



Which RBs are in line for extensions?

SPORTS, 1B

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DC cracks down on homeless camps



A homeless encampment near the Lincoln Memorial is cleared by employees of the city government on Aug. 14 in Washington. WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

Move follows federal takeover of police force

Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Under the blazing sun, people living in homeless encampments in Washington packed up their belongings before authorities moved in with garbage trucks on Aug. 14 as President Donald Trump’s crackdown on the nation’s capital ramped up.

At a camp a few miles from the Lincoln Memorial and the Kennedy Center, about eight people broke down their tents with the help of city workers and homeless advocacy groups.

“(The president) is targeting us and persecuting us,” said David Beatty, a man living in the encampment that Trump posted a photo of on social media Aug. 10. “He wants to take our freedom away.”

The moves came days after Trump assumed federal control of the city’s police department and mobilized the National Guard, declaring a “crime emergency” and vowing to clear homeless people off the streets.

Cities across the United States, including longtime Democratic strongholds such as Los Angeles and San

Francisco, have increased homeless sweeps and encampment closures. A landmark 2024 Supreme Court decision that permitted laws banning people from sleeping outside, even if they have nowhere else to go, led to a broad crackdown in dozens of cities, towns and rural communities nationwide.

This year, the U.S. Park Police has disbanded about 70 encampments from federal parks in the capital, said White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

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Coastal Bend school scores for 2024-25

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USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Across the Corpus Christi region, schools climbed upward in the Texas school accountability system.

The Texas Education Agency released A-F accountability ratings for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years for every public and charter school in the state on Aug. 15.

The 2023-24 ratings had previously been delayed by a lawsuit filed by several Texas school districts. The 2022-23 ratings had also been delayed by a lawsuit alleging a 2022 overhaul of the accountability system lacked transparency but were released last spring.

The new ratings reveal that in the eyes of the state of Texas, most campuses maintained or improved their letter grade. Across the state, only 15% of campuses declined, according to a Texas Education Agency news release.

The ratings are available to the public online at txschools.gov. The website includes demographic information about each school and breaks down how each performed in the three main categories that inform the ratings: student achievement, school progress over time and compared to similar districts, and closing the gaps, which measures how well schools ensure all student groups are successful.

The ratings are based heavily on State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness results. Beginning in third grade, students take assessments in math, reading, science and social studies. Graduation rates and measures of college and career readiness also impact the student achievement category.

The Corpus Christi Independent School District as a whole earned a C rating for student achievement and low B ratings for closing the gaps and school progress for 2024-25. This shakes out to an overall B rating of 81 out of 100, its highest grade in years.

“Our Board of Trustees and I are so very proud of everyone working in and supporting our schools,” Superintendent Roland Hernandez said in a news

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The City Council has backed off defunding the chamber of commerce

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USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The City Council has backed off “defunding” the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, despite tense discussions over the appropriateness of the nonprofit’s involvement with a desalination campaign.

The council had been considering pulling nearly all funding support from the chamber, to include “direct financial expenditure, in-kind services, or uncompensated staff time,” according to a city memo, with few exceptions, such as the South Texas Military Task Force —

which advocates for military operations in the region — and possibly Conquer the Coast, a popular annual cycling event.

The move, should the council have endorsed it, would have prohibited city taxpayer money going to sponsorships, ticket purchases of chamber-affiliated events and providing subsidies for the chamber’s use of city facilities, among other items.

While no action was taken on the item, the council publicly chastised the chamber’s CEO and president, Al Arreola Jr., in an Aug. 12 meeting — in part, condemning a text-based campaign that had encouraged residents to call

two of the nine council members and urge them to vote affirmatively on moving forward with the Inner Harbor desalination plant.

The texts specifically named City Council members Kaylynn Paxson and Eric Cantu, officials said, and were sent only to residents in the districts Cantu and Paxson represent, Districts 3 and 4.

Several council members said they valued the chamber’s opinions but that the method was off-tune.

Cantu and Paxson are both first-time office holders at the council,

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A student walks through a hallway at Calk-Wilson Elementary School in Corpus Christi on Aug. 11.
JOHN OLIVA/CALLER-TIMES

