Sarah PARKER



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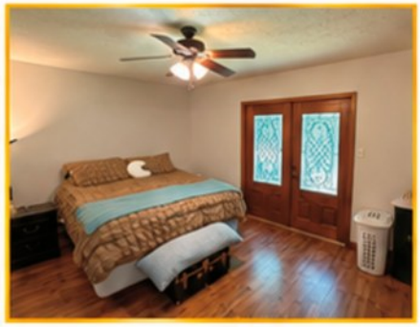
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### THE REMEDY

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### THE ROOT

Garlic has been used medinally for thousands of years. Ancient cultures, including the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, valued it for its medicinal properties.



### THE WHY

Garlic's distinctive compounds, particularly allicin, have demonstrated antibacterial and antimicrobial activity in laboratory studies.

### *The Verdict*

We rate each tale so you know what to believe (or not)!

Garlic has legitimate antimicrobial properties, but putting garlic or garlic oil directly into an infected ear isn't considered a safe or reliable treatment, especially if the eardrum could be perforated. Warmth may provide some temporary comfort, but an actual ear infection may need medical treatment.



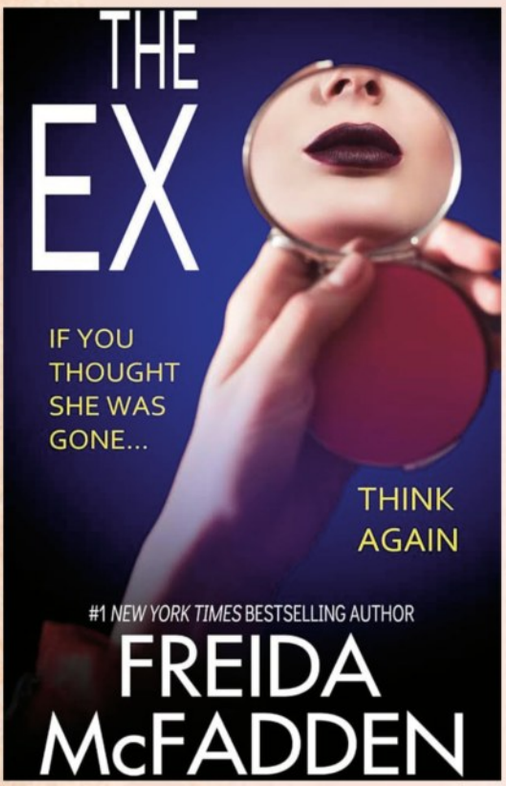
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# The Margins of Life

## The Story We Tell Ourselves




One of the most unsettling things about The Ex by Freida McFadden is how quickly a person can become a villain when we only know one side of the story. Anna believes she understands Liam, Francesca, and the complicated history between them, yet every new piece of information shifts what she thought she knew. What looks obvious from one perspective can feel completely different once another person finally gets the chance to speak.

That idea reaches beyond the mystery itself because real relationships rarely come with a neat narrator explaining what actually happened. We fill in the blanks with assumptions, old grudges, jealousy, and whatever version of events makes the most sense to us. Sometimes we are so convinced that we understand someone's motives that we stop noticing the things that contradict our version of the story. McFadden often plays with that uncertainty in many of her books where the line between victim and villain becomes much harder to see.

Her books also asks how much we really know about the people closest to us. A relationship can have secrets tucked into places we never think to look, and sometimes the person we trust most is the one whose story we have never questioned. That makes the twists hit harder because the biggest surprises are not necessarily the things we discover, but the things we realize we misunderstood.

Maybe the real warning hiding underneath all the murder and manipulation is to be careful about becoming too comfortable with what you've been told. There is always another perspective, another missing piece, or another truth waiting just outside the frame.

## Lemon-Garlic Chicken & Orzo



***INGREDIENTS:***

- 1½ lbs boneless, skinless chicken breasts or thighs, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1½ cups orzo
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 2 tbsp butter
- ½ cup grated Parmesan
- 1 cup spinach, optional
- ½ cup sun-dried tomatoes, chopped, optional

***INSTRUCTIONS:***

1. Season the chicken with salt, pepper, and Italian seasoning.
2. Melt the butter in a large skillet or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook until browned and cooked through, about 6-8 minutes. Remove the chicken and set aside.
3. Add the garlic to the same pan and cook for about 30 seconds.
4. Stir in the orzo and toast it for 1-2 minutes.
5. Pour in the chicken broth and heavy cream. Stir well and bring to a gentle simmer.
6. Cook uncovered for about 10-12 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the orzo is tender and most of the liquid has been absorbed.
7. Stir the chicken back in along with the Parmesan, lemon juice, spinach, and sun-dried tomatoes if using.
8. Let everything cook for another 2-3 minutes until creamy and heated through. Serve warm, preferably with a little extra Parmesan and lemon over the top.

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# Words of Inspiration

ANCIENT CONTEXTS

## "THE CHOIEST OF THEM ALL"

BY: Chris Glenn



LXX Song 6:9: "Who is this, peeping out like the dawn, beautiful like the moon, choicest (***eklektos*** - ἐκλεκτός) like the sun, stupefying like arrayed women?"

Lk 9:35: "Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen (***eklegomai*** - ἐκλέγομαι); listen to him!"

The LXX records King Solomon chose (***eklektos***) his beloved and described her by using a Greek feminine word for "choicest". ***Eklektos*** has the sense of choosing someone because they are the most excellent of the lot—*King Solomon reviewed the field and selected his beloved because she was the most excellent of them all.*

Luke describes Jesus with a masculine Greek word meaning "chosen" (***eklegomai***). Eklegomai has the sense of choosing someone simply for their intrinsic value. With Jesus, there was no 'field', the LORD chose Jesus for Himself simply because of who Jesus was.

The same applies to us who are in Him:

Jn 15:16a: "You did not choose (***eklegomai***) me, but I chose (***eklegomai***) you."

Interestingly, these words share the same root ***legos*** which means to "say" or "tell" and is also the root for ***Logos***.

Choosing someone good leads to *telling* others about who we chose. *This telling is the purpose of creation—John 1.*

*Job 5:20: "[Job's friends] ... who place darkness to light (שמים חשך לאור)...!"*

*Is 17:12: "...[Rebellious leaders] place light near from the face of the darkness (ישימו אור קרוב מפני חשך)."*

***I translated these verses literally to illustrate that the wicked try to overcome light with darkness.***

***But, Jesus beats the darkness with his light:***

*Peshitta John 1:4-5a: "In [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of men. And that light shines in the darkness (nohra b'chashokha menhar)..."*

This verse includes an Aramaic word play because "nohra b'shashokha menhar" is a mirror-reverse of menhar-nohra (menorah) which marks the conception of the light of the world at Hannukah (Feast of Dedication), John 10:22-30.

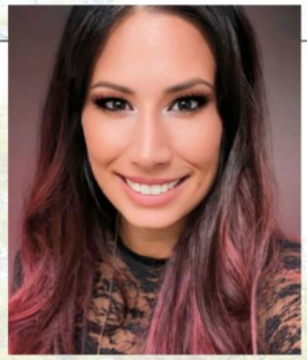
***Placing the light of the menorah in darkness is a direct inversion of placing darkness to the light. This serves as an object lesson for Jesus' physical placement in the world.***

John 1:5b: "...And the darkness did not overtake it."

***The darkness has no chance against the eklegomai one, when we are in Jesus, the darkness has no chance to overtake us regardless of effort.***

# Words of Inspiration

A WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL



## BY: MEGAN D. HARDING

Where Do I Even Start? I've been sick for what feels like forever. For over a month, I did what absolutely had to be done and let everything else wait. Laundry could wait. Floors could wait. Things could pile up because I kept telling myself, I'll deal with it when I feel better. Well, now I'm finally starting to feel better, and apparently "later" has arrived. I look around my house and honestly don't know where to start. There's so much that needs to be cleaned, organized, washed, or put away that sometimes I get overwhelmed and do nothing at all. I'll walk into one room ready to start, notice something that belongs somewhere else, get distracted by another mess, and before long I'm standing there wondering what I was even doing. And while I was looking at the mess, I realized how often we do the same thing with God. Sometimes our spiritual lives get messy too. Maybe we've been exhausted, distracted, hurt, or overwhelmed. Maybe we stopped praying like we used to. Maybe we haven't opened our Bible in a while. Maybe we've let sin, anger, bitterness, or shame creep in. Eventually we look at everything that feels wrong and think, Where do I even start? Sometimes we convince ourselves that before we can really come back to God, we need to clean a few things up first. We need to pray more, do better, stop struggling, get our lives together—and then we'll come back. But nobody waits until they're healthy to go to the doctor. Jesus said in Mark 2:17, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." You don't go to the doctor because you've already healed yourself. You go because you know you need help. Jesus doesn't ask us to heal ourselves before coming to Him either. I think about the prodigal son in Luke 15. He had made a mess of his life. He wasted what his father had given him and ended up somewhere he never expected to be. When he finally decided to go home, he rehearsed everything he was going to say. He thought maybe he could earn his way back in as a servant. But Luke 15:20 says, "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him." The father didn't wait for him to clean himself up. He ran to meet him. That is such a beautiful picture of grace. Jesus also says in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." He doesn't say, "Come when you aren't weary anymore." He calls us while we are tired, overwhelmed, hurting, and carrying more than we know what to do with. Maybe your life feels like my house right now—messy, neglected, and overwhelming. The good news is that you don't have to fix every room today. You just have to start somewhere. Maybe today that means praying for the first time in weeks. Maybe it means opening your Bible again. Maybe it means confessing something you've been hiding. Maybe it simply means whispering, "Jesus, I don't know where to start, but I know I need You." You don't need the entire plan. You just need the next step. And spiritually, the best place to start is always Jesus. Come tired. Come overwhelmed. Come ashamed. Come confused. Come with the mess you don't know how to fix. You don't have to get better before you go to the Doctor. Brewing Faith Thought: Sometimes the first step toward healing isn't cleaning everything up. It's simply turning toward Jesus and saying, "Here I am."

# Bible Verse *of the* Week

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

JOSHUA 1:9

# OBITUARIES & IN MEMORIAM



*Marie Tennison McDonald*

Marie Tennison McDonald, 100, of Silsbee, passed away on Monday, September 28, 2026. Funeral services will be 2:00 PM Saturday, October 10, 2026, at St. John's Episcopal Church. The family will receive friends from 1:00 – 2:00 PM at the church, prior to her services. Arrangements are under the direction of Farmer Funeral Home.

Marie was born in Palestine, Texas, on June 9, 1926, to Lula Mae and Horton Bailey. She spent her childhood in the Palestine and Athens area, where she played on her school's basketball team. After graduating from high school, she worked in Dallas for a time before moving to Houston. There, she met Thomas Merritt Tennison Jr. They married in 1946 and moved to Silsbee, Texas, where the Tennison family had settled in the early 1900s. Together, Marie and Tom built a family and a life that would remain deeply rooted in Silsbee.

Marie was devoted to her community and found many ways to serve others throughout her life. She was a member of the Silsbee Garden Club for 27 years and a and a member of the Silsbee sorority Beta Sigma Phi for 60 years. Through Beta Sigma Phi, she helped support the effort to establish the public library in Silsbee and served on the library board for several terms.

Her commitment to civic life was equally strong. Marie helped organize the Republican Women of Hardin County and served as an election judge many times. She was elected to state conventions numerous times and once served as an alternate delegate to the national convention. She also served as precinct chairman for 12 years.

Marie played an important role in the early days of St. John's Episcopal Church in Silsbee. Although she had not yet been confirmed into the church and therefore was not officially listed as a founding member, she was instrumental in helping the church get started. She commissioned a large stained-glass window depicting her children with Jesus and donated it to the church, where it remains admired from the altar to this day.

Her dedication to children and families was evident long before her own children were grown. She volunteered with the PTA, served as a Cub Scout den mother, and was a Camp Fire leader. She was also the Houston Rodeo Queen in the late 1940s, a reflection of the spirited and adventurous woman she would remain throughout her life.

Marie and Tom gave their family a lifetime of wonderful memories and travels. One memorable summer, they loaded the family station wagon and spent a month driving through Mexico to Acapulco, where other relatives joined them. After their children were grown, Marie and Tom continued to travel extensively and enjoyed life in their motorhome. They made a four-month journey to Alaska, driving the Alcan Highway and returning by ferry down the Pacific coast. They spent many summers between Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico, and Gunnison, Colorado, where Marie enjoyed skiing during the winters there and in Jackson, Wyoming.

Marie loved taking pictures, fishing whenever she could at the family pond, at the beach, and in the rivers of Colorado, and tending her garden. She did much of the lawn care at home until she was in her 90s. In her 60s, she took up running and competed in numerous 5K and 10K races in Silsbee and in the Austin Capital 10,000. She proudly received numerous medals and trophies from her races.

After Tom passed away, Marie continued to embrace life with remarkable independence and courage. She drove her motorhome, pulling a car behind her, and continued spending summers in Colorado. She was fearless in her love of adventure and travel.

In 2004, Marie found love again with William R. McDonald of Silsbee. They were married for 22 happy and full years. Together, they traveled extensively across the United States, flew to Hawaii twice, enjoyed several cruises, and drove their motorhome from Texas to Alaska.

Marie's greatest joy, however, was always her family. She is survived by her children, Patty White of Georgetown, Texas; Ed Tennison (wife Terry) of Austin, Texas; Rita Haley (husband Gary) of Silsbee, Texas; and Janel Stephenson (husband Wes) of Silsbee, Texas; her grandchildren Edward Tennison (wife Denise), Darin Hallam, Gregory Graves, Laura Henderson, Andrew Graves, and Austin Haley (wife Lily); ten great-grandchildren; her stepchildren David McDonald (wife Mittie), Beth Becker (husband Jerome), and Sue Irvin (husband Jon); eight step-grandchildren and many step-great-grandchildren; and her sister Jeannie Grinnell.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

# OBITUARIES & IN MEMORIAM

Marie was preceded in death by her husbands, Tom Tennison and Bill McDonald; her parents, Lula Mae and Horton Bailey; her brothers, George and David Bailey; and her sisters, Fay Carter and Mary Feener.

Marie was blessed to celebrate her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends, a fitting celebration of a life that was long, full, adventurous, and deeply loved. She leaves behind not only a large and loving family but also countless memories of her determination, generosity, curiosity, service, and joy in living.

As Marie and Bill's health declined, they were blessed to be able to stay at home. Our families have been so incredibly grateful for their caregivers, especially Mandi and Neta, who worked around the clock to keep them home and comfortable these past years.

As her family remembers her life, they hold close the words she cherished: from the ending of life to the resurrection of a new existence. Her legacy lives on in the family she loved, the community she served, and the many lives she touched along the way.



*David Ray Kirkindoll, Sr.*

David Ray Kirkindoll, Sr, 67, of Woodville, Texas passed away on Thursday, September 30, 2026. He was born Wednesday, November 26, 1958, to Weldon Kirkindoll and Mary Jo (Poe) Kirkindoll.

David was a hard worker, owning and operating his own plumbing business for many years. He was an outdoorsman that really enjoyed fishing and hunting. He loved his family and friends immensely.

Preceded in death is parents; sister, Patricia Kirkindoll; brother, Weldon Eugene Kirkindoll, and grandson, Isaias Buendia, Jr.

The ones left to cherish his memories are daughter, Dezeray Kirkindoll; son, David Kirkindoll, Jr; grandson Damien Buendia; sisters, Betty Jo Halliburtin, Faye Lidell, along with many nieces and nephews.

David will be missed by the ones that knew and loved him.



*Judith Gill Bodin*

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in Geesey-Ferguson Chapel in Crowley for Judith Stutes Gill Bodin, age 79, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 4, 2026 at her son's residence in Silsbee, Texas, surrounded by her loved ones.

Pastor Christie Brammer will officiate the services. Interment will be at Indian Bayou Community Cemetery in Indian Bayou. Visiting hours will be held on Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.

Judith is survived by her two children, Brenden Gill and wife, Christine, and Kimberly Gill Clewis and husband, L.C.; three grandchildren, Payton Gill, Pressley Gill and Kendall Clewis; one sister, Peggy Cormier; and three nieces.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Albert Morgan Stutes and Geraldine Spell Stutes; one brother, Keith Stutes; and one brother-in-law, Elwood Cormier.

*Want a full copy of your loved one's obituary? Send a email to Satsumavalleystudios@gmail.com to get one for FREE!*

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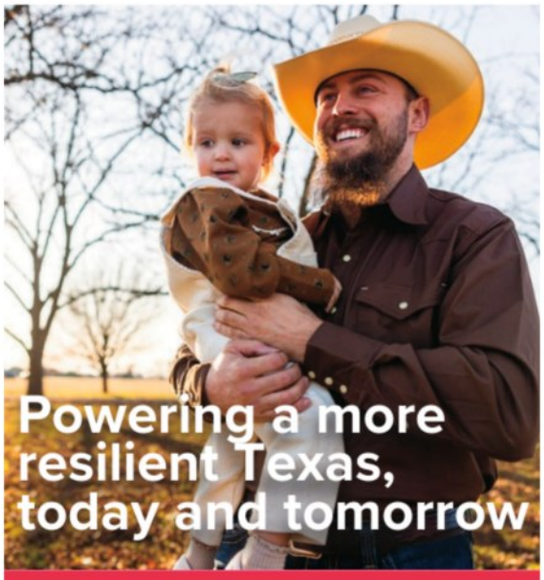


RULING ON THE FIELD



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