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Veteran and Musician Buck Sloan and Shirley Sloan Celebrate his 101st Birthday.

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 13, NO. 23 (#571) THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025 www.northchannelstar.com

NS Rotarians tally a successful Fish Fry fundraiser; thank community

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

For 50 years, the North Shore Rotary Club has raised money and given back to the community after its annual Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil fundraiser every year. It was a golden year for the Rotarians and incoming president Mini Izaguirre broke out the party noisemakers for Rotarians to sound off their success at their Thursday luncheon meeting.

Through those 50 years, the club has put back nearly \$10 million into the community primarily through scholarships, amenities throughout the community in parks, the Rotary Pa-



Incoming President Mini Izaguirre gave the club a breakdown of the numbers from the most recent fundraiser. Those funds she raised will be her budget as president next year.



Banker B.R. Hendrix was awarded the King of the NS Rotary Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil for his outselling the rest of his Rotary colleagues in meal and raffle tickets.

vilion, the North Shore Baseball Park, and many more projects.

Last Thursday, Mini Izaguirre gave a debriefing, breaking down the numbers, less expenses to the club, and North Shore remains one of the biggest fundraisers locally, state, and nationwide.

The amazing numbers from the fundraiser came from hungry ticket buyers who devoured 2,250 pounds of boiled crawfish, and 1,700 pounds of potatoes and corn. Other outstanding numbers also featured 78 items sold in the live auction which

Continued. See North Shore Rotary Fish Fry, Page 6

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Coffee with Commissioner Adrian Garcia Saturday June 7 in Jacinto City

Your Voice Matters! Join Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia as he comes to Jacinto City to hear your questions, ideas, and concerns.

Saturday, June 7th, 2025 from 10am to 12noon at the Taqueria Arcos de Jalisco, 1731 Holland Avenue, Jacinto City, Texas 77029.

For information please contact Alan Velasquez, 832-294-8792.

In collaboration with Taqueria y Panaderia Morelos.

Texans Coach DeMeco Ryans Inducted into Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame

By Allan Jamail

Arlington, Texas Friday, May 23, 2025 at the AT&T Stadium the Houston Texans Head Coach DeMeco Ryans and seven others were inducted into the Cotton Bowl's 2025 Hall of Fame.

Every two years since 1998 the celebration is held to recognize those who made outstanding achievements at the annual Cotton Bowl Classic football game. Attending Ryans induction ceremony was his wife Jamila and their four children, his mother Martha, Diane his mother-law, his brothers, sister and cousins.

Alabama's Ryans in 2006 from his linebacker position was literally a coach on the field for the Crimson Tide. As a senior, he earned unanimous All-America recognition and was named Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year. In the Alabama's 13-10 victory over Texas Tech in the

70th Cotton Bowl Classic, Ryans and teammates held the nation's top-ranked passing attack in check. He was credited with seven tackles, five of them solo, two tackles for loss that included 1.5 quarterback sacks for minus-12 yards and was selected as the Felix R. McKnight Outstanding Defensive Player of the Game. He excelled in the classroom too, graduating with honors and named the school's top male student-athlete.

The Cotton Bowl selection committee selected the inductees, they were Notre Dame fullback Jerome Bettis, Texas linebacker Randy Braband, Ole Miss head coach David Cutcliffe, Nebraska running back Tony Davis, Cotton Bowl Athletic Association Chief Ambassador, Past Chair and former Team Selection & Playoff Committee Chair Finley (Fin) Ewing III, CBAA Historian Charlie Fiss, Auburn running back Bo



DeMeco & Jamila Ryans with their kids at his pictured poster inside AT&T Stadium. His name is also embedded in the AT&T Stadium's Cotton Bowl Walk of Fame sidewalk.

Jackson and Alabama linebacker DeMeco Ryans to be recognized for their lasting impact on the Cotton Bowl Classic, on and off the field.

W. Kelvin Walker, Chair of the Cotton Bowl

Athletic Association (CBAA), which oversees the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic, and Cotton Bowl Foundation said, "Today is a special day to celebrate the contributions of eight extraordinary individuals

who have impacted our game and our organization in so many positive ways." "The Cotton Bowl Classic is honored to have these legends now a permanent part of our history. We salute them and we're thrilled to call them Cotton Bowl Classic Hall of Famers," Walker concluded.

DeMeco, his wife Jamila and their children are members of Houston's Fifth Ward Church of Christ (www.fwcoc.org). Allan and Linda Jamail writers for the North Channel star attend there as well. Allan said, "Brother DeMeco who serves as a Deacon at the church was recognized Sunday in their Bible class for his hall of fame honors."

Coach Ryans gave the following exclusive comment to Allan for this North Channel Star article.

He began with, "All praise, honor, glory to

Continued. See RYAN REFLECTS ON FAITH, FAMILY, Page 5

Buck Sloan celebrates his 101th Birthday with Friends, Music

On Sunday, June 1, D-Day and Battle of the Bulge Veteran Chester "Buck" Sloan celebrated his 101st birthday with neighborhood friends in Houston.

Neighbors and friends held a block parade near his house to celebrate his milestone, and then joined him for some Country Music at his venue, the Buckshot Jamboree on Hartman Road.

In March of 1976 Buck married his wife Shirley. Buck and his wife Shirley started the Buckshot Jamboree in Houston Texas in 2007. In June 2008 Buck was inducted into the Western Swing Music Society of The Southwest Hall of Fame for being an accomplished musician and songwriter. Buck still serves his community by hosting the Jamboree every Saturday night. It's a relaxing place for a pot-luck, listening to music,



Buck Sloan On Stage at the Buckshot Jamboree, last Saturday night after a Birthday Parade of Well-Wishers drove by his house.

and enjoying fellowship and where everyone is treated as family. The Jamboree walls are filled with memorabilia of his rich life history. Buck is known as an outstanding musician. He plays both fiddle, guitar and also sings. Buck has composed several songs about his war experiences. Many

Saturday nights you can still see Buck and Shirley dancing the jitterbug.

For his 100th birthday Buck was able to go back to Normandy and participate in the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. He was able

Continued. See BUCK SLOAN'S 101TH BIRTHDAY, Page 6

GP/JC Rotary awards 11 Scholarships, \$18,000

Fundraising included potatoes and cakes!



The Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club Project is to raise funds to distribute school scholarships to high school students in Galena Park and Jacinto City. With the hard work of the Members of this Club, we were able to support 11 students and distribute \$18,000.00 dollars. Supporting the leaders of the Future.

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LET'S CONTINUE STUDENT SUCCESS!

Sal SERRANO

FOR SAN JACINTO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES POS. 3

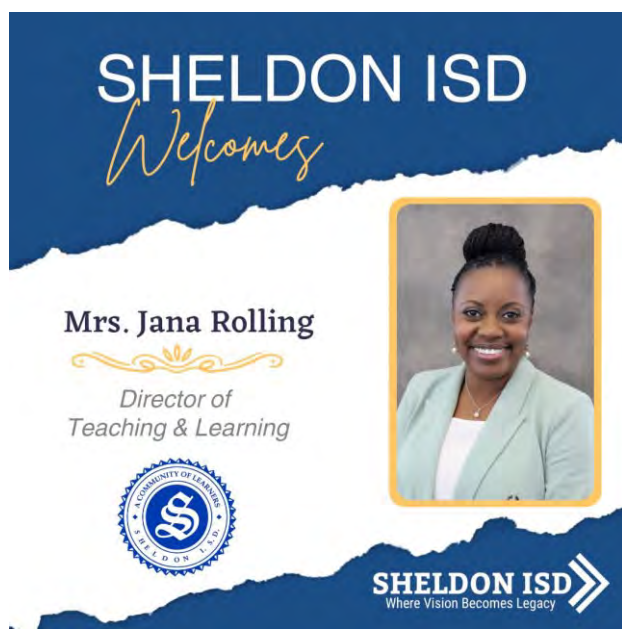
Vote Saturday June 7

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Sheldon ISD's Jana Rolling named Director of Teaching and Learning

Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees named Jana Rolling as the Director of Teaching and Learning. Mrs. Jana Rolling has proudly served as the principal of Sheldon Elementary since 2021. Over her 15-year career with Sheldon ISD, she has held a variety of roles, including principal, campus assistant principal, district elementary math curriculum coordinator, math and science instructional coach, and classroom teacher. Her dedication and leadership were recognized in 2023-2024 when she was named Sheldon ISD Elementary Principal of the Year. Under her guidance, Sheldon Elementary has achieved the prestigious designations of AVID Showcase Campus and Dr.



Jay Cummings Demonstration Campus. She will begin her new role at central administration this summer. Sheldon ISD will begin the search for a new leader for Sheldon Elementary School.

Jasmine Bell Named Principal of Garrett Elementary

Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees approved the naming of Jasmine Bell to lead as principal at Garrett Elementary. With more than 20 years of experience in education, Mrs. Bell has served in Sheldon ISD for six years. She has worked in various positions such as interventionist, Campus Instructional Specialist, Dean of Instruction, and most recently as Assistant Principal at Garrett Elementary. Before moving to Houston, Texas, she was employed in the Mobile Public School System where she worked for 15 years.



tional Leadership and Supervision. Additionally, she is the proud mother of three boys that all attend school in Sheldon ISD. She replaces Mr. Chad Davis who has accepted a principal position closer to his home. She will transition into her role this summer.

She graduated from Alabama State University in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and holds a masters degree from Alabama State University in Educa-

KHS Principal Receives Recognition for Supporting new Teachers

King High School Principal Dr. Jillian Howard has been named the Mentor of the Year by the New Elementary Teachers Alliance (NET). NET Alliance supports and empowers new teachers, helping them overcome challenges and make a positive impact on their students' lives. Dr. Howard has been the principal of King High School since 2023 and was recently named the district's Secondary Principal of the Year.



Sheldon ISD Hosts Inspiring Abilities Day Events



Sheldon ISD proudly wrapped up three unforgettable Abilities Day events, celebrating students with diverse abilities through activities like sensory play and adapted sports—all designed to bring joy and success. A heartfelt thank-you goes to the dedicated volunteers from C.E. King Middle School Student Council, Early College High School Ambassadors, and STEM students, whose spirit and support made the events truly special.

100+ Students Showcase Innovative Projects at C-STEM Challenge Day



Sheldon ISD STEM hosted the annual C-STEM Challenge Day on April 26 at the King Middle School Competition Gym. The day consisted of 137 students in grades from 3rd-12th participating in many different STEM competitions in the areas of Innovation, Mural, Sculpture and Robotics. Students and teachers have been practicing after school for months to prepare for this event and go head-to-head with other students from our district to show off their creativity, innovative skills and GRIT in front of a full gym of supportive, proud parents cheering them on. This year's theme was to research and come up with prototypes and innovative solutions to help with the impact of urban heat and water management for a real-world community. It was a STEMtastic day of fun!!

SISD to Host Musical Theatre Camp

Sheldon ISD will host a Summer Musical Theatre Camps for rising 7th-9th graders from July 7-11 and for rising 3rd-6th graders from July 14-18. Both camps will take place in the King High School Performing Arts Center/Fine Arts Wing from 8AM-2PM daily with a Showcase performance culminating at 2PM on Fridays. Camp attendees must be enrolled in Sheldon ISD, be children of Sheldon ISD employees, or have permission from the Sheldon ISD Director of Fine Arts (danielpfannstiel@sheldonisd.com) in order to participate. Registration is \$115 per week, which includes a camp shirt and breakfast & lunch provided by Sheldon ISD Child Nutrition. Register here: <https://cekingfa.ludus.com>

Sheldon Announces Opportunities for Students this Summer

Calling all students! Get ready for an epic summer of fun, skill-building, and making memories in Sheldon ISD. Whether you're a future Olympian, a rising star on the stage, or eager to explore new passions, we've got something for everyone! Head over to the district's Summer Opportunities webpage to explore the possibilities and secure your spot! Spaces may be limited, so don't delay! Visit www.sheldonisd.com/summers to learn more.

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson

June Brings Many Things

June arrives and brings about many memories. It is a time of celebrating that the school year has ended and while there is a sense of laziness and relaxation that begins, yet at the same time, it is a busy time of year for many.

As the vacations are planned, they often include trips to visit family and friends as well as attend weddings and come college graduations. It is a time for families to prepare for road trips to visit potential colleges for their children as well as for class reunions to be held.

And we cannot forget that Father's Day is celebrated as well as Juneteenth and Pride celebrations are held in many places, with Houston hosting one of the largest. It is a time for recognizing differences yet also celebrating that we are not all the same.

It is a time to explore the many Houston attractions especially if you have guests coming to town. While our area has much to see, do not forget about the free cruise available at the Port of Houston or the many museums that are free on various nights.

Take the time to check on your neighbors, especially the senior adults as well as children who are at home while parents are at work. Perhaps you can help connect a young person who wants to learn how to bake with a neighbor who needs assistance learning to use the smart phone or computer.

Find an organization that lines up with your values and volunteer. There are many outstanding non-profits in our area who would love to have an extra set of hands helping with projects.

FBI Houston seeks 'Call Me Maybe Menace' for attempted bank robbery



This man attempted to rob the Woodforest National Bank at 14045 FM 2100 in Crosby on Friday, May 23, 2025. Crime Stoppers of Houston is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to the identification and arrest of the robber.

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The FBI Violent Crime Task Force is asking for the public's help in identifying and locating a man, dubbed the "Call Me Maybe Menace," who attempted to rob the Woodforest National Bank in Crosby. Crime Stoppers of Houston is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to the identification and arrest of the robber.

The robbery occurred at approximately 9:28 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025, at the Woodforest National Bank located at 14045 FM 2100 in Crosby, Texas. During the robbery, the suspect entered the bank pretending to talk on a cell phone, approached a teller, and handed them a note that demanded cash. The suspect continued to act like he was on the phone until he departed the bank on foot with no money. No one was physically hurt during the robbery.

The robber is described

as a white male in his late 40s to early 50s, approximately 5'5" tall, with a heavy build. During the robbery, he wore a dark-colored Houston Astros baseball cap, blue medical mask, light blue button-up long-sleeved shirt, dark blue jeans, and dark sunglasses. He also held a cell phone to his ear throughout the entire attempted robbery.

Crime Stoppers of Houston, a non-governmental organization, is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification and arrest of this robber. Anyone with any information is encouraged to call the Crime Stoppers tip line at 713-222-TIPS (8477) or the FBI Houston Field Office at (713) 693-5000. Tips may also be submitted to Crime Stoppers through their website, www.crime-stoppers.org, or the Houston Crime Stoppers mobile phone app which can be downloaded for both iPhone and Android devices. All tipsters remain anonymous.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: 'How did you get your start in the jewelry business?'

In their youth Jim & Linda Mills invested their time, their meager resources, and their abilities into becoming entrepreneurs. They researched many businesses. The lure of gold and diamonds caught their attention. They began with learning how to manufacture jewelry, investing many, many hours into their new project which would become their livelihood.



Jim purchased a large Russian ingot of pure 24K gold. This ingot was embossed with the Russian "Hammer & Sickle" emblem. This was of great importance to Jim. From a symbol of communism he would create his capitalist company. He alloyed that gold ingot to 14K, and manufactured several trays of rings and pendants, some with diamonds and others with precious stones.

With his designs in hand, Jim ventured out into the world of business! And then the process of building a real business began to happen. He was soon overwhelmed.

Jim broke the news to Linda that it was time to take another step...actually another leap of faith. On May 1, 1986, they opened Pineforest Jewelry, Inc. The business was an instant success. Giving customers a "WOW Experience" was a must in Jim and Linda's minds. The reputation preceded any talk of Pineforest Jewelry. Three years later on a Christmas Eve... Jim and Linda witnessed customers lined up on the sidewalk, waiting in a line to enter the store in order to wait in still another line inside the store.

To this day, Diamond Jim insists that every customer receive a "WOW Experience" from the moment they walk through the door. That dedication to exceeding customer expectations is the reason Pineforest Jewelry has earned the reputation as one of the highest rated jewelry stores in Houston, Texas. And now they are taking this "Experience" to the next level...construction of an 8,000 SF theme jewelry store is almost complete.

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.

MARKET PLACE
When you call these Advertisers, this Newspaper receives a referral fee, whether you purchase or not. You can help the Newspaper by calling with an inquiry. THANK YOU.

Advertisement for MobileHelp, a personal emergency device. It features a photo of the device and text describing its features, such as 24-hour help, fall detection, and GPS location tracking. The price is listed as \$19.99.

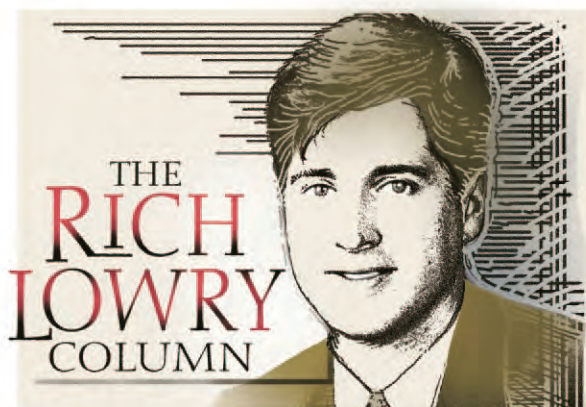
Advertisement for WSJ Wine, featuring a collection of wine bottles. The headline reads 'TOP 12 Wines You Need to Try plus Bonus Bottles & Glasses JUST \$219.99 \$69.99'. A 'SAVE \$150' badge is also present.

Advertisement for Liz Buys Houses, a home buying service. It lists benefits like 'Fair Cash Offer', 'Quick Closing', and 'No Realtor Fees'. A testimonial from Michael Beck is included, along with the phone number (888) 323-0422.

Advertisement for WSJ Wine Discovery Club. It describes a subscription service where members receive 12 wines every three months, plus bonus bottles and glasses. The website wsjwine.com/Cork9 is provided.

Advertisement for Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry Experience. It features a photo of a watch and the text 'It tells Dad more than the time'. The address 1141 Uvalde Road, Houston, Texas 77015 is listed.

OPINION PAGE



The on-again, off-again trade war

The on-again, off-again trade war Never mind. President Trump's 145% tariffs on China ran smack into Stein's law, the late economist Herb Stein's famous axiom that "if something cannot go on forever, it will stop."

What was effectively an instant embargo on the biggest importer into the United States wasn't sustainable, and sure enough, it's not going to be sustained. The U.S. and China have mutually agreed to back off a tit-for-tat trade war that quickly spiraled into territory that meant wanton economic destruction for both sides.

The U.S.-China trade relationship wasn't built in a day, and it couldn't plausibly be ended over a few days via presidential Truth Social posts, either.

During a 90-day pause, the U.S. is taking its tariffs down from 145% to 30%, while China is dropping from 125% to 10%. If it always seemed likely that there'd be a fig-leaf deal with China, there isn't even a fig leaf here — just a promise to keep talking and perhaps fashion one later.

The problem with tariffs is that they are a way of harming a foreign trade partner via imposing pain on your own businesses and consumers. The 145% tariff was hitting Beijing hard but also was due to impose severe costs on U.S. concerns dependent on Chinese manufacturing.

Small businesses were looking at potential extinction and retailers warning of empty store shelves. When the president of the United States is musing about little girls having to do with fewer dolls, it's not a reassuring signal about the direction of U.S. economic policy.

We've imposed embargoes on foreign countries before — for instance, the so-called ABCD encirclement that cut Japan off from raw materials during the early stages of World War II. But we were about to go to war with Imperial Japan, whereas one hopes we won't be engaged in active hostilities with China any time soon.

While markets are relieved that the 145% tariffs are off for now, we aren't in a great place. A 30% tariff on China, plus the other tariffs that are in play around the globe, mean we still have lurched into the highest U.S. tariff regime since the 1930s.

Earlier this year, there was a surge of imports in anticipation of Trump's tariffs, in the phenomenon known as front-loading. Then, imports were basically shut off as the 145% tariffs took hold. And now there will be more front-loading to avoid what comes next.

An on-again-off-again-on-again approach forces U.S. economic actors to deal with wildly gyrating uncertainty for no good reason. Who knows what will happen in 90 days? The Soviet Union was governed by Five-Year Plans; now, we are governed by 90-Day Pauses.

Trump prides himself on his deal-making, but he hasn't gotten anything from the U.K. or China over the last week that he couldn't have achieved with much less disruption. We could have gotten an outline of a trade deal with the Brits by working with them behind closed doors, and we could have gotten a 30% tariff on China by imposing one at the outset, rather than 145%.

There is no doubt that China is a hostile power and bad economic actor, and we should be putting our relationship on a different basis. The risk is that Trump has, by tariffing everyone, friend or foe, made it harder for us to deepen relationships with our allies and isolate our adversary.

As Robert Atkinson of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation points out, the current tack will also hamper the most strategically important, technologically advanced U.S. firms that are all globally integrated. The Trump tariffs will increase their costs by making imported inputs more expensive, while limiting their foreign markets by inviting foreign retaliation for Trump's tariffs.

This is not a winning formula, and if China gets an upper hand as a result, there will be no easy do-over.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Less Than a Week Remains in the 89th Legislative Session

With the legislative session ending on Monday, June 2, lawmakers are scrambling to pass or kill bills, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Among the bills passed or likely to soon pass:

All handgun licenses issued in other states will be honored in Texas if, as expected, Gov. Greg Abbott signs the measure. This would end the requirement that the governor must negotiate agreements with other states.

The Texas Bitcoin Reserve with a market capitalization of at least \$500 billion will be created and administered by the Texas comptroller. The two chambers must work out some minor differences in the two versions of the bill.

A bill providing more protections for migrant workers being forced to live in substandard housing has been sent to the governor's desk. The powers of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs will be strengthened to investigate and penalize "violations of provisions governing migrant labor housing facilities and by providing for increased accountability and enforcement of those provisions."

A bill to outlaw AI-generated child pornography has passed both chambers with a single House amendment awaiting approval by the Senate. It criminalizes possession of material appearing to depict a child, "regardless of whether the depiction is an image of an actual child, a cartoon or animation, or an image created using an artificial intelligence application or other computer software."

HOUSE PASSES INCREASE IN HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Homeowners will see further cuts in their property taxes under a House bill passed last week that increases the state's homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 and boosts additional exemptions for older Texans and those with disabilities from \$10,000 to \$60,000. The Dallas Morning News reported the bills have already passed in the Senate and await consideration of minor changes.

Voters in November will have to approve two constitutional amendments before the raised exemptions would take effect.

The measures contain provisions guaranteeing that school districts would not lose funding because of higher exemptions,



with the state making up the difference.

BAN ON THC GUMMIES AND OTHER CONSUMABLES PASSES HOUSE

Legal sales of consumable gummies and other edibles made from hemp-derived tetrahydrocannabinol — or THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, may soon be coming to an end. The News reported the House passed a blanket ban, 95-44. Under the leadership of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who is pushing for criminalizing THC products, the Senate passed the ban in March.

Hemp products that don't include THC, such as the popular CBD, would be exempted from the ban.

There are more than 8,500 hemp license holders in the state, operating in vape stores, convenience stores, and other venues. Sales of THCA and delta-8 consumables, which contain THC, have become a \$8 billion business in the past five years, The News reported.

"We are not banning hemp," said Rep. Tom Oliverson, R-Cypress, who carried the ban language in the House. "We are banning high. If it gets you high, it is not legal anymore" under this legislation, he added.

Democrats argued against the ban, saying it won't be effective.

"Bans don't work," said Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas. "We'll return to a completely unregulated black market where these products will find their way to young people today. If anybody's to blame about the state of affairs, it's us, in underregulating this marketplace."

The ban would not affect those who obtain medical marijuana legally. The state's Com-

passionate Use Program is administered by health professionals.

BILL CLARIFYING ABORTION BAN HEADS TO ABBOTT

A bill that aims to clarify when doctors can perform emergency abortions has passed both chambers and is headed to the governor's desk, the Texas Standard reported. The Life of the Mother Act was sponsored by state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, who authored the state's 2021 abortion ban.

The 2021 law said abortions are illegal except when a medical emergency threatens a woman's life, but doctors said the language wasn't clear enough. Previous reporting indicates that confusion led to the deaths of at least two women and rising rates of sepsis in women who have miscarriages.

"This is not a choice bill," said Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, who carried the bill in the House. "This bill addresses the life and health of the mother — period. That's it."

SB 31 received bipartisan support this session and passed the House by a 134-4 margin.

'BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL' CONTAINS BORDER ENFORCEMENT REIMBURSEMENT

The Republican spending megabill passed narrowly in the U.S. House last week includes \$12 billion for border security spending reimbursement for Texas and other states, The Texas Tribune reported. Abbott and Texas congressional Republicans have been pushing for the reimbursement since President Trump took office in January.

Texas has spent \$11.1 billion on Operation Lone Star since 2021.

The funding bill still must pass the U.S. Senate before it becomes law.

TAXPAYER-FUNDED ABORTION TRAVEL FACES BAN

Texas cities will no longer be able to fund out-of-state abortion travel with taxpayer money as a result of a bill sent to the governor last week. The Statesman reported the bill's House sponsor, state Rep. Candy Noble, R-Lucas, said the legislation ensures tax money isn't "spent on an activity that is illegal in Texas."

The Austin City Council last September allocated \$400,000 to provide money for lodging and travel expenses to residents who travel out of state to terminate their pregnancies. That prompted Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to sue the city, a case that remains unresolved.

ANOTHER ACTIVE HURRICANE SEASON PREDICTED

The nation's top weather agency is predicting 13 to 19 named storms during this year's hurricane season, which officially begins on June 1. The Houston Chronicle reported the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts this season has a 60% likelihood of being busier than normal.

NOAA, like many federal agencies, has been hit with job reductions that it says could stretch its resources and forecasting ability.

Once again, unusually warm water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico and other factors led to the prediction of increased hurricane activity.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Someone Else's Garden



Summer arrived suddenly. It was as if spring got short-changed and we leapt from late winter into summer with nothing in between. I watched the gardeners wake with a start and begin tearing up their lawns and gardens with a fury, as if they had overslept and had to make up for lost time.

I do not garden.

I spent most of my adult life trying to convince myself that I liked gardening and I was just not doing it right. Gardening was never a satisfying pastime. I would plant things but had no interest in pruning or weeding or watering or fertilizing or whatever else I was supposed to be doing with whatever I had planted.

The results were predictable. I wondered why I had bothered to plant anything at all.

Gardening was supposed to be enjoyable, and the fact that it always seemed like work to me made me feel guilty. My mother and sister are wonderful gardeners, and I have no reason to believe they are fibbing when they say they enjoy getting their hands in the dirt, tending their flowers and watching things grow. I do enjoy watching things grow—this is the truth. I just enjoy it a lot more if someone else has done all the work.

Only when my husband, Peter, and I moved downtown to a condo, without a backyard or front yard or any yard at all, was I absolved from the need to garden, and it was an enormous relief. Every day, I walk around the neighborhood and enjoy the gardens everyone else plants and maintains. If the gardener is there, I always compliment them on their wonderful work. I take pictures. I literally stop to smell the flowers.

I spend far more time enjoying other people's gardens than I ever spent enjoying anything I planted. If I had planted it, I was only aware of the weeds I had neglected, how one plant or another was languishing, and how I would have to do better next year. If it is someone else's garden, I just admire what is in front of me—right then and there.

"My tulips are going crazy this year!" a man told me earlier this spring. "I don't know why!"

I don't know this man at all except for his garden. I regularly stop to admire his flowers, and this year they are particularly impressive.

"Don't you think it's because they are getting so much more light?" I asked.

"What do you mean?"

"Well, you just took down that birch last year, didn't you?" I remembered the birch that had been slowly dying and, sadly, had to be removed last summer.

"You're right! That was just last year. I suppose that's it."

I was glad I had solved the tulip mystery. The man went on to show me what else was doing well in the new sunlight, and I wondered if there wasn't a place for a person like me in the gardening ecosystem.

Not everyone needs to plant. Some of us are here to enjoy what others have planted, to offer reassurance that their efforts are appreciated. I am an enthusiastic supporter of the gardeners in my neighborhood. I am attentive. I applaud when they do well. I am untroubled if all their endeavors are not successful.

"Nice work!" I told a woman creating a new garden in the front of her house.

"Well, it doesn't look like much now..." she said.

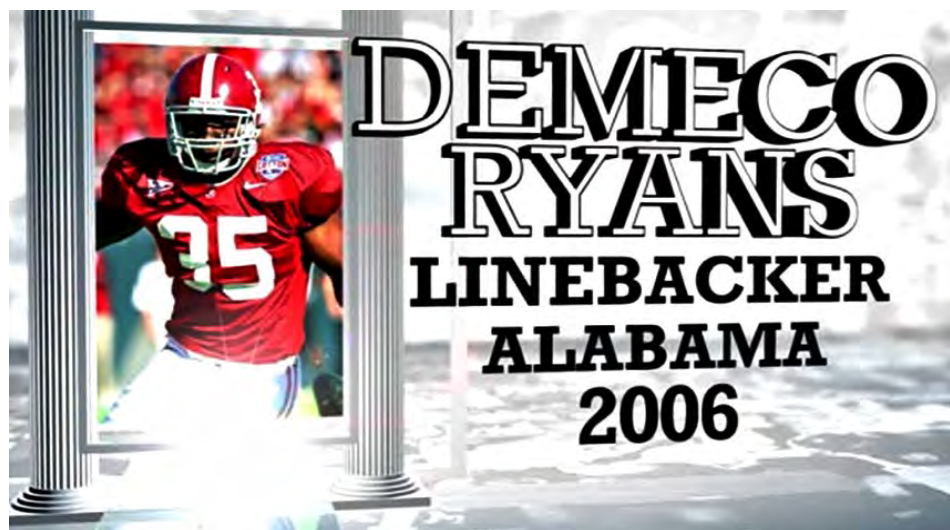
But now I'd be watching. She knew I'd walk by every day and watch her garden grow.

Till next time, Carrie

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for Gilbert Hoffman, Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman, David Taylor, Julieta Paita, Kristan Hoffman, and Gerardo Hernandez. Also includes subscription rates and address information.

Ryans reflects on faith, family, and crack-back hit that fueled a hall of fame performance,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Giant screen displaying a DeMeco Ryans action photo in his Cotton Bowl game at the inductee's ceremony.

Jesus Christ." "I'm beyond grateful and extremely blessed to be inducted into the prestigious Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame. It's even more special to be in the 2025 class with my hometown sports hero, Bo Jackson. I credit my Alabama teammates for putting together an incredible performance versus a high powered Texas Tech offense and winning on a not so pretty last second field goal as time expired. Thank you to the Cotton Bowl Committee for this special honor and their outstanding hospitality he said."

Ryans and Bo Jackson played 20 years apart for two different high school teams from Bessemer, Alabama, known for its history of steel/iron producing by inventor Sir Henry Bessemer. DeMeco frequently quotes Proverbs 27:17 saying, "Iron Sharpens Iron".

Ryans describing his Cotton Bowl game said, "The one thing I remember



DeMeco Ryans making Hall of Famer's acceptance speech.

most about that Cotton Bowl game and why I'm probably here today is because of something bad that happened to me in that game I was pursuing a Tech offensive player to the Texas Tech sideline, and Danny Amendola, a little receiver (a Woodlands, Tx. graduate), back when it was legal, he made a crack-backed block on me and knocked me flat on my back. For me, the cool moment was I got knocked down, and that's when it clicked for me. Like, now it's time for me to take

over. Getting hit by Danny turned on my super-power to have a really outstanding defensive performance in that game." "Something negative like what happened to me ended up becoming something positive in my playing."

He also remembered a gift the Cotton Bowl gave him; it was his first portable DVD player. He stated upon getting the gift, "Oh man I've made it."

DeMeco concluded his acceptance speech by thanking his mom Martha who was present and said if it hadn't been for her he wouldn't be standing there today. He said she gave him super-power to get it done and to get out of Bessemer and to now be able to support his family. He recognized each of his kids and thanked his beautiful wife Jamila for supporting and encouraging him and making him the man he is today.

"DeMeco Ryans is the real deal" says NC Star writer Allan Jamail.

Purple Heart Veteran and Musician: Buck Sloan, 101 years old,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to pay respect and honor those he fought with and never made it home. One of those men was his good friend of his Victor Lowen. Buck will be celebrating his 101st birthday this year. A parade is being planned near his home. The Jamboree will be having a potluck birthday party in the afternoon, and of course live music later in the evening.

Chester P. "Buck" Sloan was born on June 1, 1924 in Kerens, Texas. At the age of 18, Buck was drafted into the US Army. Buck landed on Omaha Beach a few days after D-Day, where he was originally a truck driver for a short duration of time. On June 16, 1944 Buck joined Company B, 38th Inf. Regt., 2nd Infantry Division near Hill 192 in Normandy, France as a replacement B.A.R gunner as the former B.A.R gunner had been Killed In Action. At that time he was assigned to his squad as an automatic rifleman carrying a Browning Automatic Rifle M1918. During the Battle for Brest in September 1944, Buck captured approximately 30 German Soldiers and their Officer. He still has the pistol that he got from the Officer. Buck would continuously be on the frontline in combat all the way to Belgium. During the Battle of the Bulge in Rochoerath - Krinkelt, on December 18, 1944, Buck was wounded when a German hand grenade exploded near him. The rest of the war he spent in hospitals in France and then in a convalescent center in Coventry, England. Buck was awarded a Purple Heart



and French Foreign Legion Medal of Honor for his Service.

Buck came back home in July 1945 with lots of stories, but one amazing story is about a young Polish Boy named Joe who lost both his parents during the fighting. He and his fellow soldiers looked after him. When it was time to come back home Buck remembers saying "What are

we going to do with little Joe?" Sergeant Rickie said hold on, he went and got a duffle bag. They put little Joe in there and Buck carried him up the gang plank. Little Joe was coming to America. Sergeant Rickie ended up adopting him. Buck is the last surviving member of his World War II Division.

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North Shore Rotary Fish Fry,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

brought in \$139,200 gross, 84 items in the silent auction which grossed \$8,932, and 20 prizes were awarded including the top prize of a sport utility vehicle (SUV).

"As I reflect on the success of our 50th fish fry, I just want to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you," Izaguirre told Rotarians. "This milestone event came to life thanks to the dedication, encouragement and heart of our entire team. Whether you were hands on during the event or cheering us on behind the scenes, from planning and prep to execution, you went above and beyond."

As fundraising chairman, she gave out small, plastic trophies to her top ticket sales. King of the Rotary Fundraiser this year and in first place was B.R. Hendrix who brought in \$16,950. Second place was Ramon Garza who hustled up \$13,000. Dr. Donald Nino scored \$9,040 for third place, Izaguirre picked up \$8,600 for fourth

place, and Kenneth Wimbley placed fifth with \$8,500 for a grand total of \$56,090. That did not count late turn-ins that came in a couple of days before the fundraiser.

Each year, teams are formed to help sell the tickets and spread the word of the fundraiser.

Just last year, after decades of hosting it on the Saturday after Mother's Day, current president Danna Nino changed the date a few weeks earlier to accommodate the food ticket buyers. Crawfish in the middle of May were getting smaller than they wanted for customers, so a tough decision was made, and Nino led the Rotary team to a solid fundraiser reigning in \$468,338 gross last year.

In her role as director of budget at San Jacinto College North, Izaguirre is gifted at crunching numbers.

After all was said and done, the club netted just under \$300,000 coming in

at a solid \$282,547.26.

Expenses were up slightly, coinciding with grocery prices that have grown up to 16-17 percent.

The club has several income streams that help them raise money including corporate sponsors, live auction, silent auction, meal tickets, raffle donations and late turn-ins.

The biggest line items on the expense side were the live auction, where items are purchased for sale, the vehicle in the raffle, and the crawfish. Those three alone snagged a good bit of the expenses.

They were down about \$16,000 on meal tickets or about 1,066 tickets from previous years, something that Izaguirre said the next incoming president could focus on.

"Last week we were invited by Sheldon ISD to award our scholarships and let me tell you, when I read that we were giving away a \$10,000 scholarship and two \$2,000 scholarships, that crowd went crazy. It still gives me chills. This is what we do. It takes all of us, and through our efforts and dedication, we were able to do this for our students and community."

Izaguirre also announced a save the date for next year's fundraiser on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rotary Pavilion.

She then handed off the Catfish Fry/Crawfish Boil Planning Bible to next year's fundraising chairman David Proctor.

Congratulations to Maria Cortez-Ochoa on her retirement from GPISD & Woodland Acres School

Maria Rodriguez Cortez-Ochoa recently retired after 24 years of service from her position as school secretary at Woodland Acres Middle School, after previously serving as School Clerk at Galena Park High School.

Maria is also well known in Galena Park as a past president of the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club, where she continues her service to the community.



Maria comments: "This was a truly wonderful retirement coffee gathering, filled with great conversation."

Thank you so much for the kind invitation and the beautiful plant you gave me.

My dear and lovely Suzi Howe — you made me feel so special."

Suzi Howe is a Past District Governor of Rotary District 5890.

Maria's Comment: My heart was filled with joy today to see these loved ones celebrating my retirement.

They founded in me by their example the love of my 24-year career, to fight for students, to support and understand parents, to want to learn more every day and to do my work with joy. They are my first Bosses. 2021. Mrs. Masi, Mr. Winston y Mrs. Norma Hernandez.

And today take the time to come and meet with me and my peers to celebrate with me this moment.

Always thanking God for his love.



Americanisms



"Each of us has a fire in our hearts for something. It's our goal in life to find it and keep it lit."
— Mary Lou Retton

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Notice to Vendors

Sheldon Independent School District will be accepting proposals for Depository Services until June 12, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m. RFP documents will be available beginning May 28, 2025 on the District website: www.sheldonisd.com (Departments, Purchasing, Request for Proposals/Bids), or via email to purchasing@sheldonisd.com.

22-21

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

BID NOTICE

BID NOTICE

BID NOTICE

Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals for the following:

- RFP# 2425-003 – Serving Lines

Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 20, 2025, at the Channelview ISD's E-bidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at <https://cvisd.ionwave.net>

All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website www.cvisd.org, under Departments → Business Office → Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

23-21

CEMETERY LOTS

CEMETERY LOTS

CEMETERY LOTS

We have 4 Cemetery spaces for sale at the San Jacinto Memorial Park-Funeral Home off of I-10. They are located in the Blue Lagoon section Lot #57 and spaces 9,10,11, and 12. They are \$3750 each.

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19-41

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Taraji P. Henson stars in "Straw."

"The Better Sister"

"Sinners" (R) — This supernatural horror flick from director Ryan Coogler ("Black Panther: Wakanda Forever") has become one of the biggest film releases of the year, hopefully making it one to watch during next year's award season. Taking place in 1932 Mississippi, the film follows twin brothers Smoke and Stack Moore, as well as their cousin Sammie, as they start up a local juke joint for the Black community in their town. Despite a pastor's warnings that the blues can summon supernatural spirits, Sammie and other local musicians perform blues songs during the juke joint's opening night. Little do they know that their entrancing tunes beckon a vampire clan closer and

closer, and a massacre is sure to follow. Michael B. Jordan stuns in the dual role of Smoke and Stack, and Ludwig Goransson's soundtrack is the perfect finishing garnish to this incredible film. Available to rent on June 3. (Amazon Prime Video) "Straw" (R) — Tyler Perry's films are often centered around telling underrepresented Black stories that often evoke intense emotions in their characters and their audience. His latest release, which is available to stream on June 6, puts this same formula to work with Taraji P. Henson being a force to reckon with in the lead role. She portrays single mother Janiyah, who is at her wit's end after a series of events cause her to lose

out on money for her daughter's medical bills. With nowhere left to turn, Janiyah heads to the bank, preparing to commit a robbery. Once she's there and in the thick of the action, cooler heads like bank manager Nicole (Sherri Shepherd) and Detective Kay Raymond (Teyana Taylor) attempt to talk Janiyah out of making a terrible mistake. (Netflix)

"Stick" (TV-MA) — Owen Wilson takes on his first leading role since the trainwreck that was "Haunted Mansion" (2023), and this time, it seems like this role is a bit more his speed. Wilson plays Pryce Cahill, a "long washed up" professional golfer who lacks a purpose after both his golfing career and marriage went south. While teaching golf basics to the elderly, Pryce encounters a teen boy named Santi (Peter Dager), whose golf swing shows serious potential. So, Pryce decides to take Santi under his wing and sign him up for an amateur championship tournament to see if Santi can win it all! The first three episodes premiere June 4, with subsequent episodes releasing every Wednesday. (Apple TV+)

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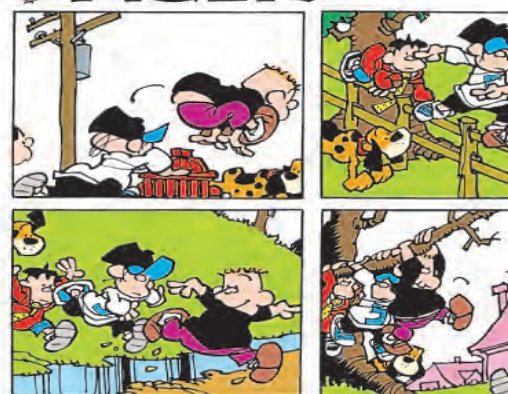
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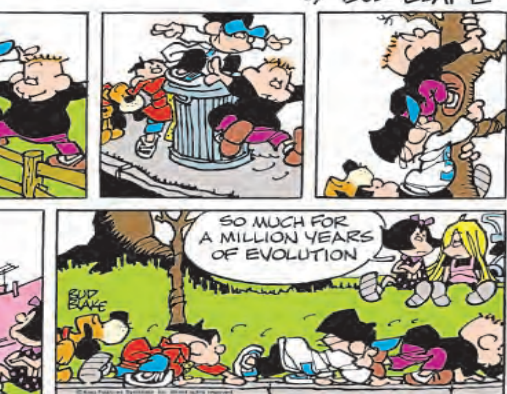
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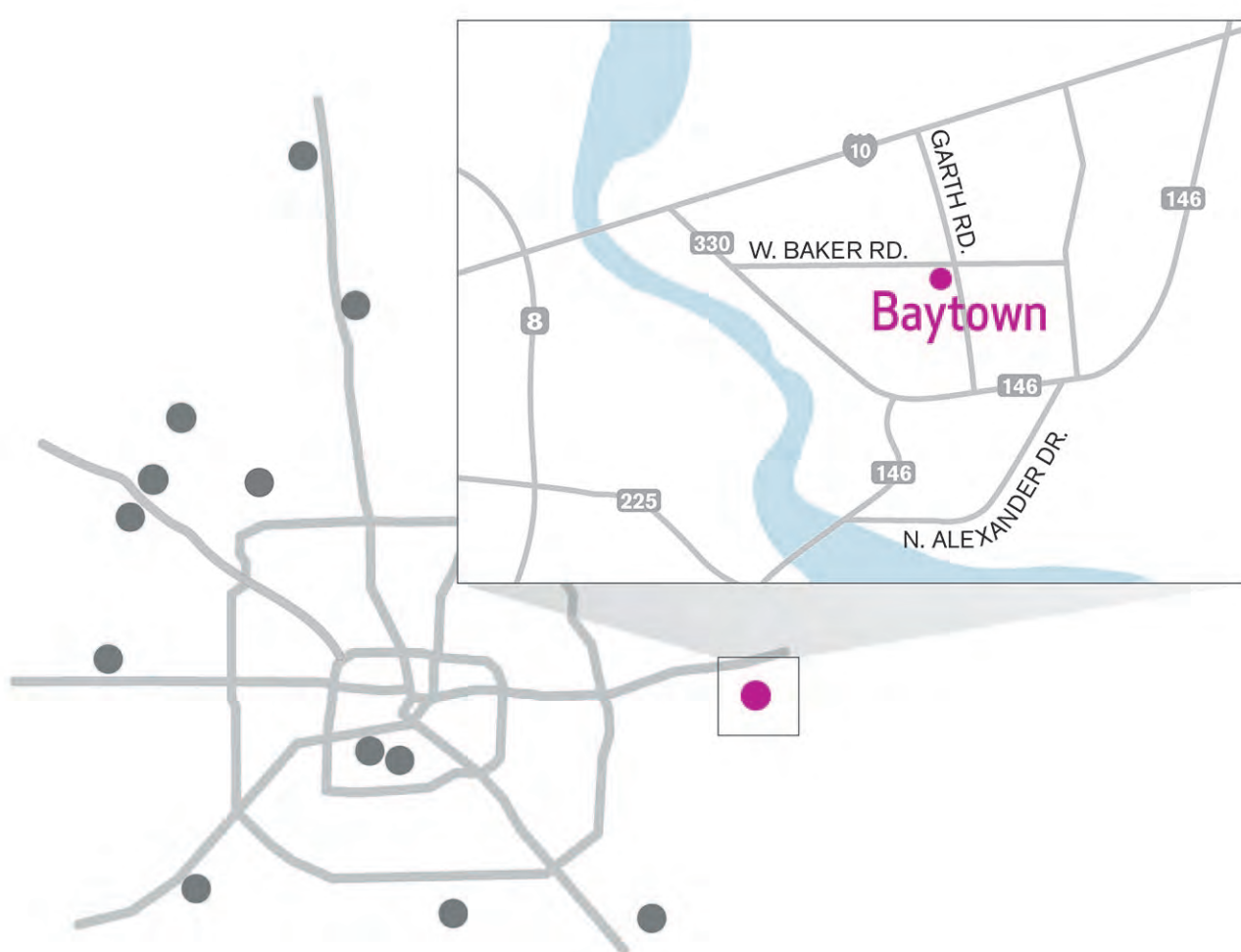


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