



# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 13, NO. 20 (#568) THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### Graduation Schedule

**CHANNELVIEW ISD ENDEAVOR HIGH** Graduation will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025, at 7 p.m., at the Bill Neal Center, 828 Sheldon Road in Channelview, TX 77530.

**CHANNELVIEW HIGH SCHOOL** Graduation will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 10 a.m., at the M. O. Campbell Educational Center, 1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032.

**C. E. KING HIGH SCHOOL** Graduation will be held on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at 3 p.m., at the NRG Stadium, One NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

**NORTH SHORE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL** Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 9 a.m., at the NRG Stadium, One NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

**GALENA PARK HIGH SCHOOL** Class of 2025 Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 1 p.m., at the NRG Stadium, One NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

**GPISD CTE EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL** Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. at the NRG Stadium, One NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

## State Releases Ratings of Local School Districts

TEA Ratings: Galena Park B; Channelview C; Sheldon C; List of Schools, Page 2

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

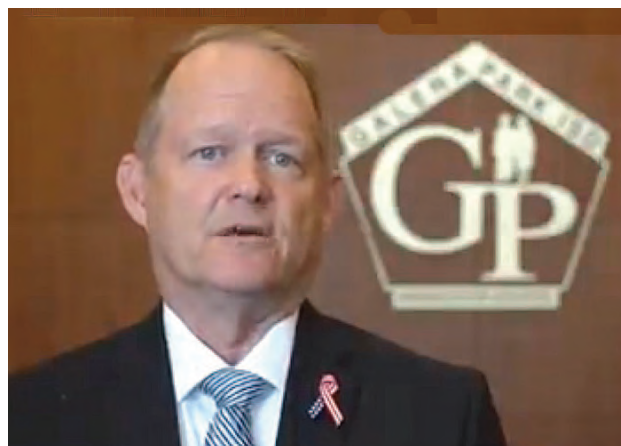
For two years, parents and the public have been denied access to the 2023 A-F accountability ratings for school systems and campuses statewide because of a lawsuit. The judge ruled in favor of Commissioner Mike Morath and Texas Education Agency and released the numbers in late April.

The transparency was a welcome sight for parents who have been kept in the dark for most of that time.

“For far too long, families, educators and communities have been denied access to information about the performance of their schools, thanks to frivolous lawsuits paid for by tax dollars filed by those who disagreed with the statutory goal of raising career readiness expectations to help students,” said Texas Education Commissioner, Mike Morath. “Every Texas family deserves a clear view of school performance, and

now those families finally have access to data they should have received two years ago. Transparency drives progress, and when that transparency is blocked, students pay the price.”

Not so fast, say school districts who joined to file the lawsuit. Most area districts agree to testing changes and raising the bar, but fairly. Area superintendents said TEA failed to deliver the rules for the



GPISD SUPERINTENDENT JOHN MOORE  
Galena Park ISD scored highest of any of the Local School Districts

2023 test until the fall after the test had been administered.

“We were involved with the lawsuit as a school district,” said Sheldon Superintendent Demetrius McCall, Ph.D. “Some of the concerns that the district had, along with many other districts across the state, was how the rules of the game were changed after the game had already been played.”

The lawsuit against

Morath and TEA was in response to them not following the Texas Education Code on when the accountability manual should have been made available to school districts. The approved manual was released on Oct. 31, 2023—several months after the 2022-2023 school year was over.

In addition, TEA changed the rules after students had completed the STAAR/EOC testing for the 2022-2023 school year, applying new methodology to a group of students (Class of 2022) who had already graduated from high school.

One of the biggest changes, said Channelview Superintendent Tory Hill, Ph.D. was related to the college, career and military readiness (CCMR) metric, increasing the required points to earn an “A” from 60 to 88.

“That’s a big difference when it’s half your accountability, or really about 42 percent of your accountability rating,” he

said.

That gave no districts time to meet the new metric, and many were tagged in the 2023 scores.

“CCMR is not just a one-year process,” said Sheldon Superintendent Demetrius McCall, Ph.D.

“It is something that must be built upon by the time a kid enters the eighth grade when they choose their pathway, all the way through the time when they become a high school senior, and we determine which indicator of college career or military readiness did this student earn a point in.”

McCall said it wasn’t that they didn’t want 100 percent of his kid’s college, career or military ready, but there’s always some external factors that may create a challenge for that.

“Now we’re tracking it every step of the way. We have increased our pathways. We’ve also become

Continued. See FULL LIST OF CAMPUS RATINGS, Page 2

## Woodland Acres Elementary Career Day

By Allan Jamail

Woodland Acres Elementary School on May 8, 2025 Principal Sandra Rodriguez, Assistant Principal Alaide Zavala and Counselor Eulises Barahona had their students (The Wildcats) participate in the annual career day event.

Students from all grade levels got to participate and visit the booths of their interest. Booths on Oral Health Education from the Harris County Public Health, Melaleuca, The Wellness Company, Investment & Money Management and The North Channel Star Newspaper were some represented.

Former teachers Kelly Rivera and Ruth Foster loved teaching wellness and keeping the earth healthy to 3rd–5th graders about the dangers of toxic chemicals and

how powerful safe, non-toxic cleaning can be. They showed the students how easy it is to protect their health and the planet with products that actually work. They’ve provided their contact information for those looking to remove harmful chemicals from their homes, ease eczema or respiratory issues, or save money on healthier essentials. Can be reached at: Ruth Foster phone 616-780-9794 & Kelly Rivera phone 281-253-7446. To visit The Wellness Company go to: https://www.melaleuca.com/

Myriam Zambrano Anguiano a registered dental hygienist with a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from Harris County’s Public Health gave students tooth brushes and taught them how to

Continued. See WOODLAND ACRES STUDENTS EXPLORE CAREERS, Page 2



Woodland Acres students learned from Allan Jamail how to be a photojournalist while reading their North Channel Star Newspaper. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

## Cloverleaf shooting, one teen dead, one injured

### Jacinto City Officer on Administrative Leave

By Allan Jamail

On May 8, 2025 Thursday morning about 4 am in the Cloverleaf neighborhood of east Harris County in the 13800 block of Crosshaven Drive residents woke up to sounds of multiple gun shots.

The startled neighbors soon discovered a gunfight had broken out between two groups of teenagers and young adults in their neighborhood. Some witnesses said the shooting started over an argument over a possible stolen cellphone and Instagram games.

According to Harris County sheriff investigators on the shooting scene, a 16- and 17-year-old male fled on foot during or after the shootout. At some

point, they climbed over a fence and entered the backyard of a Jacinto City (JC) off-duty officer. It’s been said one or both of the fleeing teens attempted to enter the back of the officer’s home, prompting the officer to fire.

One report given said the officer shot because the deceased victim was trying to enter his back door, and the awakened officer said he feared for his and his family’s life is why he fired his gun.

The 17-year-old was killed and the 16-year-old was injured and is in stable condition.

Jacinto City Police Chief Joe Ayala said, “I got a call at about 4:18 am from one of my off-duty officers who said he was involved in a shooting at his home.” The

officer has been with the department since 2016 and has never fired his gun at anyone before.

Chief Ayala said anytime an officer discharges his service firearm they must file a report detailing why they fired their gun. At the deadline for this story he doesn’t know the details until the officer files his report and the HCSO finishes their investigation.

“The officer involved was put on administrative leave pending the final outcome of the case. My department’s Internal Affairs Committee is conducting the department’s investigation into the incident,” Chief Ayala said.

The Harris County Sheriff Office (HCSO) Homicide Division is in con-

trol of the investigation and once they’ve completed their investigation it will be turned over to the Harris County District Attorney’s office.

HCSO Major Ben Kartrib in his news conference said investigators will be trying to determine whose

gun was it that shot and killed the teen since both of the two groups exchanged shots at each other and the officer fired his gun too.

Investigators took all the weapons from the scene including the officer’s gun so ballistic tests

can be performed to determine which gun actually killed the youth.

One person said his neighbor Mr. Lee on Crosshaven Drive had a stray bullet go through the

Continued. See TEENAGER FATALLY SHOT, Page 2

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## Teenage gunfight in Cloverleaf leads to tragic shooting by off-duty officer,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wall of his home, he found the stray bullet and pieces of sheetrock lying on his bed. Windows of another home was shot out, residents in the area said they're afraid to go to sleep at night with so many disturbances happening.

Mr. Arron Garza a nearby resident I spoke with said, "I moved here 16 years ago and this was a quiet peaceful neighborhood. I raised two boys



Interior sheetrock wall where the stray bullet from the gunfight in Cloverleaf pierced it and entered a neighbor's home near the shooting.

here who became engineers and my daughter who's a banker. But now many of those residents back then have moved away and new people are moving in and out of the neighborhood. Our neighborhood is no longer as quiet and people are not as friendly as it used to be."

## Woodland Acres students explore future careers at annual day event,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Former teachers Kelly Rivera (left) and Ruth Foster (center) teaching wellness and keeping the earth healthy to 3rd-5th graders at Woodland Acres Elementary. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Woodland Acres Wildcat students learning dental hygiene. Adults standing L - R: Counselor Eulises Barahona, Assistant Principal Alaide Zavala & Hygienist Myriam Zambrano Anguiano (Photo by Allan Jamail)

## TEA Ratings of Local School Districts and Campuses,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Texas Education Agency Accountability Ratings 2022-2023

CHANNELVIEW ISD SCHOOL	GRADE	OVERALL SCORE	76 out of 100
Aguirre Junior High	6 - 8	B	
Alice Johnson Junior High	6 - 8	C	
B. H. Hamblen Elementary	K - 5	B	
Channelview High School	9 - 12	C	
Crenshaw Elementary	K - 5	D	
De Zavala Elementary	K - 5	C	
Early Childhood Center	EE - PK	C	
Endeavor High School	9 - 12	A	
Harvey S. Brown Elementary	K - 5	C	
McGhee Elementary	K - 5	B	
McMullan Elementary	K - 5	D	

GALENA PARK ISD SCHOOL	GRADE	OVERALL SCORE	85 out of 100
Cimarron Elementary	PK - 5	B	
Cloverleaf Elementary	PK - 5	F	
Cobb 6th Grade Campus	6	B	
Cunningham Middle School	7 - 8	B	
Dr. Shirley J. Williamson Elementary	EE - 5	C	
Galena Park Elementary	PK - 5	B	
Galena Park High School	9 - 12	B	
Galena Park ISD Career & Technical	9 - 12	A	
Green Valley Elementary	EE - 5	C	
Highpoint School East (DAEP)	8 - 12	Not Rated	
Jacinto City Elementary	EE - 5	B	
James B. Havard Elementary	PK - 5	C	
MacArthur Elementary	PK - 5	B	
Normandy Crossing Elementary	PK - 5	B	
North Shore Elementary	PK - 5	B	
North Shore Middle School	7 - 8	A	
North Shore Senior High School	9 - 12	B	
Purple Sage Elementary	PK - 5	D	
Pyburn Elementary	PK - 5	B	
Sam Houston Elementary	PK - 5	B	
Tice Elementary	PK - 5	A	
Woodland Acres Elementary	PK - 5	B	
Woodland Acres Middle School	6 - 8	A	

SHELDON ISD SCHOOL	GRADE	OVERALL SCORE	73 out of 100
C. E. King High School	9 - 12	C	
C. E. King Middle School	6 - 8	D	
Garrett Elementary	1 - 5	D	
H. M. Carroll Elementary	1 - 5	B	
High Point East	9 - 12	Not Rated	
Kase Academy	9 - 12	B	
L. E. Monahan	1 - 5	D	
Michael R. Null Middle School	6 - 8	D	
Royalwood Elementary	1 - 5	C	
Sheldon Early Childhood Academy	EE - K	C	
Sheldon Elementary	1 - 5	C	
Sheldon Lake Elementary	1 - 5	C	
Stephanie Cravens Early Childhood	EE - K	C	

brush their teeth and how often they needed to brush in order to have healthy teeth. To visit the services available of Harris County Public Health go to: [HCPHTX.ORG](https://HCPHTX.ORG)

Allan Jamail represented the North Channel Star

Newspaper. He taught students how to become a photographer and or a photojournalist. Students were given newspapers of recent news stories which many of them were so fascinated by the articles they stopped their tour and sat

down to read their newspapers. (see photo) To visit the North Channel Star go to: [www.northchannelstar.com](https://www.northchannelstar.com)  
To learn more about the Woodland Acres Elementary School go to: <https://www.galenaparkisd.com/Domain/23>

## TEA Releases Ratings of Local School Districts and Campuses,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

very knowledgeable about providing opportunities for our students to be college career or military ready, and those percentages have gone up every single year since then," he explained.

In addition, the new STAAR 2.0 was mandated to be taken online with an expectation that students in third grade and older would have expertise in manipulating online tools including drag-and-drop, graphing, drop-down menus, highlighting and keyboarding for extended and short constructed responses on the exam.

Those expectations resulted in the scores attributed to the 2023 test released just a couple of weeks ago.

Districts, in the past, were typically given a "grace" year to make adjustments to curriculum

for the new standards. That also didn't happen.

Galena Park ISD fell from an A district to a B district, but Superintendent John Moore, Ph.D., said they will right the ship.

"It takes about three years to fix CCMR, but we'll be back to that A status again in the next couple of years," he said.

Moore said the last two years were a guessing game trying to find out exactly how they performed.

"This last year (2024) we believe our numbers will be an 87. We'll see how we did this year in August," he said.

Each area district has made changes to adapt to the new testing standard and hopes those numbers will show in August.

"I'm certainly optimistic that we're headed in the right direction," McCall

said. "We have, over the last two years, done some things to help our students be prepared for just every-day tier one instruction that will better prepare them, not just for this test, but also for the new level of rigor that is required for them to be successful," he said.

The A-F accountability system was established in 2017 by the 85th Texas Legislature through House Bill (HB) 22 to provide clear and consistent information on how schools are performing in three key areas: Student Achievement, School Progress and Closing the Gaps.

To view 2023 A-F ratings for school systems and campuses, visit [TXschools.gov](https://TXschools.gov).

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The agency remains prohibited from issuing 2024 ratings due to ongoing legal action.*

In North Shore, nearly everyone reads the  
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**CHARLOTTE'S WEB**  
By Charlotte Jackson 

## Sheldon ISD Names 2025 Teachers of the Year

At the 2025 Sheldon Stars Employee Banquet, Sheldon ISD celebrated the achievements of more than 60 employees, including the naming of Teacher of the Year. The 2024-25 Elementary Teacher of the Year is Luz Cruz from Sheldon Elementary, and the Secondary Teacher of the Year is Octavia Gilshenan from King High School. The district Teachers of the Year were selected by their campus and a committee of administrators.



In addition to naming the Teachers of the Year, Sheldon ISD honored district retirees for more than 490 years of service in education, principals of the year, campus teachers of the year, campus rookies of the year and support services paraprofessional employees of the year.

**Sheldon ISD's campus Teachers of the Year are listed below:**

Cravens Early Childhood Academy, Islyle Sanchez  
Sheldon Early Childhood Academy, Teheerah Shannon

Carroll Elementary, Renita Toney  
Garrett Elementary, LaFredrick Smith  
Monahan Elementary, Denissia James  
Royalwood Elementary, Romeo Ramirez III  
Sheldon Elementary, Luz Cruz  
Sheldon Lake Elementary, Claudia Bueno  
King Middle School, Tammy Baty-Rice  
Null Middle School, Destiny Barr  
King 9th Grade Campus, Donald Sanders III  
KASE Academy, Masha Weston  
Early College High School, Ivan Muller Sierra  
King High School, Octavia Gilshenan

## The Price Adults Pay

If you ask five people about technology, you will get mixed comments. There are those who use it daily and are very comfortable in handling most of their business online. There are people with busy schedules and limited to go grocery shopping or shopping in general. There is an increasing number of items that you can find in local stores, so you turn to online shopping. Financial institutions offer more service today than ever yet, with fewer employees. Oftentimes we find gifts, directions and much more online.

But have you thought about the price that Senior Adults are paying? As most of you are aware, I work in a position where I speak to roughly six hundred local Senior Adults weekly. I also serve on the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature and hear stories from around the state of the obstacles that Seniors are facing.

One of the most frustrating is when a Senior needs something and they call Customer Service, only to be told "Visit us online" Can you imagine how frustrating this is for them? Often, they do not have a computer or table, they do not know how to use the features on a smart phone and sadly, many do not have anyone to help explain processes to them of being online.

Two of the most horrific situations I have been made aware of have to do with paying their rent and getting information on their incarcerated loved ones.

Many apartment properties have transitioned to "Resident Portals" where residents can go online and see how much their rent will be for the next month. For those unaware, renting an apartment has changed much over the past few years. Each month, residents are billed for water usage as well as other services which can vary monthly. Imagine if you are not computer literate and you stop by the office to find out the amount due and the Management Company charges you a \$4.00 fee to print out your statement. Then you go to your financial institution and are charged for purchasing a Money Order or Cashier's Check to take back to the office only to be told there is a \$15 handling fee for not paying online. Oh, I forgot to mention that mention that many of our Senior Adults no longer drive, so they are having to pay for a rideshare program such as Lyft or Uber to get to the and from purchasing their payment.

Then we have the second most common issue with Senior Adults in Texas. At some point in late 2023 or early 2024, someone within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice came up with the idea to reduce the number of mailroom employees, reduce the chance of inmates receiving contraband items in the mail and they issued tablets to all incarcerated individuals at state prisons. Before you listen to others who tell you that inmates are stalking online people, using social media and other rumors, please know that the inmate must pay to do anything other than read emails sent from their family and friends. (So, the loved ones must send money, with a processing fee, to a third-party company for the tablet to be of any use, including responding to their email from home.)

Imagine, your son is in prison serving a life sentence. Just shy of your 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, you decide that you need to write him a letter letting him know you forgive him for his actions as well as for disgracing the family name. It takes time to get it written and mailed. You wait patiently for a response. The day before the father turned 90, they received the letter back in the mail. The enemy is always trying to hurt us, and I am blessed that the wife mentioned the letter ordeal to me. I asked which address they had sent the letter to. She said that they mailed it to the unit he is at. I explained that TDCJ now requires all mail to go to a processing center in the Dallas area. At that point, they scan the letters and email them to the inmate. This precious couple was relieved as they had thought maybe he rejected the letter.

We need to be kind to others. If you know a Senior Citizen, please help them learn about technology. Share my information with them and I will help them. We need to be there for those who have been there for us.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM



## Diamond Jim: "What can you tell us about the Gem Tourmaline?"

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### Tourmaline History and Lore

Somewhere in Brazil in the 1500s, a Spanish conquistador washed the dirt from a green tourmaline crystal and confused the vibrant gem with emerald. His confusion lived on until scientists recognized tourmaline as a distinct mineral species in the 1800s. The confusion about the stone's identity is even reflected in its name, which comes from toramalli, which means "mixed gems" in Sinhalese (a language of Sri Lanka). It's a term Dutch merchants applied to the multicolored, water-worn pebbles that miners found in the gem gravels of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). It's easy to understand why people so easily confuse tourmaline with other gems: Very few gems match tourmaline's dazzling range of colors. From rich reds to pastel pinks and peach colors, intense emerald greens to vivid yellows and deep blues, the breadth of this gem's color range is unrivaled. Brazilian discoveries in the 1980s and 1990s heightened tourmaline's appeal by bringing intense new hues to the marketplace. People have probably used tourmaline as a gem for centuries, but until the development of modern mineralogy, they identified it as some other stone (ruby, sapphire, emerald, and so forth) based on its coloring.

One of the earliest reports of tourmaline in California was in 1892. In the late 1800s, tourmaline became known as an American gem through the efforts of Tiffany gemologist George F. Kunz. He wrote about the tourmaline deposits of Maine and California, and praised the stones they produced. In spite of its American roots, tourmaline's biggest market at the time was in China. Much of the pink and red tourmaline from San Diego County in California was shipped to China because the Chinese Dowager Empress Tzu Hsi was especially fond of the color. There, craftsmen carved the tourmaline into snuff bottles and other pieces to be set in jewelry. San Diego County's famed tourmaline mines include the Tourmaline Queen, Tourmaline King, Stewart, Pala Chief, and Himalaya. The miners became so dependent on Chinese trade that when the Chinese government collapsed in 1912, the US tourmaline trade also collapsed. The Himalaya mine stopped producing large volumes of gemstones. Other mines in San Diego County, like the Stewart Lithia mine at Pala, still produce sporadic supplies of gem-quality tourmaline.

Content and photo courtesy of the Gemological Institute of America (GIA)

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

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

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

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OPINION PAGE

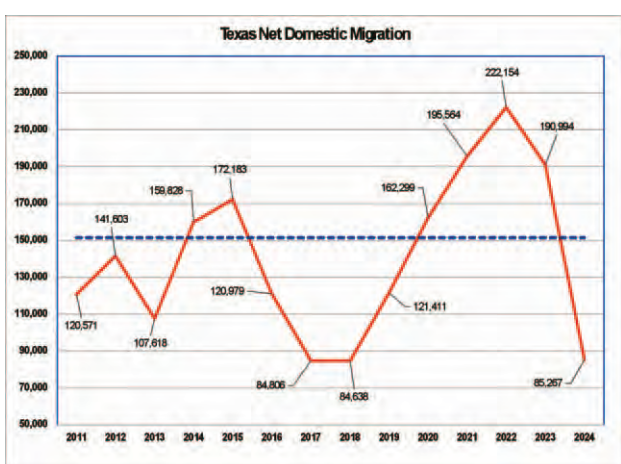
OPINION

By BILL KING



People Moving to Texas was reduced by Half Last Year

Recently, the Houston Chronicle ran a story about a report from Empowering American Cities on Texas' strong prospects for growth. The report's conclusion is largely based on the robust migration of people to Texas from other states. Indeed, in 2024, the U.S. Census estimated that 85,267 more people moved into Texas from other states than left Texas for another state. Texas had the largest gain of any state in 2024. In contrast, California lost 240,000 residents to domestic migration.



What the report and the story fail to mention, however, is that net domestic migration in 2024 for Texas was less than half of what it was in 2023 (191,000), and at the lowest level since 2018. Here are the numbers going back to 2011.

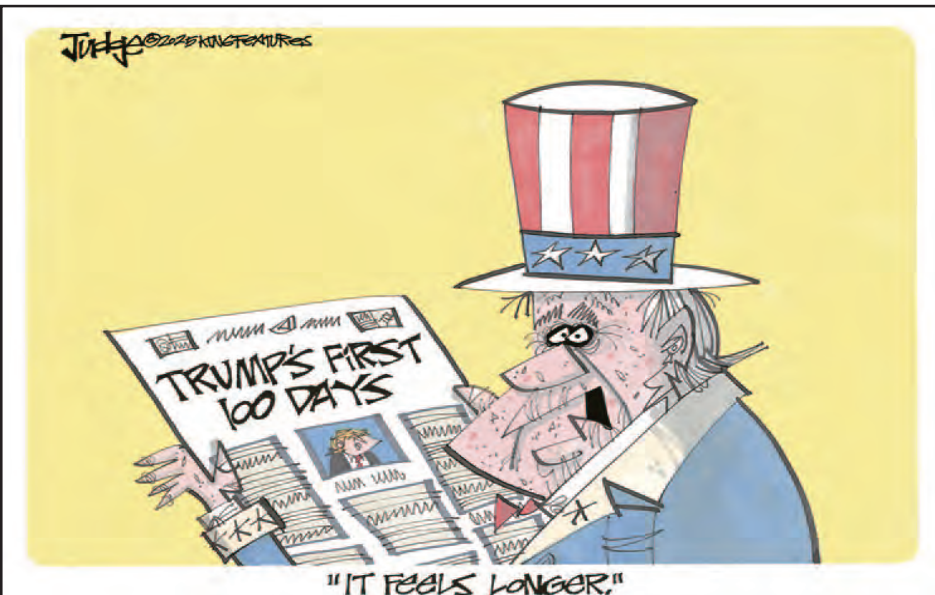
As you can see, the number varies significantly from year to year. This appears to be primarily correlated with economic conditions, and in Texas, that means the energy business. For example, the downturn in oil prices from 2014 to 2016 may well have caused the slowdown in migration during 2017 and 2018. This Dallas Federal Reserve analysis in 2019 mentions the conditions in the oil market but also cites a number of other reasons for the 2017-2018 slowdown.

I talked to the demographers at the Texas Demographic Center, Texas' official demographer, about the drop in 2024. They think it probably involves one-time factors, like high interest rates making it harder to move. They expect the rate to recover in the coming years and have based their projections on that. However, I spoke with them before the economic chaos of the last three months. I am a bit more skeptical about a quick recovery in the rate.

One long-term trend that should temper our expectations is that we are getting older. The median age in the U.S. has increased from about 35 to nearly 40 since 2000, and it is only expected to rise further. The older we become, the less likely we are to pick up and move across the country. Therefore, total domestic migration will almost certainly decline over time.

I have learned from my research to always try to contextualize statistics. 85,000 people moving into Texas sounds like a big number, and it is. But when you compare that to 191,000 the year before and a ten-year average of over 150,000, it should make you ask some questions.

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, 5906 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



House Bill Proposes New Standardized Test

A Texas House bill would eliminate the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness test and replace it with a test comparing students' performance to one another rather than state-set standards, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

House Bill 4 would also create benchmark tests to measure students' academic performance throughout the year.

Superintendents from across the state testified in support of HB4 at a committee hearing last week. The bill was unanimously approved in committee and sent to the House floor.

The bill's sponsor is state Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado. He said testing would require a quick turnaround to give parents and teachers faster feedback about student performance.

"I want that experience and the ability for their teachers to deliver that information back to moms and dads so that we can get that type of support, because the teachers can't do it alone," Buckley said.

The existing STAAR test has become a flashpoint for many school districts, prompting numerous lawsuits and complaints that the existing system overpenalizes districts with less than optimal test scores.

ANTISEMITISM BILL EASILY CLEARS HOUSE

A bill overwhelmingly passed by the House would require school districts to use a common but controversial definition of antisemitism, according to The Texas Tribune. Only two legislators opposed the measure.

The legislation came in response to pro-Palestinian protests held on Texas college campuses after the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas, and that country's subsequent - and ongoing - military response.

State Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake, guided the bill, which has already passed the Senate, through the lower chamber. He assured his colleagues it would not lead to students being punished for constitu-



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

tionally-protected speech.

"Students are not going to be punished for voicing their views on Middle East policy or debating the history of Zionism. That is well within their rights," the Southlake Republican said.

State Rep. Christian Manuel, D-Port Arthur, was one of two who voted against the bill.

"I just think it goes too broad, and I hate to say this, I think it's too un-American," Manuel said.

HOUSE PASSES BILL BANNING MINORS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

The House easily approved a measure that would penalize social media companies for allowing under-aged youth to use their platforms, The News reported. The bill, which now goes to the Senate for consideration, would require tech companies to verify a user's age when creating a social media account.

"Social media companies don't care about what content they're feeding you and your children," sponsor Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, said. "Rather, they want you hooked on their content."

Users would have to submit government IDs to verify ages, according to the proposal.

CLARIFYING ABORTION BILL UNANIMOUSLY PASSES SENATE

A bill that would allow doctors to intervene and provide abortions to pregnant women in medical emergencies has unanimously cleared the Senate, The News reported.

The existing law includes an exception for pa-

tients with a "life-threatening physical condition" but requires the doctor performing the procedure to provide "the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive." It has created widespread confusion among medical providers.

However, the bill appears to face an uphill hurdle in the House. A similar bill was filed by state Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, but has not received a vote in committee.

VOTERS LIKELY TO DECIDE FATE OF WATER BILL MEASURE

Voters likely will be asked to approve spending \$1 billion annually to address the state's water shortage, The Tribune reported. A Senate version is more prescriptive than the House in how that money would be spent, and the two measures will have to be reconciled before it goes to Gov. Greg Abbott for his signature.

According to Texas 2036, the state needs to invest at least \$154 billion over the next half-century on water supply projects and upgrades to existing infrastructure. Perry Fowler, executive director of the Texas Water Infrastructure Network, was pleased by the bipartisan support for the bill.

"We're optimistic that a reasonable and balanced funding approach will prevail," Fowler said. "One that empowers the Texas Water Development Board to support the full range of vital programs eligible."

MEASLES OUTBREAK RISES TO 683

The measles outbreak in Texas has risen to 683 cases, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Nearly 400 of those cases have been in Gaines County, on the New Mexico border. A total of 89 patients have been hospitalized, with two fatalities reported.

In nearly all the reported cases, the patient was not vaccinated. The two-dose MMR vaccine is considered to be the most effective prevention tool against measles.

\$800K IN DIMES SPILL ON STATE HIGHWAY

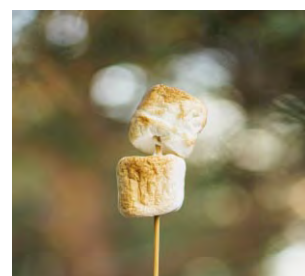
Brother, can you spare a dime? How about 8 million of them? That is how many ended up on a Texas highway after an 18-wheeler carrying about \$800,000 in freshly minted dimes spilled when the driver rolled his trailer onto its side last week in Wise County, near Alvord High School.

U.S. 81/Highway 287 was shut down for several hours while crews uncovered the loose change, using shovels, vacuum cleaners, street sweepers, and their hands.

"I saw a truck flipped over, I was like, 'What's going on?'" eyewitness Sebastian Vasquez told WFAA-TV. "I almost came out here with a bucket so I can fill it up with some dimes."

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

The Second Marshmallow



You've probably heard about the Stanford marshmallow test. A group of young children, about four years old, were told they could have a marshmallow right now or wait and get a second marshmallow. The experiment was supposed to test the child's ability to delay gratification and be a predictor of how well they would do in the future.

The test has its critics. Some say that self-discipline develops later. Some say that the subjects in the test were not typical four-year-olds. Still, by and large, folks seem to agree that the ability to wait for the things we want is a positive trait that helps us achieve our goals.

I've been thinking about the marshmallow test off and on for years, ever since I heard about it. I am positive I would have waited for the second marshmallow. In fact, I think there's a good chance, when the second one arrived, I would have let that one sit as well, thinking I could be the first four-year-old in history to be awarded three marshmallows. Of course, I now realize that, instead of getting a third marshmallow, all the other kids would enjoy their marshmallows, the researchers would turn off the lights and leave, and I'd be left alone in the room until the janitor showed up.

Lately, I've been wondering what would happen if, instead of giving the test to four-year-olds, we brought in subjects over 50 and asked them if they would like one marshmallow now or would wait for two. I'm guessing the results would be different.

First of all, the older participants might be thinking about their waistlines. They might be calculating the calories in a marshmallow and thinking they better stop with one. They might be short on time. You get to be older, and you're not sure how long you have left. Do you want to spend it sitting around in some psychology lab all day, in hopes of a bonus marshmallow?

Or they might just decide that they had enough treats—maybe more than enough. They might eat that marshmallow and say, "Great marshmallow! I gotta go!" because they are honestly happy with one marshmallow.

This is why I still think about that test. How long do I wait for a good thing to happen, and when is it time to realize that now—right now—is what I've been waiting for? When do I decide that what was appropriate for a four-year-old may not make sense for me today?

I shared this idea with a friend. I thought she might be delaying her enjoyment unnecessarily. I suggested she had already passed the marshmallow test and, like me, would always be waiting for another marshmallow.

"I know," she sighed. "And I don't even like marshmallows!"

Right now, I am busy revising a book and rehearsing a show, and neither one will come to fruition until next year. As usual, I remind myself that marshmallows come to those who delay gratification. But I also realize that I have one advantage those four-year-olds didn't.

I know that I am happy—right here, right now, before the book is out or a single show has been performed. I know that—even if they run out of marshmallows—I will continue to have a very fine life without any kind of reward. I wouldn't have known any of that when I was four.

I am enjoying myself today, waiting for my marshmallow. I am enjoying the process, enjoying the sunshine coming in through the windows, even enjoying the sight of everyone else eating marshmallows.

Till next time, Carrie

Top Ten Largest States in the U.S. BY AREA. 1. Alaska 665,384 sq. mi. 2. Texas 268,596 sq. mi. 3. California 163,695 sq. mi. 4. Montana 147,040 sq. mi. 5. New Mexico 121,590 sq. mi. 6. Arizona 113,990 sq. mi. 7. Nevada 110,572 sq. mi. 8. Colorado 104,094 sq. mi. 9. Oregon 98,379 sq. mi. 10. Wyoming 97,813 sq. mi. Source: Britannica

HIGHLANDS CROSBY Star Courier USPS 244-500 Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS NORTH CHANNEL STAR. Editor & Publisher: Gilbert Hoffman. Associate Publisher: Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman. Managing Editor: David Taylor. Assignment Editor: Julieta Paita. Website Editor: Kristan Hoffman. Production Manager: Gerardo Hernandez.

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From Left, Lorraine Bracco, Brenda Vaccaro, Susan Sarandon and Talia Shire stars in "Nonnas."

"Nonnas."

"Another Simple Favor" (R) — Director Paul Fieg's sequel to his 2018 success "A Simple Favor," starring Anna Kendrick ("Woman of the Hour") and Blake Lively ("It Ends with Us"), is out now! The two leading actresses reprise their roles from the first film — a miracle in itself considering that Kendrick is rumored to despise her co-star, Lively, who's been in some heat recently due to her lawsuits against "It Ends with Us" director Justin Baldoni. But their professionalism (or Kendrick's, at least) carried them through well enough to play Stephanie and Emily again respectively. This time around, Emily is fresh out of prison and getting married to a

wealthy mobster named Dante Versano (Michele Morrone). Clearly not learning from her past, Stephanie accepts Emily's invitation to be her maid of honor in Capri, Italy. Surely, a little party never killed anybody! (Amazon Prime Video) "Nonnas" (PG) — This heartwarming comedy film led by Vince Vaughn ("Bad Monkey") is the equivalent of getting served a freshly baked-to-perfection lasagna made directly from the kitchen of an Italian grandmother. Based on the life of Joe Scaravella, owner of the restaurant Enoteca Maria in Staten Island, New York, the film follows Joe (Vaughn) after losing his mother. Inspired by her and his

nonna's family recipes, Joe decides to open up a restaurant with the catch being that he'll only hire Italian grandmothers to cook the food. Watch as a simple restaurant venture turns into the most memorable and cherished moment of his lifetime. Lorraine Bracco ("The Sopranos"), Susan Sarandon ("The Six Triple Eight"), Talia Shire (the "Rocky" series), and Brenda Vaccaro ("And Just Like That ...") are our lovely "Nonnas." Out now. (Netflix)

In Case You Missed It

"Logan Lucky" (PG-13) — You might've checked out director Steven Soderbergh's latest film "Black Bag," starring Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbender, which recently released on streaming services after its run in theaters. If Soderbergh's sleek and action-packed direction keeps you intrigued, his heist-comedy film from 2017 might be up your alley! It follows the strapped-for-cash Logan siblings — Clyde, Jimmy and Mel — in West Virginia and their plan to pull off a heist during the Coca-Cola 600 NASCAR race on Memorial Day weekend. The cast is comprised of magnetic actors who absolutely nail the West Virginian accent, like Channing Tatum ("Blink Twice"), Adam Driver ("Ferrari"), Daniel Craig ("Queer"), and Riley Keough ("Daisy Jones & the Six"). Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo



Ryan Gosling (Upcoming in "Project Hail Mary")

HOLLYWOOD — Ryan Gosling is joining forces with "Deadpool & Wolverine" director Shawn Levy for "Star Wars: Starfighter," which goes into production this fall for a May 2027 release. Gosling needs a hit after "The Fall Guy," which only made \$181 million and cost \$150 million to make. Then he followed it with "The Actor," for which he served as executive producer after dropping out of the leading role. Despite receiving 62 favorable reviews from 100 critics, it only managed \$42,753 in grosses. His next film is Amazon MGM Studios' "Project Hail Mary," which is due on March 20, 2026.

Five-time Oscar winning director Francis Ford Coppola has directed 23 films, including 1972's "The Godfather" (considered by many as one of the best films ever made), "The Godfather: Part II" (1974), and "The Godfather: Part III" (1990). The trilogy amassed about \$500 million. However, his latest effort, "Megalopolis," which he financed with his own wine-making money (\$120 million), was not a box-office hit, despite half of 300 critics' reviews being favorable. It only grossed \$14.3 million of its \$120 million cost.

But Coppola still has reason to celebrate! On April 26, the American Film Institute bestowed on him their highest honor — their 50th anniversary Life Achievement Award, one of the greatest honors of all time. George Lucas and Steven Spielberg presented him with the award, while Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Harrison Ford, Morgan Freeman, Dustin Hoffman, Ron Howard, Spike Lee, Diane Lane, C. Thomas Howell, and Ralph Macchio, among others, sang his praises.

The airdate for the telecast will be June 17 on TNT at 10 p.m. ET, and an encore will air on July 31 on Turner Classic Movies at 8 p.m. ET.

The transition from Chris Evans' Captain America to Anthony Mackie's Captain America wasn't a smooth one. Evans' "Captain America: Civil War" (2016) grossed \$1.155 billion, while Mackie's "Captain America: Brave New

World" only managed to gross \$415 million.

Understandably, Marvel doesn't want to take chances with "Thor 5" and are taking great care with crafting the screenplay. Previous "Thor" director Taika Waititi is not returning, and Chris Hemsworth has let it be known that he hopes future installments of "Thor" are drastically different in tone, which could lead to Marvel closing the book on Thor. After all, Hemsworth, at 41, may feel like he's getting too old to swing that mighty hammer around.

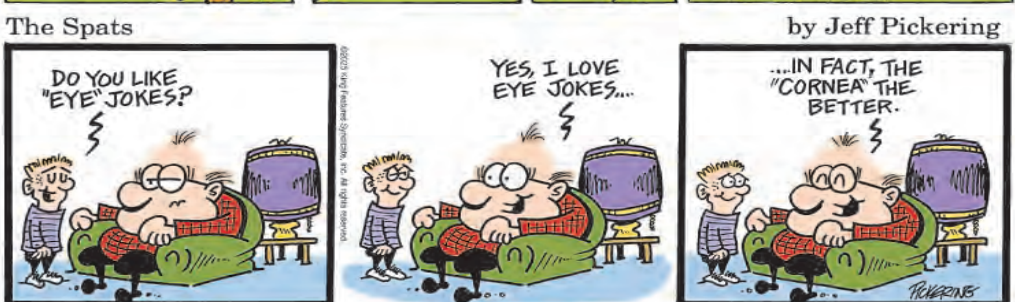
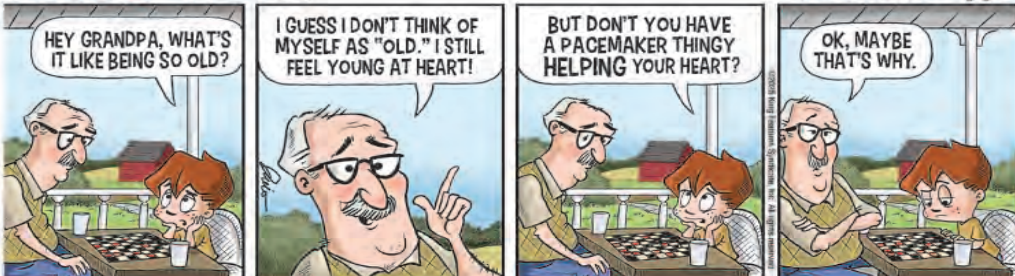
Hemsworth's next film is "Stuntnuts: The Movie," co-starring Oscar winner Sam Rockwell. Meanwhile, his shooting schedule for "Avengers: Doomsday" falls between April and August in England. He's also working for Amazon MGM Studios in the film adaption of the novella "Crime 101" by Don Winslow. It also boasts Mark Ruffalo, Barry Keoghan, Halle Berry and Nick Nolte for a 2026 release.

You can be sure Hemsworth will be playing Thor as long as audiences want him. Whatever their creative differences, they'll hammer it out; no one is showing Thor the door!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. HOO BOY!

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

May 12, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues.

Answers for King Crossword. 1. Swedish car, 2. Do sums, 3. Gym pads, etc.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 1. MOVIES: What is the name of Han Solo's ship in the "Star Wars" series? 2. TELEVISION: What is Ray Barone's job on the sitcom "Everybody Loves Raymond"?

1. Millennium Falcon; 2. Sports writer; 3. Edgar Allan Poe, who wrote the poem "The Raven"; 4. Fear of gators; 5. Dorothy L. Sayers; 6. Knight; 7. A pinky or pup; 8. Ribonucleic Acid; 9. Lyndon Johnson; 10. Urna Minor (The Little Dipper)

# Sheldon ISD Celebrates New Building with Topping Out Celebration



On April 29, Sheldon ISD administrators, partners and community celebrated the final beam placement to the 9th and 10th Grade Campus at the Topping Out ceremony. The celebration included remarks from Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall, the 9th Grade Campus principal Mr. Jeralyn Kannady, future students to attend the campus as well as project managers, contractors and architects. The team includes Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Huckabee Architects; and Satterfield and Pontikes Construction. Following the conclusion of the ceremony, attendees were able to sign the beam.

"Your names will forever be part of this school's foundation," said Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall. "This beam carries more than signatures - it carries our collective commitment to excellence. We are OneSheldon!"

The school will open in August 2026 and is part of the 2022 Bond Referendum that also provided additional security measures, building additions and technology enhancements.

### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

Attention Private Non-Profit Schools, Home Schoolers, Parents, and Community Members in the Sheldon Independent School District

Private, non-profit schools, who legally qualify as a non-profit (currently hold a 501-C3 certificate), home schoolers, parents, and community members are invited to participate in a meeting with representatives from the Sheldon Independent School District to learn more about federally funded programs and services available for the 2025-2026 school year. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Tacarra Williams, Director of Federal Programs & Grants for Sheldon ISD at (281) 727-2096.

Atención a las escuelas privadas sin fines de lucro, los educadores en el hogar, los padres y los miembros de la comunidad en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sheldon

Las escuelas privadas, sin fines de lucro, que califican legalmente como una organización sin fines de lucro (actualmente tienen un certificado 501-C3), educadores en el hogar, padres y miembros de la comunidad están invitados a participar en una reunión con representantes del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sheldon para obtener más información sobre los programas y servicios financiados por el gobierno federal disponibles para el año escolar 2025-2026. La reunión se llevará a cabo el miércoles 28 de mayo del 2025, de 10:00 a 11:00 a.m. Si está interesado en participar o tiene preguntas, comuníquese con Tacarra Williams, Directora de Programas y Subvenciones Federales de Sheldon ISD al (281) 727-2096.

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### BID NOTICE

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- Maintenance/Nutrition/Transportation – Equipment, Parts, Repairs & Supplies
- Office Furniture & Supplies
- Technology Equipment, Services, Software & Supplies
- Waste Removal Contract

RFPs will be received until 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 13, 2025, through the Electronic Bidding Website at <https://evid.ionwave.net>. All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website [www.cvisd.org](http://www.cvisd.org), under Departments → Business Office → Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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# METRO Expands Curb2Curb Service

On-demand services adds 2 new zones

By Anne James/METRO

HOUSTON — Houston's public transit expanded services in two communities this month. "Curb2curb" transit was expanded in the Kashmere and Sunnyside neighborhoods, and also exists in the Acres Homes area. The new routes join the 314 Hiram Clarke, 344 Acres Homes, and 363 Missouri City routes.

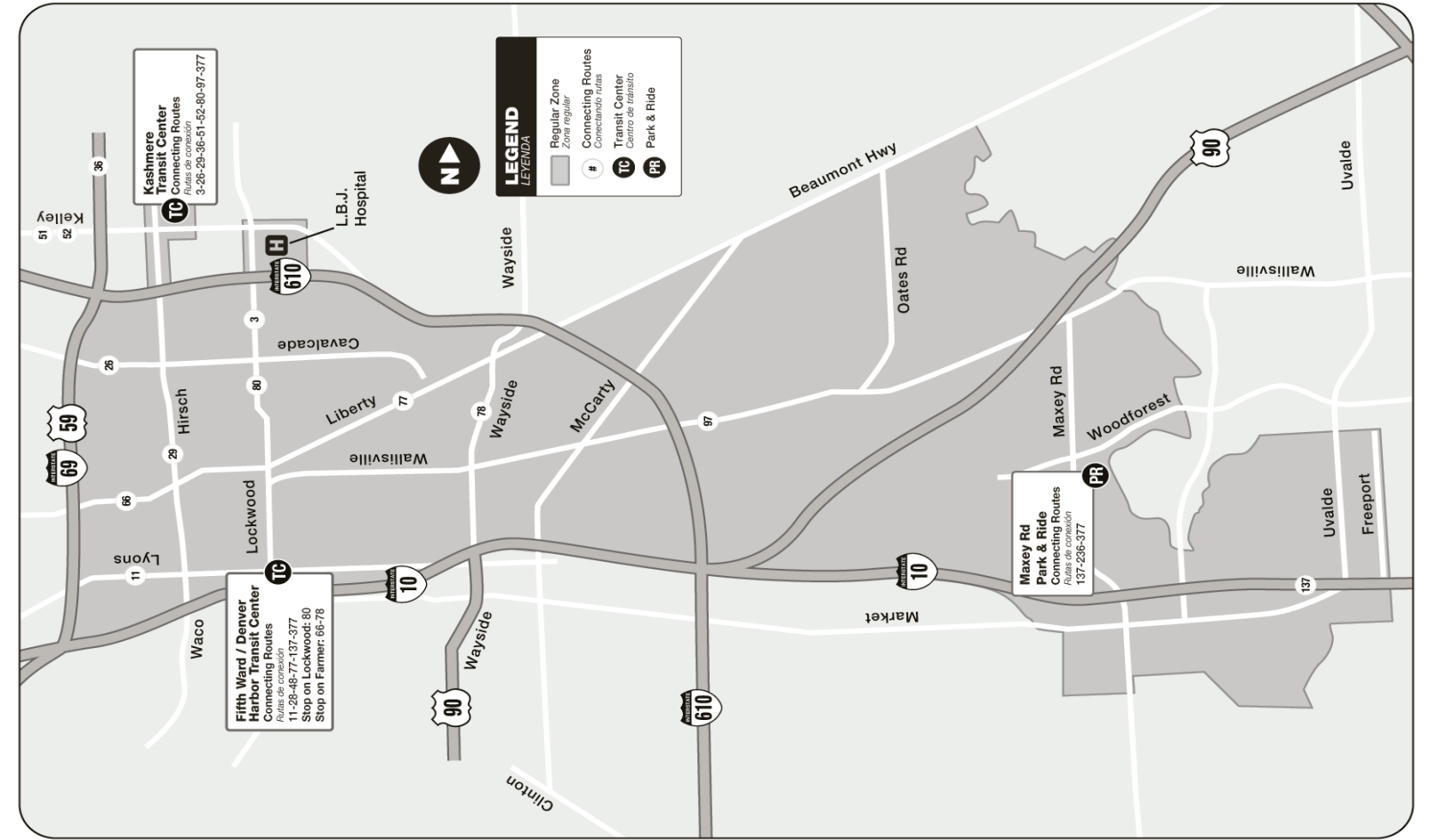
METRO added these two zones for curb2curb service that can be booked the phone and by the METRO curb2curb app. Call 713-739-7433 to book by phone.

The service is available from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. The one-way fare is \$1.25. The vehicles are ADA-accessible.

"Access to transit is one of the major challenges we are working to address," said Board Chair Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock in an emailed news release. "The expanded service is part of our larger plan to advance equitable and reliable mobility options that connect people to jobs, school, and other essential services."

### 377 Kashmere/Maxey Road

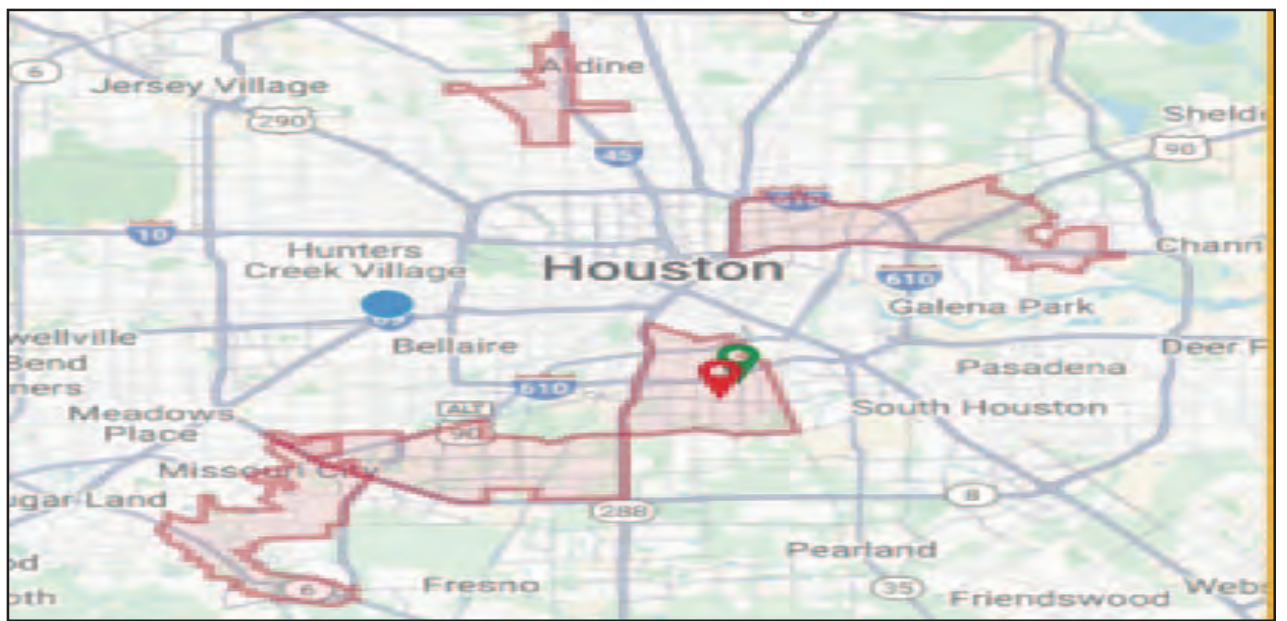
The Kashmere zone is roughly from the North Loop/Beaumont High-



way in the north, to I-10 in the south; I-69 to the west and Freepoint Street to the east.

This zone replaces the 377 Kashmere Late Night route.

**329 Sunnyside**  
This curb2curb zone is from about Southmore/MLK boulevards in the north to Airport Boulevard in the south; State Highway 288 to the west to Mykawa Road to the east.)



METRO MAP SHOWS SERVICE AREAS IN HOUSTON FOR CURB-2-CURB SERVICE

## SHELDON ISD NEWS

### KHS BioMed Students Earn Their White Coat



The STEM/P-TECH Academy of C. E. King HS recognized the accomplishments of the 10th grade Biomedical Science students on April 22 with the annual White Coat Ceremony, sponsored by the LyondellBassell Innovation grant. The students earned their coat by passing their mid-program exam. Students in the Biomed program are immersed in real-world activities to empower them to learn skills that will help them step into future medical careers.



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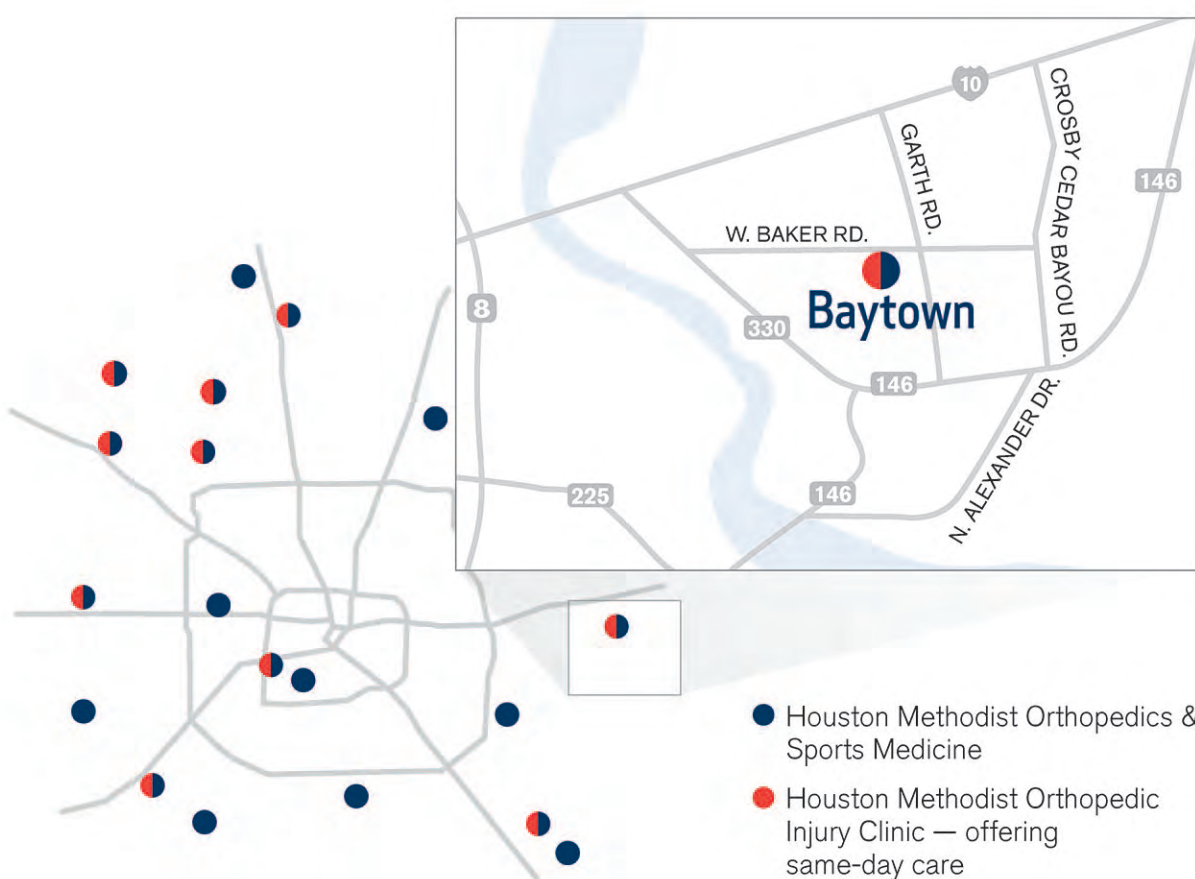
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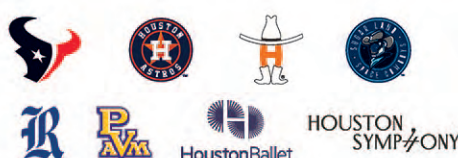
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