

# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Deputy Edwards killed by Alleged DUI Driver  
Story on Page 2

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
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## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### Harrison wins San Jac College Trustee Election

In a closely watched runoff election for San Jacinto Community College District Trustee – Position 3, Judy Harrison emerged victorious over incumbent Salvador Serrano Jr., winning by a razor-thin margin. According to the certified results, Harrison received 3,577 votes (51.4%), narrowly defeating Serrano Jr., who garnered 3,380 votes (48.6%)—a difference of just 197 votes out of a total 6,957 cast.

## Chamber Hears Basic operations of LyondellBasell Plant

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

In what felt like a State of the Plant address, members of the North Channel Chamber of Commerce learned many of the inner workings of the Lyondell-Basell Channelview complex on Friday at their monthly luncheon.

Site Manager Tony Wood gave many of the logistics involved with the plant while Greg Cannon, the director of health, safety, and environmental, contributed with a stellar report on accomplishments this year.

“We’ve been in operation for over 67 years now. We have about 4,000 acres, 1,200 employees, and about 1,000 contract employees. That number kind of ebbs and flows and multiplies exponentially dur-



LyondellBasell officials join the chamber for an informative luncheon on the inner workings of the plant. From left, Thomas Blackwood, Channelview complex integration manager; Margie Buentello, NCACOC executive director; Anthony Wood, Channelview Complex site manager; Kenneth Wimbley, NCACOC chairman; Christopher Block, Channelview Complex operations manager; Greg Cannon, Channelview Complex health, safety and security Director.

ing a turnaround,” Wood said.

The complex produces approximately 51 products from octane additives for gasoline to products that go into building construction to something you touch in day-to-day life in home furnishings.

“We are certified in ISO 9001, a quality system certification. That means that we make products, by a certain standard. Our customers know that we have a management system to make a high-quality product,” he explained.

They also have an



OSHA EPP certified designation which means they have a robust safety program.

The plant is interconnected to their Mont Belvieu and Houston facilities.

Of particular concern was the flares and their purpose in the plant.

“Those are big, tall stacks with a flare at the top. The flare is an envi-

ronmental control device. It’s to decrease our effect on emissions in the area,” Cannon said.

He explained in the past, when there was excess chemical, it was simply blown out.

“Now, we send it to a control device that burns that material,” he said.

Continued. See DR. LYONDELL BASELL LEADERS DETAIL, Page 5

## Dr. Donald Niño: Journey continues with Move to new Beltway Office

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

After decades of building his practice in the medical offices off I-10 near the former Tidelands Hospital in Channelview, Dr. Donald Niño is expanding his practice in a new location. Niño and his staff took the week off three weeks ago and moved the practice to a strip center off Beltway 8 next to Iguana Joes.

“We still haven’t finished moving everything, but we’re very busy and have worked the last few weeks,” he said. “The ladies are still figuring out where they want to put stuff and organize.”

The new check-in, check-out rooms are finished along with a new nurse’s station, seven exam rooms, a blood drawing lab staffed by Quest, and a diagnostic lab to check samples for various illnesses immediately



Dr. Donald Niño and his business partner Dr. Melissa Silva are welcoming patients at their new location at 5616 East Sam Houston Parkway N in North Shore next to Iguana Joe’s.

while patients are in exam rooms.

“This place is about 1,000 square feet larger and will soak up all that we have,” he said. His previous location didn’t give them enough room to breathe, but he got the job done.

“Previously, we had five exam rooms. Here, we have seven plus room to grow to 10,” the doctor said.

The new, more expansive space is a far cry from the Magnolia Park neighborhood where Niño grew up.

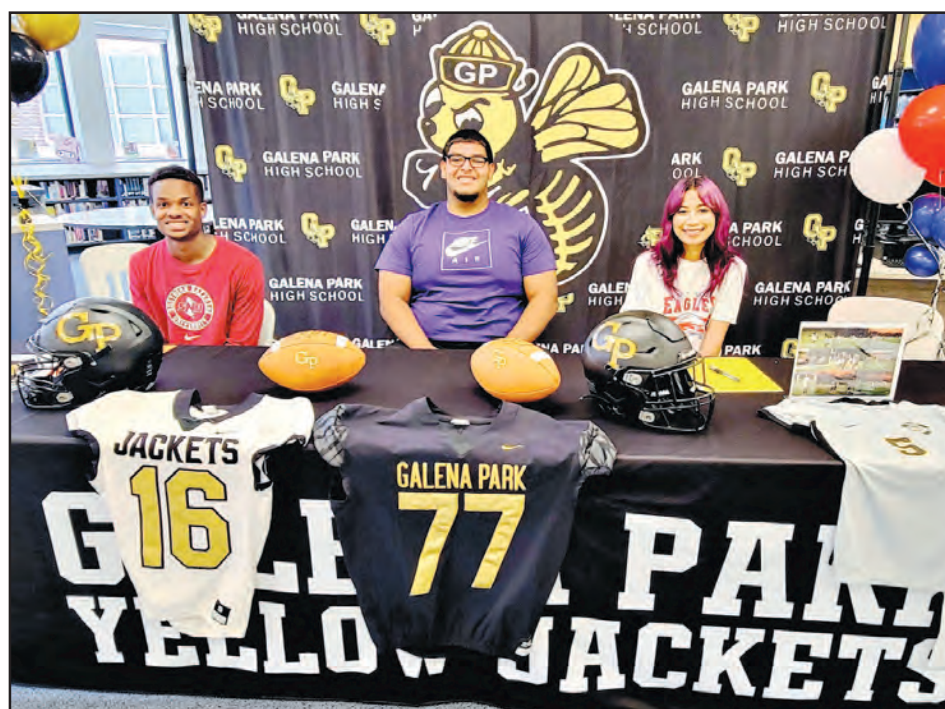
“My parents grew up there, living across the street from each other. When they got married, they moved into the house next door to my grandfather Niño, a house that he

Continued. See DR. NINO EXPANDS PRACTICE TO MEET, Page 6

## Galena Park & North Shore Spring College Signing



Mustang signees; L – R: Yaslyn Gonzales basketball, Michelle Vazquez, swimming, Jolissa Ramirez, softball, Jayce Mayfield, swimming & Sebastian Tubens, swimming. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Yellow Jackets signees; L – R: Football, #16 Hunter James, wide receiver (DB), #77 Reuben Escobar, offense line & Ebany Garcia, soccer, Academic All-District & National Honors Society. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

May 14, 2025 – Graduating athletes of Galena Park and North Shore brought their final school days to a close on a high note by signing their letters of intent to their college scholarship offers.

Family and friends showed up at the signing ceremonies held at each of the respective schools. Clapping and cheering took place as each athlete’s name was called for them to come to the signing table. Coaches spoke about each signee as to why they deserved their scholarship.

**NORTH SHORE SIGNEEES:**  
**Yaslyn Gonzales:** Bas-

ketball; District Co-MVP, averaged 15 points per game. Basketball scholarship; Kansas City, Kansas Junior College.

**Michelle Vazquez:** Swimming; team captain, 4 year varsity member & 4 year regional qualifier.

Swimming scholarship; Bristol, Tennessee’s King University.

**Jolissa “Jojo” Ramirez:** Softball; 2025 North Shore Softball Team MVP, 4 year starter. Named “Field General” by Coach Jonathan Burns for her team leadership. Softball scholarship; Kilgore, Texas; Kilgore College.

**Jayce Mayfield:** Excelled in Swimming & Basketball; 4 years varsity

swim team. Swimming scholarship; Jacksonville, Illinois; Illinois College.

**Sebastian Tubens:** Swimming; 6 year school swimmer, 4 year varsity swim team, fast swimmer & Record Breaking Relay team member. Swimming scholarship; Mayagüez, Puerto Rico; Universidad de Puerto Rico de Mayagüez Colegio.

**GALENA PARK SIGNEEES:**

**Hunter James:** National Honor Society, Football 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Team THSCA Academic All - State Football & Track, Letterman 3 year football, 2 year track

Continued. See DR. GOLDEN FUTURES AHEAD, Page 5

## Mei holds Reception and Solo Art Show June 14



MEI HOFFMAN, associate publisher of this newspaper and a professional artist, is inviting you to her Solo Exhibit Art Show and Reception, for an exhibit entitled “Nature Has Many Forms: Please Enjoy Them As I Do.”

The Reception will be held on Saturday, June 14 from 4pm to 6pm at the Silo Studios at Sawyer Yards, 1502 Sawyer Street, Gallery 300. (Off I-10 Taylor Street Exit near downtown. Park beside or behind the building). All are welcome. The Art Show is a collection of impressionistic acrylic paintings, exploring different forms of nature. The Show is in Gallery 300 through June 28.

# SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

## C.E. King High School Celebrates Over 950 Graduates in Class of 2025



C.E. King High School honored its Class of 2025 with a graduation ceremony on June 1 at NRG Stadium, where 952 seniors officially received their diplomas. The graduating class collectively earned more than \$3.8 million in scholarships, including over \$660,000 awarded to students from the school's Early College High School program. The ceremony marked a proud milestone for the Sheldon Independent School District and the students' families, celebrating years of hard work and academic achievement.

## Celebrating 70 Years of Excellence: Cimarron Elementary School



This year, Galena Park ISD proudly celebrates a remarkable milestone—the 70th anniversary of Cimarron Elementary School. Home of the Colts, Cimarron Elementary has been a beacon of learning and community spirit since its founding in 1955. Clad in royal blue and gold, the school's vibrant colors symbolize the pride and resilience that have defined generations of students, educators, and families who have called Cimarron their home.

For seven decades, Cimarron Elementary has

committed to “preparing diverse learners to become caring, creative, and responsible individuals.” By fostering unique talents through a robust curriculum in arts and academics, the school has consistently nurtured students to succeed both within and beyond the classroom. The school's vibrant vision has always been “to provide a nurturing, creative environment where students can thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.”

The 70th anniversary is not just a time to reflect on the past but also to look

forward to an exciting future. Thanks to the passage of the 2025 Bond, Cimarron Elementary is set to embark on a new chapter with the construction of a state-of-the-art campus. This modern facility will provide innovative learning spaces designed to enhance student engagement and success, ensuring that Cimarron continues to be “the best school in the world” for many years.

Here's to 70 years of excellence and the bright future ahead for the Colts!

## Sheldon ISD Communications Department Wins 9 2025 National Awards for Excellence in School Communications



Sheldon ISD Communications Department Wins 9 2025 National Awards for Excellence in School Communications

Sheldon Independent School District's Communications Department has earned national recognition, bringing home nine prestigious awards from the 2025 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) awards program. The department is being recognized for its outstanding work in publications, videos, and social media campaigns.

Competing against thousands of entries from school districts across the country, Sheldon ISD stood out for its strategic, creative, and impactful storytelling that highlights student success, district initiatives, and community engagement.

The awards reflect excellence in several categories, including:

- Publication and Digital Media Award: Photography Award of Excellence
- Publication and Digital Media Award: Social Media Award of Excellence
- Publication and Digital Media Award: Infographic Award of Merit
- Publication and Digital Media Award: Special Purpose Publication Award of Merit
- Publication and Digital Media Award: Infographic Award of Merit
- Publication and Digital Media Award: Photography Honorable Mention
- Publication and Digital Media Award: Annual Report Honorable Mention
- Publication and Digital Media Award: Special Purpose Publication Honorable Mention
- Publication and Digital Media Award - Video Series Honorable Mention

“These awards are a testament to the hard work, dedication and creativity of this team,” said Executive Director of Communications and Community Partnerships Emily Conklin, APR, CPC. “Sheldon ISD remains committed to keeping families informed and engaged, and this national recognition reinforces the district's dedication to communication excellence.”

## Off-duty Pct. 2 Deputy Sgt. Manuel Edwards killed While Bike Riding

By Allan Jamail

Katy, Texas – Tuesday, June 3, 2025 – Prct. 2 Deputy Constable Sergeant Manuel Edwards was off-duty and riding his bike about 8:12 am going north of Gaston Road, when struck from behind and killed by a U-Haul truck. Investigators said Edwards was flown to the hospital, where he died from his injuries.

The Fort Bend County Sheriff Department investigating the scene said the driver of the U-Haul truck was identified as 63-year-old Earlie Gibbs. The sheriff's office said Gibbs was charged with failure to stop and render aid and intoxication manslaughter.

Constable Jerry Garcia of Precinct 2 said Edwards was a cheerful person who talked about his family often. “Sergeant Edwards was always known as a big guy with a huge, joyful personality around the office, and always had an infectious smile on his face,” Garcia said. “He was the epitome of a family man, always taking great pride in his children and wife, frequently talking about them, he concluded.”

Edwards began his law enforcement career in 2006 as a detention officer with the Harris County Sheriff's Office. He went on to serve with the Harris County Precinct 5 Constable's Office in 2008 before transferring to Precinct 2 in 2021. At the time of his death he worked in the Toll Road Division and DUI enforcement. In 2023, his dedication and leadership earned him a promotion to the rank of sergeant.

HEART WARMING STORY ABOUT SGT. EDWARDS AS TOLD BY JACQUELYNNE OLME-DO

At just two years old, my son little Michael Aydan has been through



more than anyone could ever imagine. “He had four open heart surgeries by the time he was six months,” said mother Jacquelynne Olmedo. “And the fourth one was a heart transplant.”

He accepted his tiny new heart with no complications, but just a week ago on their way to Texas Children's Hospital, Olmedo noticed Michael started turning purple.

Harris County Precinct 5 Deputy Manuel Edwards happened to be working traffic control on the Beltway near Westpark. Olmedo pulled up behind him in a desperate panic. “I can only imagine what he was thinking,” Olmedo said.

“I know he was right there to help us because if he wasn't there I wouldn't have made it to the hospital with them,” said Olmedo.

At the time Edwards said, “First all I wanted to do was calm her down a bit.” Olmedo said he did something she never

would have expected. Edwards called for help and then he just grabbed my hand and said that God is with us and this is gonna pass,” Michael's mother said. In that moment of prayer, a miracle happened.

“The baby started moving around like nothing happened and I really think at that moment it really did something,” she said in tears.

Olmedo never thought she'd see the deputy Edwards again but to her surprise, hours later he walked in the hospital room with his sergeant. They had toys and balloons. “It makes you realize there's good officers out there,” said Olmedo.

Funeral services for Pct. 2 Sgt. Manuel Edwards will be held on Saturday, June 14, at The Church Without Walls on Queenston Boulevard. A public viewing will be held from 8 to 9:30 a.m., then the funeral service is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

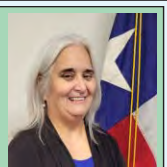
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When you apply for your Department of Public Safety Identification Card or Texas Driver's License, you are asked to list an emergency contact. When you have an emergency and the authorities verify your identity, the emergency contact is contacted. Or are they? I recently met a mother in our community who shared that when her son, Christopher Paul Sims, was violently attacked at his apartment in Texas and died hours later at a local hospital, law enforcement responded to the scene but failed to access or utilize the emergency contact listed on his official Texas ID. They incorrectly assumed his girlfriend was his legal next-of-kin, and as a result, the parents were not notified.

For five hours, the parents experienced unimaginable panic, anxiety, and heartbreak not knowing if their son was

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



### Imagine the Frustration

alive. By the time they were informed, they had lost any opportunity to be by his side to participate in critical medical decisions.

This inaction—though legal under the current policy—was preventable. If an emergency contact check has been required, the outcome for the family's ability to support their son in his last hours would have been quite different.

The Texas Real Act of 2005 requires that the Identification Card and Drivers License include emergency contact information which is accessible only to law enforcement. However, under the cur-

rent law, there is no requirement or protocol that mandates Texas law enforcement agencies to notify the emergency contacts listed on the identification card during an emergency or a crisis.

This procedural gap has resulted in delayed family notifications and unnecessary trauma for Texas families statewide. The absence of a legal mandate affects all Texans, regardless of district, age, or marital status.

Mrs Sims is asking every Texans to contact their elected leaders and ask for Texas ID Act (H.R. 1268) to be amended.

Under SEC. 02, Minimum document requirements and issuance standards for federal recognition, and I propose the inclusion of a new provision aimed at safeguarding the well-being of individuals in emergency situations. Specifically, I advocate for the incorporation of protective order that mandates a Texas and/or nationwide emergency check by Law Enforcement during crucial or emergency crises. Presently, the Real At (H.R. 1268) emergency contact check by all Texas Law Enforcement is an optional procedure

This mandated protocol or procedure would apply universally, irrespective of a person's age or marital status, and would be instrumental in ensuring the safety and security of our citizens.

Please reach out to your elected leaders TODAY and stress how important the amendment is for ALL Texans.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM



### Diamond Jim: "When are you opening the new Pineforest jewelry store?"

That is, by far, the most frequently asked question of me in 2024 and 2025. Boy! If I had a dollar for every time I was asked when the new "Diamond Jim's" Pineforest Jewelry Experience will be open... The funny thing is, I've been asking myself the same question nearly every day.



Before the first shovel of dirt could be moved, we were hit with the Covid lockdowns. Even after the lockdowns were lifted, it took many months for all of the various pieces of the puzzle to get back to "normal workflows". From the SBA and the bank to the design architects and general contractors (of which there were three total), we faced more challenges than I care to think about. Just when it seemed that we might never get the new store built, good things began to happen. A very good banker, an excellent builder, and some incredible, dedicated sub-contractors realized the vision that I've had in my mind for so many years. They all came together and contributed to help make this dream a reality.

Here it is June of 2025 and we're just weeks away from our Grand Opening. The exact dates will be published soon. We still have several tasks that need to be completed so that our customers can immerse themselves in the total "experience" of the new store. Many visual and audio surprises will greet you at the all new Pineforest Jewelry. The theme of an old 1880's California gold mine is evident both outside and inside this amazing building. "Diamond Jim's" Pineforest Jewelry Experience promises to deliver a jewelry shopping experience like nothing you've ever seen before. Don't say we didn't warn you, when the only word that comes out of your mouth is... "WOW"!

Stay tuned for more news coming VERY soon!

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).



### State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

The State of Texas offers the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency management planners and responders with information related to your needs during an emergency.

#### Who Should Register?

- People with disabilities
- People who are medically fragile
- People with functional needs such as:
  - Limited mobility
  - Communication barriers
  - Require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
  - Require personal care assistance
  - People who require transportation assistance



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★ OPINION PAGE ★

**COUNTY MATTERS**  
Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia 

### Commissioner Garcia commits to Increasing Deputy Pay

"I began my police career in 1980, during an economic downturn, when the City of Houston decided to slow its law enforcement hiring," Garcia said. "The results were disastrous. We cannot make the same mistake. We must forge ahead."

Commissioners Court voted that during the pending budget process for Fiscal Year 2026, which starts in October, the County will identify necessary savings to provide for the raises. The raises are projected to cost the County about \$140 million for the first year, and plan to meet future pay raises in the HPD contract.

"Our county cannot fall behind in providing public safety to our growing population," Garcia said. "This has to be our top priority, and we are absolutely committed to getting officer pay to a competitive rate."

Since taking office, Commissioner Garcia has spearheaded efforts to increase law enforcement pay by nearly 14 percent over the last four years. However, county law enforcement pay is still behind other local agencies. The newly approved HPD pay will place them even further behind and the County risks losing Sheriff and Constable deputies to the City.

**OPINION**  
By Harris County Public Health

### Gun Violence Demands a Public Health Approach

Harris County Public Health recognizes Gun Violence Awareness Month

HOUSTON – Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is joining communities nationwide in observing Gun Violence Awareness Month this June. The initiative draws critical attention to the growing public health crisis of gun violence and reaffirms HCPH's commitment to community-based prevention and healing.

Gun violence is currently the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States, surpassing motor vehicle crashes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Each day, more than 110 people are killed by guns, and over 200 are nonfatally injured, based on national estimates from Everytown for Gun Safety. Beyond these statistics, the ripple effects of trauma, fear, and grief continue to affect survivors, families, and entire communities.

Harris County recognizes that gun violence is not just a law enforcement issue—it's a public health emergency. Addressing it requires a comprehensive approach that targets the root causes of violence, strengthens social supports, and provides access to mental and behavioral health services.

To honor lives lost and raise awareness, HCPH encourages community members to participate in National Gun Violence Awareness Day on Friday, June 6, 2025, by wearing orange. This color symbolizes the value of life and a future free from violence.

HCPH's Community Health and Violence Prevention Services (CHVPS) Division leads county efforts to prevent and reduce violence through trauma-informed, evidence-based strategies. Strategies carried out through the HART (Holistic Assistance Response Teams) and RISE (Relentless Interrupters Serving Everyone) programs include:

- Hospital-based violence intervention
- Credible messenger and youth mentorship initiatives
- Behavioral and mental health support
- Community outreach and education

These services are focused on prevention, healing, and long-term resilience to build safer, healthier communities across Harris County.

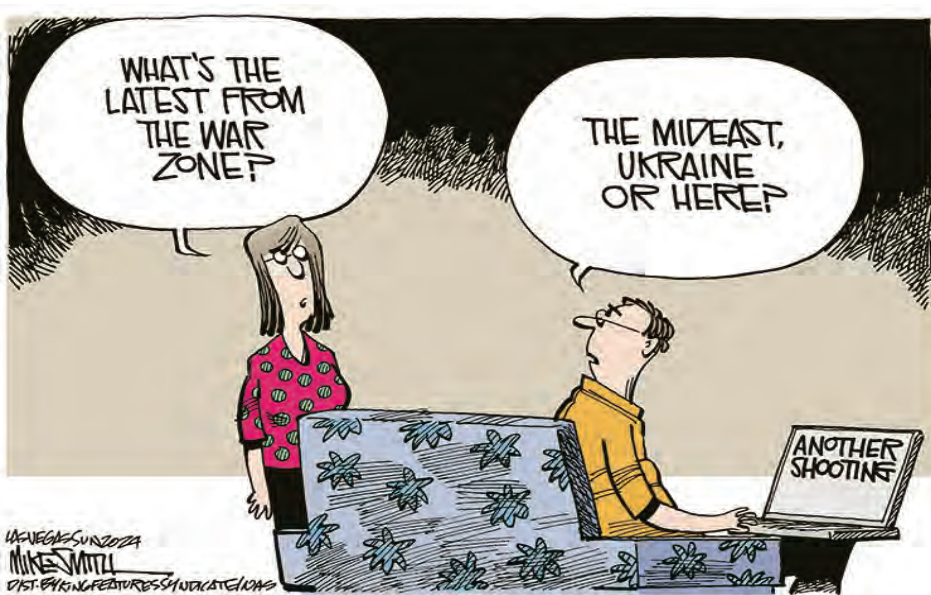
As the American Public Health Association (APHA) notes, gun violence affects public health at every level—from individual trauma to population-wide disparities. HCPH works collaboratively with local leaders, organizations, and community members to advance safety, equity, and wellness.

To learn more about HCPH's violence prevention work, visit the

HCPH Community Health and Violence Prevention Services webpage or call (713) 274-4877. Additionally, community members in crisis or seeking support can contact the Houston Crisis Hotline at (832) 416-1177 or the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990. For text support, send "TALKWITHUS" to 66746.

HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

**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 

### Legislative Session Wraps up

The dust hasn't quite settled on the 2025 legislative session, but here's a sampling of bills already sent to Gov. Greg Abbott.

- A ban on clubs supporting gay teens in public schools won final legislative passage on Saturday. The measure sponsored by state Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, would prohibit schools from authorizing or sponsoring student clubs based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

**SEVERAL DEMOCRATS ARGUED PASSIONATELY AGAINST THE BILL, THE TEXAS TRIBUNE REPORTED.**

"Getting silence in schools from the LGBTQ community, which is what this bill is designed to do, will not stop your kids from being gay," state Rep. Erin Zwiener, D-Driftwood, said. "It will just make them afraid to come out."

Supporters of the bill said it solidifies parents' rights to determine their child's exposure to diversity, equity, and inclusion policies, including discussions about LGBTQ issues and gender identity.

- Depending on inevitable court challenges, every public-school classroom in Texas could be required to display the Ten Commandments. A similar law in Louisiana has been ruled unconstitutional by a federal court and is under appeal.

- Texas voters in November will be asked to approve raising the homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 for all homeowners and to \$200,000 for homeowners who are 65 and older or have a disability, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

"I'm looking forward to what I think will be a record turnout by the public," said Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, the bills' author. "This is great news, because these commitments — once



they're enshrined in the constitution — are going to be there forever."

The increased property tax exemptions overwhelmingly passed both the House and Senate. If approved by voters, they will cost the state's general revenue fund about \$3 billion. Another \$3.5 billion will reimburse public school districts for reduced local property tax revenue.

**These exemptions are only for homesteads and don't apply to rental or business properties. A separate bill increased the business personal property tax exemption from \$2,500 to \$125,000.**

- Legislation banning non-citizens from China, North Korea, Iran and Russia from owning property in the state, except for a homestead, is headed to the governor's desk, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"Texas is not for sale. It is not for sale to our enemy countries," Senate Bill 17's author Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, said during a news conference.

Some Democratic legislators decried the bill as racist and creating obstacles to immigrants achieving economic success.

"The danger of this type of legislation is that it is step-by-step repeating the same laws that were passed before we got to the Japanese internment almost 100 years ago," Rep. Gene Wu, D-Hous-

ton, said during a House debate on the bill.

Under the final version of the measure, citizens of those four countries cannot be a majority owner of a business or own more than one home in Texas. Ownership of agricultural land, industrial property, oil rights, or water rights is also banned.

- A bipartisan bill passed last week will require oil and gas operators to plug wells that have been inactive for at least 15 years, beginning in September 2027, the Texas Standard reported. Regulators estimate there are more than 150,000 inactive wells in the state. Of that number, 8,900 have no established owner because the company no longer exists or has gone bankrupt.

At least eight of these so-called orphan wells have become conduits for water traveling beneath them and have burst since last October, costing the state millions of dollars to plug them. The Texas Oil and Gas Association applauded passage of the bill.

The bill "recognizes that once a well has reached the end of its economic life and there is no useful purpose, the owner should be responsible for the plugging," said Todd Staples, association president.

The Texas Railroad Commission will be responsible for enforcing the new regulations.

- The Legislature has passed a statewide ban on all products containing THC, the psychoactive ingredient in many products being legally sold in shops across the state. Now Gov. Gregg Abbott faces an onslaught of political pressure from business interests, veterans' groups and others to veto the measure, which could wipe out the \$8 billion hemp industry.

"This is to save an entire generation from being hooked on drugs," Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said at a news conference.

Abbott has not taken a position on the issue. He has the authority to either sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without his signature, or veto the measure.

Many opponents of the ban said they are willing to place regulations on the consumable hemp industry. Currently there are no age limits or marketing rules in place. Stores that sell these products must register with the state, but only three employees with the Texas Department of State Health Services are responsible for inspecting more than 8,500 locations in Texas.

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By Carrie Classon

### Dressing Up



My husband, Peter, doesn't believe me, but I didn't always dress up.

I would dress up for the holidays and for a special occasion, but the definition of "special" was fairly strict. It involved wearing nice shoes perhaps half a dozen times a year.

But I changed professions and identities a couple of times and, somewhere in there, I discovered that I could wear a lot of clothes I never imagined I could wear. And then I met Peter.

This is the part Peter disputes. "You were always a fancy dresser!" he says.

And he's right; I've never had anything against dressing up. But I also never had many reasons to dress up until I met him. Peter appreciates it when I get dressed up.

"You can't be too dressed up," Peter will say. I'm not sure this is true, but I've decided to believe him.

And now that I'm older, I am having a lot more fun getting dressed up than I ever did when I was young. I think the expectations are different. When I was younger, I had this wrong-headed idea that there was a right way to dress up. I thought I would either hit the mark or miss. Now that I'm older, I realize there is no one keeping score—there are no points off for getting it wrong. The only thing that matters is if I feel happy in whatever I am wearing, and maybe, if I can spread a little of that happiness to others.

"That's a great dress!" Someone will holler on the street when I'm wearing something colorful and a little wild. I accept the compliment with a smile. "Terrific glasses!" someone else will say about my oversized blue shades.

It's fun to remind people that dressing up is a choice. No one has provided me with a uniform, and I am going to enjoy this freedom.

I'm thinking about this tonight because I'm going out to dinner with friends, and I've been planning what to wear. I had a fun, summery outfit all picked out that was a little flashy and perfect for a warm evening. But the evening had other plans, and it is going to be cold. I decided I was not going to let a little inclement weather spoil my plan to wear fun clothes.

And then I remembered the necklace.

I bought a crazy necklace in a park in Mexico. It was on a card table, being sold with a mishmash of other used jewelry. I have no idea where it came from—and I would love to know. It is large and asymmetrical and made of enormous, amber-colored crystals. It is not simply the gaudiest piece of jewelry I have ever owned—it is about 10 times gaudier than the gaudiest piece of jewelry I have ever worn.

And then I remembered the gold jacket. I actually own a gold fur jacket. It has been hiding in the back of the closet for five years. I thought it might make a good costume piece when I first was considering doing a show. It was used and very inexpensive and it has a lovely satin lining. And did I mention it was gold? And made of fake fur?

So, paired with a simple black dress, I think I have my evening's ensemble sorted out. Peter thinks I have always been a person who goes out to dinner in giant fake jewels and a gold fur jacket. I would argue with him, but there's really no point because now he's right. I do.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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# Lyondellbasell leaders detail safety, expansion, and community impact during NC Chambers luncheon,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A lot of the flaring is routine, but during an emergency where they have lost power, for example, they use the flares to burn off the excess material.

The use of flares is highly regulated in the state by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and nationally by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“We have conditions that we have to meet so that they burn properly and do the job they’re expected to do,” Cannon explained.

The plant has annual limits and even regulated hourly by emissions.

“If we exceed, we have to contact the agencies, let them know, record it, and follow-up with an investigation and determine how it can be controlled in the future and prevent it from happening again,” he said.

Cannon said flares are visible all across the North Channel energy complex in the Ship Channel as well.

“We call those flares stick flares which utilize guide wires to hold them

up. We also have new technology with what we call a multi-point ground flare,” he said.

At ground level, they’re less visible in the skyline, and when they are lit, they can be a little disconcerting at a distance because it appears there’s a fire on the horizon in the plant.

Cannon also showed where most of the white smoke ascending from the stick flares is steam.

“The steam assists in making sure that it’s an efficient burn. When you see a steam trail coming off, it’s just hot water.


“We have operators that control this through video cameras from their control rooms. They can see what’s going on at the top and they look for different conditions. One of the things they look for is smoke. If there happens to be black smoke coming off the flare, they may need to make some adjustments,” he said.

They also have analyzers that tell them what kind of gasses are going up, what kind of BTU value or burn value that they

### What produces the fog/clouds?


- “Smoke” coming from various areas in the units is steam or water vapor, much like fog or clouds.
- Water vapor from cooling towers recycle hot water from the units. During the cooling process, some water evaporates and is visible as water vapor clouds.
- The color of the water vapor is affected by weather conditions and temperature.

**Hot and dry**




Water vapor clouds are less visible, light color.

**Cool, damp and sunny**




Water vapor clouds are heavy and dark, especially in front of the sun.

**Warm with some humidity**



Water vapor forms white, fluffy clouds which are easily noticeable.

**Cool, wet and no sun**



Water vapor clouds are dark and heavy, like rain clouds.

have up there.

Simply put, Cannon said residents will see a visible flame, notice the steam, might see smoke occasionally, and if they see black smoke, they’re making adjustments.

If residents have any concerns, they are urged to call the CAER line at 281-476-CAER (2237). CAER is an acronym for the Community Area Emergency

Response line.

“For a flare, the weather can play a role in that,” he said.

Cannon referenced an event in February when the area was overcast with low clouds. The sound, he said, can bounce off the cloud carrying the sound and light much further.

“That’s a noisy process, just like the roaring of a bonfire,” he explained.

Cannon also gave numbers showing the destruction rate of material on an elevated flare, typically between 98-99 percent, and the newest technology ground flares at 99.5 percent efficient.

“We had one injury last year for 3,000 people. In the industry, the work labor pool in the US, according to the US Bureau of Labor, was 3.0 so we were

.03 much less than overall,” Cannon said.

Wood said they expected to break ground on their Flex Two Project, an expansion that is projected to startup in 2028.

“It’s a duplicate of another unit that we have on site already with our own proprietary technology. It will bring 750 construction jobs to the area along with 25 full-time jobs.”

# Golden futures ahead: Galena Park and North Shore student-athletes celebrate college commitments,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

& basketball, 3 time district track champion in hurdles, qualifier for area & regional meet for multiple events & hurdles, district 1<sup>st</sup> team wide receiver, 2<sup>nd</sup> cornerback & district championship game player football & track. Football scholarship Oklahoma City, Okla. Southern Nazarene University.

**Rueben Escobar:** Na-

tional Honor Society (4.0 GPA), All - State Football & Track, Letterman 3 year football & track, 4 year choir, shot put district champion, district 1<sup>st</sup> team offensive lineman & district championship game player football & track. Football scholarship Forest City, Iowa’s Waldorf University.

**Ebany Garcia:** Nation-



al Honors Society, class top 5%, Academic All-District, Soccer all district, played 36 varsity games with 26 goals, reached highest level in ManU test. Soccer scholarship; Mount Pleasant, Texas; Northeast Texas Community College.

GPISD Admin. & coaches providing information; Vivian Dancy, Athletic Director, North Shore coach-

es, swimming, Paige Sikkema, softball coach Jonathan Burns & Allison Campbell Campus Coordinator. Galena Park coaches, Spiro Amarantos (Head Coach), Ronnie Whigham, Jonathan James & Brittanay Bray.

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# Dr. Nino expands practice in new Channelview location, to meet growing demands of his medical practice,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

built. They were renting from him and lived across the street from the other grandparents on Avenue J," he told the story.

Later, his parents moved to southeast Houston, closer to Hobby Airport, where he spent most of his time and graduated from Sterling High School in Houston.

His dream was to go to Rice University where his grandfather attended.

"He was one of the first Hispanic students at Rice University, or Rice Institute as it was called back then," he said proudly. His grandfather was recruited and offered a scholarship after Rice officials saw him play basketball and led his team to the state finals.

After his grandfather graduated from Rice with a mechanical engineering degree, he opened his own shop repairing and servicing steam boilers.

"He also did the steam presses for tailor shops and big box stores like Neiman Marcus and Sackowitz. He even met Marvin Zindler before he became famous."

When grandson Niño applied to Rice, he was accepted.

"I only applied to one school. That was where I wanted to go," he said. He had an application for the University of Houston that he never filled out.

Niño was seeking a biology degree as a pre-med student.

"It was sort of boring academics, so I changed to a biomedical engineering degree," he smiled. It was far more interesting and also

aided his opportunity for getting into medical school.

Niño applied for University of Texas Medical School in Houston and was accepted. At medical school, he earned various opportunities for great experiences including an internship with a vascular surgeon.

Niño graduated from Rice in 1979 and entered UT Med School that fall.

"Classes at med school were easier than going to Rice," he smiled. "At Rice, I was in engineering classes," he said.

His first two years in med school were a routine 8-our classes each day, taking lectures and memorizing a lot of information.

"The new thing was computers and computer modeling. Having an engineering degree gave me an advantage because a lot of people didn't know about computers then," he described it.

His third and fourth year of med school brought valuable experience.

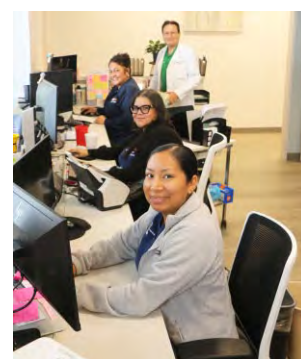
"It was very exciting, and I didn't realize how much I would like it," the doctor said. His colleagues also recognized his acuity with patients and interaction.

"I think some of that may have come from my experience working at Radio Shack as a salesman," he smiled.

In '86 he began his residency at Memorial Medical Center in Corpus Christi with his wife, Martha, whom he met at freshman week at Rice. They mar-



Sitting in the new nurse's station from left, Tillie Saldivar, Eliana Torres, Maria Olivera (back) and Dr. Donald Niño.



From the front, Paola Sotelo, Lorena Hinojosa, and Myrna Garza help Dr. Niño receiving patients in the front of the office.



The new office offers much more space than the previous location on Interstate 10.



In the new office, there is a drawing station for taking blood from patients offered by Quest. Patients no longer have to go elsewhere or wait for results.

almost 30 years working in the practice.

"I thought about quitting after she died. We were together 24 hours a day. A lot of couples say they couldn't do that, but I could with Martha," he said.

After a week of being off recovering from the funeral, the number of phone calls wanting to see him continued to grow, and he felt like he had to return.

"It was a therapy for me," he said, "coming back and treating patients."

He met his new wife, Dana, at the North Shore Rotary Club and they began a friendship doing Rotary activities together. They've been married now for seven years. She has her own business called Phase Three and the couple continue their work with Rotary.

Niño has been a mentor to Dr. Melissa Silva and she has been the beneficiary of scholarships from North Shore Rotary. Now she is a part of the practice, seeing patients of her own and learning under the auspices of Niño.

"I'll keep doing this as long as I have a passion for my work," he said, and with a new facility, he hopes that will be a long time. The Channelview Family Medicine keeps hours from Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to noon. They are located at 5616 East Sam Houston Parkway N, Houston, 77015 and can be reached at 281-452-4747.

ried during his second year of med school. She was from Beeville, close to Corpus. He received an exponential amount of experience from delivering babies, performing operations, and much more.

After three years there, they moved back to Houston to start a practice.

Niño met Dr. Bell and worked side by side with him until '87 when he sold the practice to Niño.

"I went from treating four patients in a day to 40," he laughed, "and it's been like that ever since."

One of his advantages is his and his staff's ability to speak Spanish.

Niño's philosophy was to bring Medical Center training to take care of people on the eastside like they do downtown.

He has since served on numerous prestigious boards, won awards, and a few years ago, sold his practice to Hospital Corporation of America and works for them now.

His wife Martha, who ran the practice, died after

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# celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

**Q: I'm sorry to see my favorite network newscaster, Lester Holt, leave NBC. Who is the guy replacing him?** — C.S.

**A:** Lester Holt, who replaced Brian Williams as the anchor of the NBC Nightly News broadcast in 2015, told Variety that he was returning to his reporting roots, which includes being the lead presenter of "Dateline," among other projects. His replacement is 45-year-old Tom Llamas, who often subbed for Holt and also hosted the Emmy-nominated "Top Story with Tom Llamas," which streams on NBC News Now.

Llamas is the fourth journalist to host the Nightly News in the past four decades — the first being Tom Brokaw, who helmed the desk from 1982-2004.

**Q: I'm excited for the new episodes of "King of the Hill" coming up. Will the same actors be voicing the characters as before?** — L.W.

**A:** A 10-episode "King of the Hill" reboot is coming to Hulu beginning Aug. 4 and will take place 14 years since the last episode aired. Bobby is all grown up, and his parents, Hank and Peggy Hill, return to the fictional town of Arlen, Texas, to retire. Bobby is nearby in the big city of Dallas working as a chef, living his best life with his friends from childhood.

The show's co-creator Mike Judge returns to voice Hank, Kathy Najimy returns as Peggy, and Pamela Adlon as Bobby. Sadly, Johnny Hardwick, who voiced Dale Gribble, passed away after recording just a few episodes, so Toby Huss will take over the voice acting for the role for the remainder of the season.

Brittany Murphy, who passed away far too young in 2009, memorably voiced the role of Luanne, and the late Tom Petty voiced Luanne's hubby, Lucky. Showrunner Saladin K. Patterson did explain at the recent ATX Television Festival that the show has found a way to honor them but didn't give any spoilers.

**Q: Is it true that Pauly Shore is going to be in a movie with Denzel Washington? The last I heard, Shore was going to play Richard Simmons in a movie. Is this the same one?** —



Former NBC Nightly News anchor Lester Holt

**L.L.**  
**A:** While he's active on social media, actor/comedian Pauly Shore hasn't really had a hit film since the 1990s. He recently made a short film portraying the late exercise guru Richard Simmons, but it hasn't been released yet. He's no doubt wanting to stage a career comeback like his "Encino Man" co-star Brendan Fraser did when he won an Oscar in 2023 for "The Whale."

Shore recently posted on his Instagram that he's set to star in a new thriller with Denzel Washington and Kevin Bacon, titled "Get Out of Our Way." The post had a screenshot of a Deadline article about the project, but it appears to be fake, as no such article exists on Deadline.com.

He also recently posted a similar story from the Hollywood Reporter about him and Denzel having lunch in Beverly Hills, but the photo was obviously made using AI.

Hopefully Shore will get his comeback someday, but in the meantime, he's having a lot of fun pranking us.

Send me your questions at [NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com](mailto:NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com).

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## NATURE FORMS

by MEI HOFFMAN

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Amber Waves

**KIDS, TODAY WE ARE GOING TO READ OUR SHORT STORIES AND SHARE WHAT INSPIRED US.**

**MY STORY IS CALLED "NIGHT OF SHOOTING STARS." I WAS GAZING WITH MY TELESCOPE.**

**MY STORY IS CALLED "SUNNY MEADOW IN THE MORNING." I FOUND THE SCENERY INSPIRING.**

**MINE IS CALLED "DOES THE BUS DRIVER HAVE TO HIT EVERY POTHOLE?" I WAS SHORT ON TIME.**

**TIGER**

**MY BIKE ISN'T RIDING RIGHT, HUGO.**

**I THINK IT NEEDS WORK.**

**I'LL GIVE IT A ROAD TEST.**

**RIGHT. IT NEEDS WORK.**

by Dave T. Phipps

**by BUD BLAKE**

**THE SPATS**

**GRANDPA, WHAT IS AN OXYMORON?**

**RUB RUB RUB**

**A MORON WHO BREATHES AIR.**

by Jeff Pickering

### Weekly SUDOKU

6	1	3			9	5	2	7	
								8	
4	7						9	1	
9			2	8	7				
		3	1	5	9				
	2	6	1						
1	4	5	6	3	2		7		
7	3	8	9						
			8					1	5

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Club is longer. 2. Tree trunk is thinner. 3. Vest neckline is different. 4. Cap is larger. 5. Cloud is larger. 6. Leaves are missing from tree.

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June 9, 2025 Posting Date

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Bog
- 6 Sidesteps
- 12 Net defender
- 13 Swiss metropolis
- 14 "The Joy Luck Club" author
- 15 Porter
- 16 Cuban money
- 17 Despot
- 19 Mormon church, for short
- 20 "Shoo!"
- 22 Hot tub
- 24 Egyptian cobra
- 27 Curved molding
- 29 Ethereal
- 32 2002 Aerosmith single
- 35 Lamb alias
- 36 Salt formula
- 37 "Mayday!"
- 38 "Ain't — Sweet" (classic song)
- 40 Memorandum
- 42 Halloween
- 44 "Star Wars" actor
- 46 Bulletproof garment
- 50 Enter

**DOWN**

- 1 Not all
- 2 Methods
- 3 Choir members
- 4 Ms. Farrow
- 5 Military headquarters
- 6 Taj Mahal city
- 7 Swerves
- 8 Finale
- 9 Captures again
- 10 Tube spot
- 11 Chumps
- 12 Hiatus
- 18 Pop rocker
- 21 Lettuce variety
- 23 Shriver of tennis
- 24 Mature
- 25 Part of RSVP
- 26 Immaculate
- 28 Accompanied
- 30 Classic car
- 31 Gen. parts
- 33 —di-dah
- 34 Last (Abbr.)
- 39 Devour
- 41 Kick out
- 42 Folklore monster
- 43 Cajole
- 45 Abolitionist
- 47 "En garde"
- 48 Crystal gazer
- 49 Poetic contraction
- 51 — de plume
- 53 I love (Lat.)

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## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- AD SLOGANS: Which retail chain urges consumers to "Expect More. Pay Less"?
- MATH: What is an obelus?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the last to own slaves?
- LITERATURE: Author Ian Fleming's Jamaican estate has the same name as which James Bond movie?
- TELEVISION: How many seasons of "Wheel of Fortune" did Pat Sajak host?
- SCIENCE: What are cordyceps?
- MOVIES: Which actor/comedian/filmmaker made his film debut in the movie "Donnie Darko"?
- ACRONYMS: What does the acronym BBC stand for?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only bird that can fly backward?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is a mirepoix?

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1. Target. 2. The division sign. 3. Ulysses Grant. 4. "GoldenEye". 5. 4:1. 6. A type of fungus or mushroom. 7. Seth Rogen. 8. British Broadcasting Corp. 9. Hummingbird. 10. A recipe base of onion, celery and carrots.

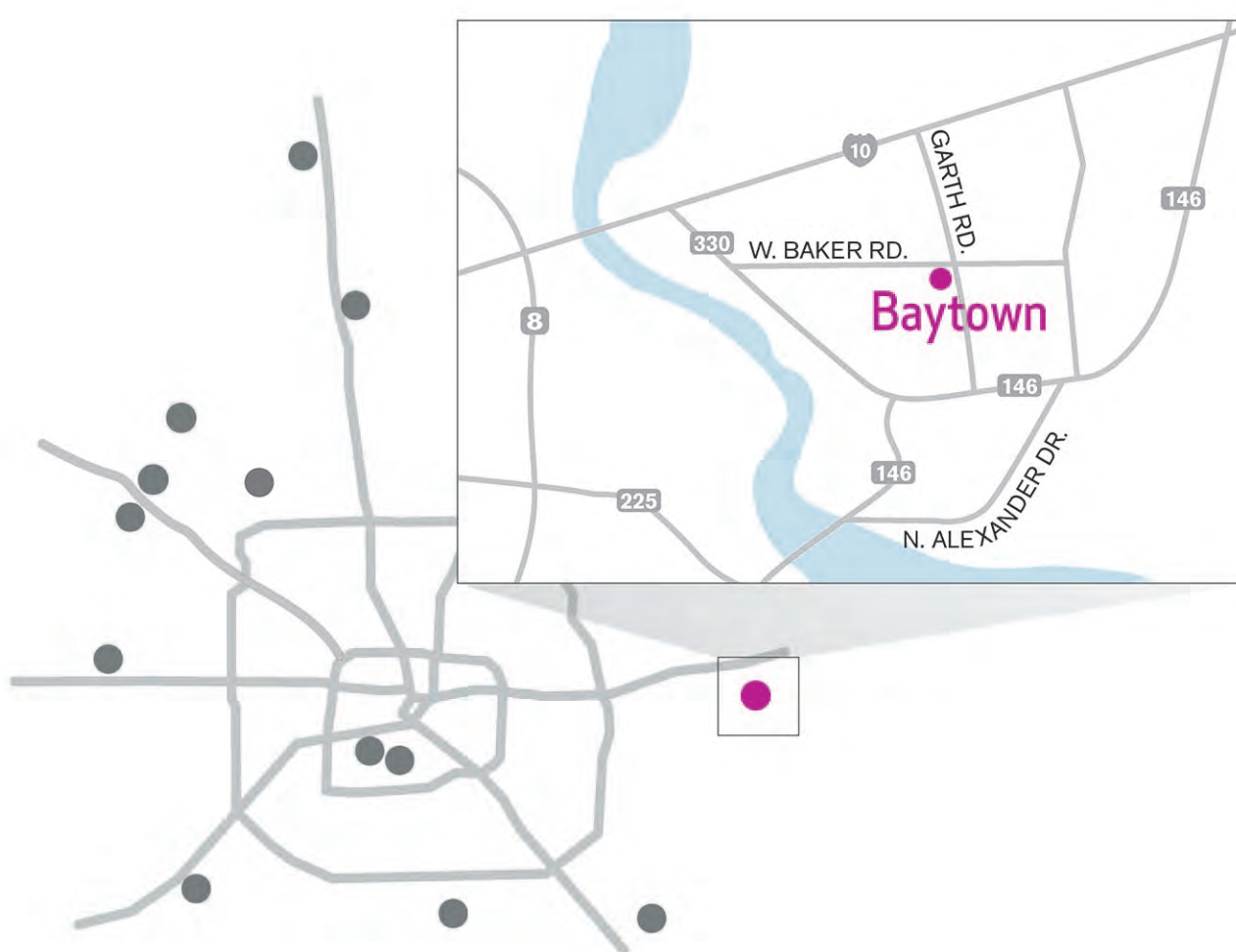


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