



Jacinto City and Galena Park will light up the sky with their annual Fourth of July Fireworks show on Friday, July 4 at 9:15pm along the High Road. See Story on Page 6

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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Injured Man Rescued From 100-foot Structure Below Ground

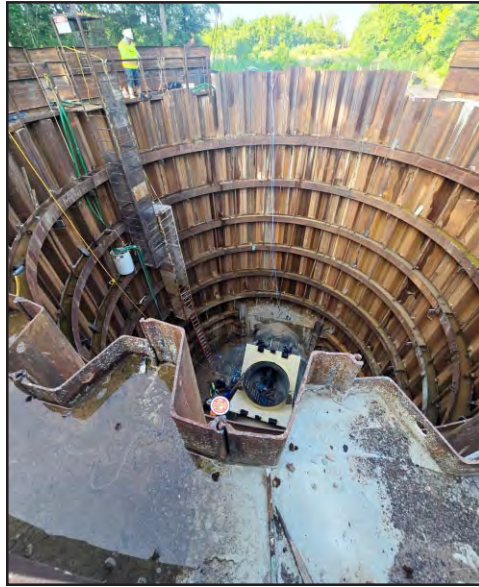
By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue and South Lake EMS responded to a call for help from a man who had fallen approximately 18 feet inside a 100-foot structure deep into the ground resulting in serious injuries.

The call came around 7:50 a.m. on Thursday, May 29, according to Daniel Grable, deputy fire chief with Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue.

Engine 33 responded within five minutes to the scene which was tucked deep into the woods and South Lake EMS followed close behind

Grable said when they arrived, they found a male had fallen approximately 18 feet off a ladder to the bottom of a 100-foot struc-



A contractor was rescued by Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue and Southlake EMS after he fell 18 feet while working in a 100-foot hole. It appeared the patient may have had two broken arms.



The 100-foot structure where the contractor fell is located close to Westlake Houston Parkway and North Lake Houston Parkway. It is the site where they were laying new water lines from the City of Houston water treatment plant near Lake Houston.

ture. "It was like concrete on the exterior, so it pretty much had plenty of shoring all the way around it,

so he was protected at least from a collapse," he said.

The crew on Engine 33 requested assistance from

their technical rescue trailer and Engine 23 brought a Stokes basket, ropes, and various other types of equipment for a high-angle, confined space rescue.

"We also toned out Crosby Fire Depart-

ment requesting their UTV off-road vehicle. Where we had to park was about a mile-and-a-half off the main road and it was very muddy," he said.

No physical address was available, but the scene was close to Westlake Houston Parkway at North Lake Houston Parkway.

"A contractor is laying new water lines coming from the City of Houston water treatment plant near Lake Houston," Grable said.

The 64-inch water line runs all the way to Katy.

"EMS and our crews were able to use the fixed ladder system they had on the below ground structure to get to the patient," the deputy fire chief said.

When the equipment arrived, Grable said they were able to lower the Stokes basket and other equipment to the floor of the structure and rescue the patient.

It was believed the patient may have suffered two broken arms and various other injuries and was transported to a local hospital. No word on his current condition is available.

CHANNEL CURRENTS

C.H.I.C. Meeting: Port Houston's Listening Tour Thursday June 26

Port Houston is currently on a **Listening Tour** and wants to hear from Channelview and other surrounding Port community residents.

To learn from and engage with the communities they serve, Port Houston's Manager of Community Relations, Garrett Berg will be at C.H.I.C.'s meeting this month to hear directly from community members about our concerns and improvements we would like to see happen.

June 26, 2025
Time: 6:30 p.m.
A social time will be held 5:30 - 6:20 pm
Place: Channelview Fire Department Station 3
1210 Dell Dale
Channelview, TX 77530

Historic Implosion of ExxonMobil's "White House" in Baytown



BAYTOWN, Texas — In a dramatic event on Saturday morning, Baytown witnessed the implosion of ExxonMobil's iconic main office building, affectionately known as the "White House." The 10-story structure, a staple of the city for over 50 years, was brought down in a matter

of seconds, enveloped in a cloud of dust.

The implosion was initiated by Debbie Himsel, a Baytown resident, who was selected through a raffle held last month. Himsel, accompanied by her family, had the honor of pushing the plunger that

triggered the demolition. As the building collapsed, she exclaimed, "Thanks for the memories!"

Despite its historical significance, Himsel expressed excitement about the change, stating, "No, it's progress. I've got the memories." The building,

which has been vacant since late last year, was demolished as part of ExxonMobil's modernization and expansion initiatives.

Himsel's connection to the building is personal; her father worked there, and she fondly recalls its opening in 1971. Although

nervous before the event, she was thrilled to be part of this historic moment.

ExxonMobil confirmed that the implosion proceeded smoothly, and while plans for the site remain undecided, the event marked a significant chapter in Baytown's history.

Pet Matters: In Memory of Susan Hoffman Protecting Pets in Texas Heat

By Allan Jamail

June 24, 2025 at the Houston Police Memorial HPD Sgt. Misty Pierson the K9 handler of BOSS (see photo) and I met; because with the heat wave and the heat-index soaring into triple digits we agreed pet owners must take extra precautions with their pets. Because Sgt. Pierson cares about pets and their lives she agreed for this interview with a photo of her and her K9 hoping it will prevent mistreatment of pets. READ MORE ABOUT SGT. PIERSON & BOSS BELOW.

I dedicate this article to Susan Lynn Hoffman, the daughter of the North Channel Star Editor and Publisher Gilbert Hoffman. She died unexpectedly May 23, 2023 at the age of 64, from Cardiac Arrest suffered during a scheduled heart procedure.



HPD Sgt. Misty Pierson with K9 BOSS at the Houston Police Memorial. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Susan's interests included taking care for every conceivable stray animal she encountered.

She cared for many stray animals, including cats, dogs, and birds. She

kept some, but found Foster homes when possible. She supported animal shelters and

Continued. See PROTECTING PETS IN THE TEXAS HEAT, Page 7

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION Biden visits Historic Reedy Chapel in Galveston

GALVESTON, JUNE 19 – Onlookers, braving the sultry Galveston heat, lined the street along Broadway Avenue J to catch a glimpse of former President Joe Biden as he entered the Reedy Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church to celebrate the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth Thursday.

One hundred sixty years ago, Union Major General Gordon Granger proclaimed the end of slavery in Galveston — two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The federal holiday's roots run deep on the island as the order freed approximately 250,000 enslaved people in Texas. Some of them gathered at the chapel on the island to worship and celebrate their freedom.



Former President Joe Biden's arrival to the historic Reedy Chapel Thursday evening was met with cheers, song and dance. He attended a Juneteenth ceremony inside of the church, sitting shoulder-to-shoulder with event organizers and religious leaders. (Photo HPM/Grunau)

While the events of June 18, 1865, have long been celebrated in Galveston, it was not until June 2021 that then-President Joe Biden officially made Juneteenth a federally recognized holiday.

Biden's arrival to the historic chapel Thursday evening was met with cheers, song and dance. He attended a Juneteenth cer-

Continued. See BIDEN OBSERVES JUNETEENTH, Page 2

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon Scramble Brings the Heat — and the People



Sheldon ISD's Education Foundation held its fifth annual Sheldon Summer Scramble, presented by Huckabee, at the Clubs of Kingwood on June 9 with record participation. Approximately 140 golfed in the event raising a total of approximately \$65,000. Proceeds from the tournament will fund grants submitted by Sheldon ISD educators.

"We are extremely appreciative of the support of our donors and sponsors in this year's tournament," said Executive Director of Communications and Community Partnerships Emily Conklin, APR. "Every dollar raised will go back into our classroom to make a difference for our students and teachers."

To get involved with Sheldon ISD's Education Foundation, go to www.sheldonisd.com/sef.

Marcy Jackson named principal of Sheldon Elementary

Marcy Jackson
Principal of Sheldon Elementary

Sheldon ISD announces the hiring of Ms. Marcy Jackson as the new principal of Sheldon Elementary. Ms. Jackson is the current assistant principal at Sheldon Elementary where she has served in a leadership role for the students and staff since 2023.

Ms. Jackson has 15 years of educational experience serving in elementary schools as a teacher, math/science specialist and assistant principal. She has worked with students and families in Sheldon ISD at Royalwood Elementary and Sheldon Elementary since 2019. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Houston and a Master of Education from the University of St. Thomas. Ms. Jackson replaces Mrs. Jana Rolling who was named Sheldon ISD's Director of Teaching and Learning last month.

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Sheldon ISD to Host Back to School Bash



On Friday, August 1, Sheldon ISD will host a Back to School Bash at Panther Stadium. The event will kick off at 4 p.m. with a festival with games and resources provided by community partners and Sheldon ISD employees. At dusk, Sheldon ISD will show a movie at the stadium. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs, and remember stadium procedures apply.

Kase Academy Seniors kick off Graduation with festive block party



KASE Academy's Class of 2025 marked the end of their high school journey with a lively graduation block party on campus. The event featured a festive atmosphere with music from a live DJ, an array of food and snacks, and a raffle drawing that kept spirits high throughout the day.

College and career representatives were also on hand to connect with seniors and share post-graduation opportunities, helping students plan for the future beyond high school. The block party served as both a joyful farewell and a launchpad into the next chapter for the graduating seniors.

Sheldon ISD Seniors Celebrate Journey with Annual Parade



On May 27, high school seniors across the district took part in the annual Senior Parade Walk, revisiting their former early childhood centers, elementary, and middle schools. Cheered on by past teachers and current students, the soon-to-be graduates received warm greetings and high-fives. This heartfelt tradition celebrated their journey and inspired younger students, marking a proud moment for the Class of 2025 and the entire community. The Class of 2025 graduates on Sunday, June 1 at 3 p.m. To watch the ceremony live, go to the district's website at www.sheldonisd.com.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Stop the Bitterness

What causes bitterness? What causes it to continue? As we look around the world, there is a dark cloud looming above many people's lives. Let's look a little closer. We have family, friends, coworkers and neighbors who walk around with frowns on their faces and bitterness in their hearts. Many do not even know why they are upset and bitter. It seems to just come natural to them. On the other hand, there are others who are always smiling, always offering an encouraging word and ready to tackle a project to make life better. Not just for themselves but for others.

In the past few weeks, I have met with other Precinct Chairs within the area working on several projects. We are not only scheduling Voter Registration Drives but working on an upcoming scholarship fundraiser as well as meeting with candidates who were running for a Congressional District Chairmanship position. As we have worked together, it has been apparent that we have differences yet at the end of the day, we want to be sure to have an engaged community of voters.

There is also a group of approximately twenty Harris County Residents who have been meeting monthly to work on a United Way Council introducing others to various needs in the community as well as providing information on lesser-known non-profits that are already in existence. We are learning about tools offered by United Way that will help our communities find the resources that are often needed. We came together as strangers with diverse backgrounds and have grown to learn from each other as well as to work on solutions for the needs in the area.

I had the pleasure of attending the 150th Anniversary program for Barrett Station two weeks ago. The love and pride felt at the event was real. So many individuals were recognized for the many contributions in the community. No doubt over the years, there were some disagreements and perhaps some different ideas of how to accomplish goals, but by everyone keeping an open mind and keeping concern for others in their hearts, progress has been made, and love abounds. There are generations of family and friends who are always ready to welcome a newcomer into the community. It comes from remembering the past and learning from the disagreements.

In a time where the enemy wants to see division and bitterness, let's do our part to make an impact. Monthly, there are opportunities to get involved. The Chamber of Commerce is a great way for businesses as well as individuals who want to make a difference to get active. The Channelview Health Improvement Coalition, better known as C.H.I.C., invites you to learn about the environmental concerns that affect us all. They also do a clean-up along Sheldon Road each month.

Channelview Ministry Team meets monthly and is open to anyone who has a heart to love and serve the Channelview Community by showing the love of Christ. Throughout the year, there are various projects and events that you are welcome to participate in. Let's work together to stop the bitterness and make a positive impact.

Rotary Award to Debbie Palko



Last night while attending 2025-2026 Rotary District 5890, Governor, Mr. Thomas Kelchner's Installation and Annual Banquet, our outgoing 2024-2025 Rotary District 5890, Governor, Mrs. Nancy Anderson recognized one of our own, Mrs. Debbie Palko. Debbie, who is a charter member of the District 5890 Rotary Community Corps, and who has twice served as their Treasurer, and twice served as their President, is also a volunteer Ambassador with the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce. She has been a member of the Rodeo Merchandise Committee for 15 years, and is a past Committee Captain. Debbie is also a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Last night she was awarded the EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO



HUMANITY for her exemplary humanitarian service through Rotary. Debbie has the heart of service, is accountable, hard working, and organized. Her ever present smile says it all. Debbie enjoys serving others. From your fellow club members, along with your many, many, many friends we collectively congratulate you.

East Houston Democrats Host Fish Fry Fundraiser to Support Future Graduates

East Houston Democrats are organizing a Fish Fry Fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, June 28th. The event aims to raise funds for scholarships benefiting the 2026 graduating classes of Channelview High School, Galena Park High School, CE King High School, and North Shore Senior High School.

Fish plates are priced at \$12 and **require** pre-ordering and advance payment. Orders of four or more can be picked up at the Pine Trails Community Center, located at 6003 Woodbend Dr. Houston 77049, or delivered. For further details, interested individuals can text 281-783-4079.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for July?"

JULY'S BIRTHSTONE IS RUBY

There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium-dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire.

A ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminium oxide). The red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium. Its name comes from ruber, Latin for red. Other varieties of gem-quality corundum are called sapphires. Ruby is considered one of the four precious stones, together with sapphire, emerald and diamond.

Prices of rubies are primarily determined by color. The brightest and most valuable "red" called blood-red or "pigeon blood", commands a large premium over other rubies of similar quality. After color follows clarity: similar to diamonds, a clear stone will command a premium, but a ruby without any needle-like rutile inclusions may indicate that the stone has been treated. Cut and carat (weight) are also an important factor in determining the price. The world's most expensive ruby is the Sunrise Ruby. Rubies have a hardness of 9.0 on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness. Among the natural gems only moissanite and diamond are harder, with diamond having a Mohs hardness of 10.0 and moissanite falling somewhere in between corundum (ruby) and diamond in hardness.

All natural rubies have imperfections in them, including color impurities and inclusions of rutile needles known as "silk". Gemologists use these needle inclusions found in natural rubies to distinguish them from synthetics, simulants, or substitutes. Usually the rough stone is heated before cutting. Almost all rubies today are treated in some form, with heat treatment being the most common practice. However, rubies that are completely untreated but still of excellent quality command a large premium.

Some rubies show a three-point or six-point asterism or "star". These rubies are cut into cabochons to display the effect properly. Asterisms are best visible with a single-light source and move across the stone as the light moves or the stone is rotated. Such effects occur when light is reflected off the "silk" (the structurally oriented rutile needle inclusions) in a certain way.

If you are looking to purchase that amazing gift for yourself or someone else, or you need to sell some old jewelry, coins, or diamonds to pay the bills, look no further than Pineforest Jewelry. Contact us or simply stop by our store if you would like assistance learning how we can be of service to you.

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.

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.



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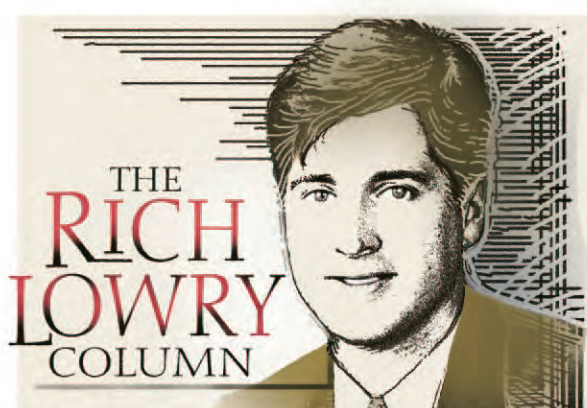
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OPINION PAGE



Drones: The future of warfare is here

The future of warfare is here

Ukraine may not have "the cards," as President Trump put it, but it does have drones. They were used to great effect over the weekend in an audacious attack within Russia that has focused the world's attention on a revolution in warfare.

A badly outmanned and outgunned country just reached far inside its adversary's territory to destroy or damage hugely expensive, nuclear-capable strategic aircraft with low-cost drones basically indistinguishable from ones available on Amazon.

It's not quite David versus Goliath, because the Russian giant is not going to be felled by the blow, but the diplomatic and psychological impact of the raid could be profound, as Ukraine seeks to demonstrate to the West its staying power.

For creativity and outsized effect with widely available devices, the Ukrainian attack is in the same league as Israel's beeper attack on Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon last year. Both operations also carry a message about new vulnerabilities — to a compromised supply chain and to a surprise drone attack — that should make us take notice.

We've just watched the equivalent of aviation legend Billy Mitchell's demonstration in 1921 when he had U.S. planes sink a former German battleship, in a display of the emerging potency of air power.

Ukraine's Operation Spider Web combined Mission Impossible-style intrigue — the drones were secreted within Russia and some of them launched from containers attached to trucks, unbeknownst to the drivers — with clever innovation.

The attacks spanned several time zones and hit 41 Russian aircraft, according to the Ukrainians. The operation was the latest iteration of a cat-and-mouse drone war between Ukraine and Russia. The Ukraine conflict is essentially a war of attrition, yet it is anything but static, as the means of waging it change almost by the week. Offensive innovation is met with defensive countermove, triggering another change on offense.

Drones are vulnerable to electronic jamming? Then, they'll be controlled by massive spools of fiber optic cable. Drones threaten supply routes? Then, the roads will be covered with netting. And drones will be attacked by other drones. What the siren of the Stuka dive-bomber was to the Blitzkrieg — an unmistakable herald of a new way of waging war — the high-pitched whirr of the drone is to the Ukraine war.

Estimates are that drones now inflict about 70% of casualties on both sides, and there are literally millions of them. Russia deployed roughly 4 million drones last year, and Ukraine about 1.5 million. We have much to learn from all this. After last weekend, every commander of a U.S. base should be thinking anew about potential vulnerability to drone attack, and it's not hard to imagine the Chinese utilizing drones to execute a wide-ranging strike in the Western Pacific if Beijing goes after Taiwan.

Once a leader in drone technology when its Predators were taking out targets in the War on Terror, the U.S. hasn't kept up with the adaptations happening in the Ukraine war. Inevitably, our own bureaucratic processes are our worst enemy.

As head of the U.S. National Drone Association, Nathan Ecelbarger, writes, the system for acquiring drones "remains deeply flawed, overly bureaucratic and resistant to innovation."

We'll have to focus more on defenses, too, from early detection to counter-drone capabilities. The problem with using missiles to defeat drones is the asymmetry in expense — an SM-2 missile costs millions, whereas a Houthi drone costs thousands. And drone swarms could overcome a battery of missiles.

This is the reason why the work of next-generation defense firms like Epirus, which has developed a scalable, high-power microwave technology platform that can knock a swarm of drones from the sky, is so important.

What's happening in the Ukraine war is the norm in human conflict. It's adapt or watch your castle get reduced to rubble, your fleet get sent to the bottom of the ocean or a leg of your nuclear triad get assaulted by, essentially, a plaything of hobbyists.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

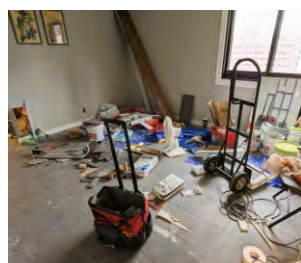
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THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

An Intrusion



"You know," my mother tells me, "It's not normal to have a tiled bedroom."

"It's not normal to have a flooded bedroom three times in less than two years!" is what I replied.

And it's true. This latest flood in our bedroom is the third time in 18 months that water has escaped whatever pipe, drain or faucet was supposed to be containing it, in what my husband, Peter, euphemistically refers to as "a water intrusion." In none of these cases did the leak actually originate in our apartment. This is one of the unmentioned perils of living in a multi-unit building. We don't just experience our issues; we get issues from everyone above us.

"We should have bought a unit on the top floor," Peter says. And we could have. A nearly identical condo was for sale on the top floor when we bought ours. But the one on the top floor had newer things that we'd have wanted to rip out, while the condo we bought had much older, original things we ripped out—and felt a lot less guilty doing it. So that was the one we bought. It never occurred to me if we were on the top floor there would be less water available to run down on our heads.

So, after we got back from Mexico this last time and went "Splash! Splash! Splash!" to our bed, one of the first things I said to Peter was, "I'm done with carpeting. I think we should tile the bedroom."

"Uh-huh," Peter said. "And maybe just put a floor drain under the bed."

"What do you have against the people downstairs?"

I have nothing against the people downstairs. They seem as if they are pretty nice, so we are not putting in a floor drain, although I fully expect some pipe that has never leaked before will eventually leak, and I will be happy the result ends up on my nice, permanent ceramic tile instead of soaking the carpeting once again.

But my mother thinks it's not normal. I remembered my mother's Swedish relatives who came to visit in the '80s. They did not think wall-to-wall carpeting was normal. They were concerned it would not be clean. They thought area rugs were the way to go. I reminded my 100% Swedish mother of this, in an attempt to make this whole tiling of the bedroom thing look like a return to my roots.

And, of course, it's not just Scandinavia. People in tropical climates aren't as likely to have carpeting. It can get moldy. It is harder to clean. The only really compelling reason to have carpeting in the bedroom is that it is easier on your feet when you hop out of bed to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night.

"The floor can be cold!" my mother reminded me. I've decided cold is better than wet.

So now Meshack, our wonderful Kenyan tiler, is back. Meshack's hours are somewhat relaxed, so we are not exactly sure when the job will be finished. But he did an amazing job on our two bathrooms with the crazy mini tiles I selected (which will give you vertigo if you look at them too long), and he's doing a great job with this floor as well—which is not quite as jazzy and I'm pretty sure any Scandinavian would approve of.

"Well, you'll have to get an area rug," my mother concluded.

And I'm sure we will. But not right away. Not until we go a few months without another "intrusion."

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Abbott calls latest session his "best"

Gov. Greg Abbott says he got everything he pushed for during the Legislature's 89th session, which ended on June 2. The Dallas Morning News reported that the governor believes the "school choice" bill that passed will rejuvenate the state's education system. "More important for Texans, this has been the most transformative session for the future of Texas, and the positive effects of the session are going to be felt for decades," Abbott said. Besides the voucher bill, which allows students to use public money for private school, he noted changes to bail policy, a large infusion of funding for the state's water needs, and passage of property tax relief, which will total \$51 billion. Abbott is up for reelection in 2026 and would become the state's longest-serving governor if he wins. At this point, he faces no major opposition either in the primary or the general election. With more than \$70 million stashed away in campaign funds, he says he's unworried about potential opponents. "There's only one goal, and that's to win, and so I will run very aggressively," Abbott said.

GOVERNOR STILL UNDECIDED ON THE BAN

Abbott said last week he has still not decided if he will sign or veto legislation banning THC products in Texas, the Houston Chronicle reported. "I'm going to give it the thoughtful consider-



ation from every angle that it deserves," Abbott said of Senate Bill 3, which would outlaw all hemp-derived products containing THC, effective in September. He has until June 22 to decide. The proposed ban has sparked opposition from people who run THC businesses, veterans groups, and others. The state now has more than 8,500 retailers selling THC products, which can have a high similar to that of marijuana, which is illegal except for medical reasons. The ban was a priority of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate.

STATE TO BECOME LEADER IN PSYCHEDELIC DRUG RESEARCH

At the same time Texas is poised to ban THC products, state leaders are investing \$50 million in a psychedelic drug, ibogaine, that purports to have medicinal benefits, according to The Texas Tribune. Senate Bill 2308 creates a consortium of universities, hospitals, and drug developers to conduct clinical trials on ibogaine, extracted from an an-

cient African shrub, which has been used in Mexican clinics to treat addiction and brain trauma. Key to the bill's passage in Texas were the cheerleading efforts of former Gov. Rick Perry. Since ending his tenure as U.S. Energy Secretary in 2021, he has become one of the highest-profile advocates of researching the beneficial medical effects of some psychedelics. According to The Tribune, "Stanford Medicine conducted a study in 2024 that found ibogaine, when combined with magnesium to protect the heart, safely and effectively reduces PTSD, anxiety and depression and improves functioning" in veterans with traumatic brain injury. Ibogaine is unlikely to be used recreationally because it does not provide an enjoyable high and leaves the user in a state of temporary paralysis. Even with the \$50 million in funding, Texas is likely at least six years from seeing any possibility of FDA approval for clinical trials.

STATE'S RAINY DAY FUND REACHES CAP

The Texas Economic Stabilization Fund, popularly called the Rainy Day Fund, has reached its statutory cap for the first time with more than \$24 billion in the state's piggy bank, the state public-health funding.

MEASLES OUTBREAK SEES SLIGHT INCREASE

After a week of no measles outbreaks in Texas, two new cases were reported last week, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, bringing the total to 744 with 96 total hospitalizations and two fatalities, both school-aged children. Fewer than 10 of the confirmed cases are considered actively infectious. Dawson, Gaines, Lamar, and Lubbock counties still have ongoing measles transmission, according to DSHS. A majority of the total cases were located in Gaines County, on the border with New Mexico.

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Biden Observes Juneteenth in Galveston,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

emony inside of the church, sitting shoulder-to-shoulder with event organizers and religious leaders.

“Juneteenth is a day of liberation,” Biden said during the ceremony. “The day of remembrance and the day of celebration.”

He spoke of the importance of voting, and the history of the celebration. He mentioned the attendance of Erica Lee Carter — daughter of the late Sheila Jackson Lee, a long-time Houston congresswoman who championed the federal holiday.

“There is nothing beyond our capacity when we act together,” Biden said.

Naisha Lanay Graves traveled from Dallas for the occasion. She’s been attending the Juneteenth celebrations in Galveston for at least 10 years.

American flags adorn sidewalks around Reedy Chapel ahead of a Juneteenth emancipation service that welcomed former President Joe Biden to Galveston Thursday.

“To just be here, it is eye-opening,” Graves said. “You feel the energy from the people.”

Rev. Lnette Patterson, the pastor at Reedy Chapel, said Wednesday that the church had formally invited the former president before his recent cancer diagnosis.

“We had a thought that it’s the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth, and who better to come and to be in attendance than the person who signed Juneteenth into a federal holiday,” Patterson said. “So, we wrote a letter and invited him, and it took a while for his staff to reply and to say that he was coming. And after we heard about his health concerns, we were a little doubtful that he might come, but it all turned out wonderful.”



American flags adorn sidewalks around Reedy Chapel ahead of a Juneteenth emancipation service that welcomed former President Joe Biden to Galveston Thursday. (Photo Doud/HPM)

Bearing the heat, Sharon Baptiste, a member of the historic church and event organizer, said the crowds this year were incomparable to years past. She quickly shuffled around the hours-long event in the brutal Texas heat in preparation for Biden’s arrival.

Fullen said the Galveston Police Department requested additional personnel from the sheriff’s office to assist with dignitaries planning to be in Galveston for the Juneteenth events, including Biden.

Closing out Thursday’s service, Rev. Michael Waters of the Abundant Life

A.M.E. in Dallas spoke of women’s health rights and the recent immigration raids throughout the nation and said that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

“So, let’s keep working together, let’s keep building together, let’s keep hoping together, let’s keep loving together, let’s keep resisting together, let’s keep organizing together,” Waters said. “Let’s keep watching together until that great day when justice flows like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream, and we shall all be free.”

Search Intensifies for Missing Channelview Man

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Authorities are ramping up efforts to locate Brent Brown, a 28-year-old man from Channelview, Texas, who has been missing since June 2. Brent was last seen leaving his house in the 15000 block of Sonoma Park Drive around 2:20 p.m. and has not been heard from since.

“We’re searching for an adult male whose name is Brent Brown who was reported missing on or around Tuesday, June 3,” said Amanda Watson of the Harris County Precinct 3 Constable’s Office.

“We know that Brent left his house on foot, and no one has had any contact with him since the middle of the afternoon.”

The constable’s office has enlisted the help of Texas EquuSearch to organize a larger search effort.

“With more days passing, more concern set in,” Watson explained, noting that the family initially thought Brent might have gone to visit a friend.

Brent’s mother reported him missing after two days of no contact.

“They’re completely puzzled by it. It’s completely out of his character,” revealed Watson. “He’s never done this before. He has no mental health issues, no criminal history, nothing of that sort. It’s very bizarre.”

Law enforcement has ruled out foul play but remains uncertain about what might have happened. According to Watson, the last known ping from Brent’s cell phone came from a local workforce agency assisting him in his job search. Authorities also obtained video footage showing Brent walking along a nearby bayou.

“We touch base with his



mother almost daily, just to let her know that we haven’t forgotten and we’re still working on her son’s case,” a sergeant with the constable’s office reassured.

Texas EquuSearch joined the search on Thursday morning, beginning near Anthony Aguirre Middle School on Wallisville Road, where Brent was last tracked. “They’re not certain that’s where he is, but it’s something they wanted to mark off their search area first,” Watson said. The team laid out a grid to explore wooded areas and the bayou.

Watson highlighted that people should remain vigilant.

“If anyone has even the

smallest lead, we will follow up on it,” she emphasized. Investigators believe Brent may still be in the local area but have no confirmation of any vehicle pickups.

Brent Brown is described as a 28-year-old African American male, approximately 5 feet, 5 inches tall, and weighing 125 pounds. He has shoulder-length braids, a beard, and was last seen wearing an oversized white t-shirt, blue jeans, and carrying a black backpack.

“If anyone has information, please don’t hesitate to contact us,” Watson urged. The Harris County Precinct 3 Constable’s Office can be reached at 713-274-2500 or 281-427-4791.

Tragic Jet ski accident claims life of 20-year old in Lake Houston

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A 20-year-old Texas woman, Ashley Gil, tragically lost her life after falling off a jet ski at Lake Houston in the 12300 block of Sonnier Drive in Deussen Park on Tuesday, June 17.

“Our dive team was called to go out after a female who was on the back of a jet ski, had fallen off, and did not have on a life jacket. Our dive team went out and they searched all the 17th until they couldn’t see anymore. Then they had to call the search. They went back out on the 18th, searched all day, and found nothing. This morning (Thursday, July 19) they went out and a female who matches the description of the missing female was located. However, final identification goes to the medical examiner’s office.”

Just hours before the incident, Ashley had sent a video of herself riding the jet ski to her boyfriend, Jason Rodriguez.

Investigators are currently looking into the circumstances surrounding Ashley’s death. According to the Houston Police Department (HPD), Ashley was not wearing a life jacket when she fell from the jet ski, which was carrying multiple people at the time.

In a statement to ABC 13 Houston, Rodriguez said, “I was out of town working the day of the incident, and I received a video of Ashley about noon on the jet ski at about noon that day, several hours before she allegedly fell. She was wearing a life jacket in



the video.”

Jason and Ashley’s loved ones still have questions regarding what occurred that day.

According to ABC 13, Ashley’s mother does not understand why this happened and why the people who were with her daughter on Tuesday haven’t reached out about what happened or about the search for her daughter.

Rodriguez added that a man fishing nearby told them no one had a sense of urgency to immediately search for her.

“To be honest with you, they didn’t even pay attention. They don’t know when they lost her, where they lost her, and when they came back, it looked like they didn’t even care,” he told ABC 13, according to what the fisherman saw.

Investigators are awaiting the results of Ashley’s autopsy to confirm her cause of death.

“My heart goes out to her family, her loved ones, and everyone affected by this tragic loss,” said Com-

missioner Rodney Ellis who is responsible for the park.

Ashley’s sister, Kathy Gil, has since created a GoFundMe to help their mother pay for funeral expenses for Ashley, as well as any other unexpected costs that may arise because of their loss. The GoFundMe has raised nearly \$8,000 toward a goal of \$10,000 as of Sunday, June 22.

According to her friends, Ashley was working toward becoming a real estate agent.

“Ashley was a bright light in the lives of so many, full of love, laughter, and kindness. She had an incredible spirit that touched everyone around her. Her absence leaves a deep void in the hearts of our family, friends, and all who knew her,” the GoFundMe reads.

The investigation is ongoing as authorities work to determine the events leading up to the incident and Ashley’s cause of death.

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Fireworks Sales for July 4th Holiday Underway

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Tuesday, June 24, marked the beginning of the Fourth of July season, top fireworks retailers are gearing up for the festivities. Once open, stores will be selling fireworks through July 4 at midnight.

Brandi Dumas, spokesperson for the Harris County Fire Marshals office, emphasized the importance of safety when using fireworks.

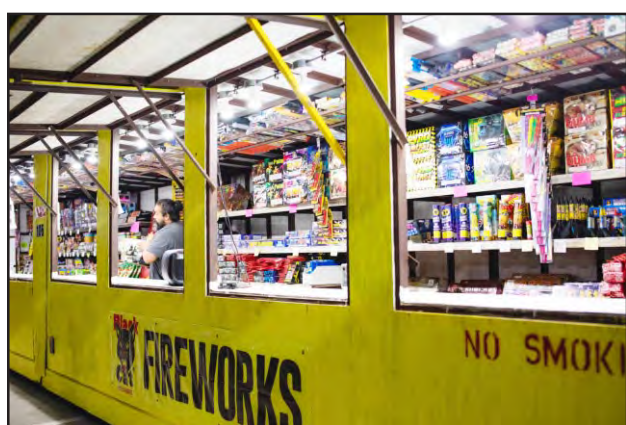
“One of my big things is always leave fireworks to the professionals,” she said.

“If you use them, even though they are allowed to be ignited in unincorporated Harris County, some HOAs, in some areas do not allow fireworks to be ignited. Make sure you understand and know the law where you can and cannot ignite fireworks,” she said.

Dumas also emphasized proper disposal.

“Usually, most people set off fireworks around midnight, nighttime when it’s dark and then people go to bed. We want to make sure that people know that they need to properly dispose of those fireworks, so that they’re not now putting themselves and their property in danger.”

Dumas also provided



tips for proper disposal of fireworks.

“What the fireworks experts always tell them is to let those fireworks cool off but pick them up. You don’t want to leave a mess. When they have cooled off enough, put them in a bucket of water and let them just soak. Take it and put it in a bag, a trash bag by itself, still soaking wet and always, always, never place that in a trash can, especially one that is up against your home. Take it out to the street or move it away from your home in case the embers do catch fire, they’ll just melt the trash can and not catch fire to your home.”

For those who prefer to watch professional fireworks shows, Dumas recommended visiting the fire marshal’s website at <https://www.hcfmo.net/>.

“We’ll have safety information there and where the professional

displays are going to be.”

Many non-profits earn money working for fireworks stands like the North Shore Sr. High band on I-10, the Crosby High School band just off US 90, and Huffman Project Graduation in Atascocita, and other groups.

Americans have been using fireworks to celebrate the 4th of July since 1777, marking the first anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Fireworks Safety Rules

—Know where you can legally shoot fireworks. All local cities ban shooting fireworks within their boundaries. Additionally, fireworks may not be shot within 600 feet of a church, hospital, day care center or school, within 100 feet of a place where flammable liquids or fireworks are stored and may not be thrown from a motor vehicle.
—Always read and fol-

low label directions.

—Have an adult present. Supervise children—fireworks are not toys!

—Always shoot fireworks on level ground away from buildings and vegetation.

—Stay away from illegal explosives. Never experiment or make your own fireworks.

—Always have water handy (a garden hose or a bucket).

—Never try to re-light a “dud” firework. (Wait 15-20 minutes and then, if it doesn’t go off, soak it in a bucket of water and dispose of it safely.)

—Light only one firework at a time.

—Never throw or point fireworks at other people.

—The shooter should wear eye protection. Never have any part of your body over the fireworks.

—Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trash can. Do not put fireworks that are still hot in the trash can—this can lead to house and/or garage fires.

—If necessary to store fireworks, keep them in a cool, dry place.

—And be courteous to your neighbors. Don’t shoot fireworks in the early morning hours and pick up your debris.

GPISD’s Future Business Leaders



Galena Park ISD recognized North Shore Senior High School seniors James Tamez and Jacob Tijerina for successfully advancing to and competing in the 2025 Texas Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference.

The Texas Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference serves as the state competition for Future Business Leaders of America, convening over 2,000 students across Texas to engage in more than 60 competitive events. This conference provides a platform for students to showcase their skills and knowledge in various business-related disciplines.

James Tamez excelled in the Personal Finance objective test, achieving first place. Jacob Tijerina showcased his abilities in the Client Service role-play event, earning fourth place. Both students are now set to advance to the National Leadership Conference, which will occur in Anaheim, California, this June. Congratulations to these outstanding North Shore Senior High School students and their sponsor, Mr. Eshmacore Williams!

A certificate and medal were presented to James Tamez and Jacob Tijerina on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Attention Non-Profit Private Schools, Home Schoolers
Non-profit private schools and homeschoolers who legally qualify as non-profit (currently hold a 501-C3 certificate) are invited to meet with a representative from Channelview Independent School District to learn more about federally funded services available for eligible residents of Channelview ISD. Please contact the district, Dr. Patricia Glaeser (patricia.glaeser@cvisd.org), Director of Federal Programs, no later than Thursday, June 26, 2025.

Atención Escuelas Privadas y Educados En Casa
Escuelas privadas sin fines lucrativos y estudiantes educados en casa, que legalmente califican como una entidad no lucrativa y que tengan un certificado 501-C3, son invitados a una junta con representante de Channelview para aprender más sobre servicios financiados por el gobierno federal que están disponibles para los residentes elegibles en dichos distritos. Por Favor de contactarse con Dr. Patricia Glaeser la coordinadora del Programa Federal de Distrito de Channelview (patricia.glaeser@cvisd.org), a no más tardar el día Jueves, 26 de junio de 2025.

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Protecting pets in the Texas heat: Sgt. Pierson and K9 Boss lead animal safety efforts,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

encouraged others to do the same. Susan, Sgt. Pierson and I love dogs and cats, we have this in common.

The Texas Safe Outdoor Act (TSOA) is a law which requires pet owners to adhere to and or conform to or risk prosecution. The law strikes the 24-hour waiting period so animal services and law enforcement can take immediate action for dogs in distress.

The TSOA in Texas will be enforced by local governments and law enforcement agencies and their officers. Cities and counties may appoint animal control officers to enforce animal-related laws and respond to complaints from the public. Law enforcement agencies can enforce laws relating to dangerous dogs that can attack people.

Patrol officers are on watch for outside pets being placed on a short leash less than 10 feet long in violation of TSOA. Also for anything that appears to be inflicting the mistreatment of a dog or cat.

Penalties for violating the new dog and cat laws include fines, seizure of the animal and even criminal charges and someone found guilty of animal cruelty could face jail time.

The public plays a role by reporting violations. Call your local law enforcement agency any time you suspect an animal's basic needs are not being met. Phone numbers to keep in your cell phone for reporting any crime: Houston Police - 713-884-3131, Harris County Sheriff Office 713-221-6000, Jacinto City Police - 713-672-2455, Galena Park Police - 713-675-3471, Constable Pct. 2 Jerry Garcia - 713-477-4070, Constable Pct. 3 Sherman Eagleton - 713-

274-2500. Some people take good care of their pets while at home indoors but then without thinking they'll take their dogs out for a walk not realizing the hot pavement is well over 150 degrees on their paws. They sometime fail to realize the pavement temperatures are as hot on the dog's paws exactly as it would be on their own bare feet. This is animal cruelty even though it's unintentional.

HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS & TREATMENT

Texas law requires fresh cool water be made available to outdoor pets to prevent them from overheating and having a heat stroke and providing for their pets some shaded shelter out of the blazing hot sun.

Dogs or cats suffering from a heat stroke may have some of these symptoms; they'll lie down, pant when breathing, have excessive drooling, has a fast heart beat. **FIRST AID TREATMENT:** immediately cool down the pet by wetting it with cool water but not ice water put a fan on it and take it to a veterinarian.

ALL DOGS & CATS REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED & LICENSED IN THEIR CITY EVERY 6 MONTHS

According to the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 828, all dogs and cats must be registered with the local animal services agency by the time the animal is four months old.

Pet owners must now renew their pet's registration every six months rather than annually. This change aims to encourage more frequent veterinary visits and ensure vaccinations stay up-to-date. Failure to register or renew a pet's license may result in late fees or civil penalties.

However, some municipalities are using positive reinforcement by offering registration discounts for micro chipped pets.

TEXAS LAW MANDATES ALL DOGS & CATS MUST BE VACCINATED

In Texas, all dogs and cats over 3 months of age must be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. The rabies vaccine must be administered every 1 or 3 years depending on the type of vaccine used.

Failure to vaccinate dogs against rabies may result in fines and owners can face criminal charges for allowing unvaccinated dogs to expose others to rabies. The city may also impose quarantines on dogs without proof of rabies vaccination.

TYING OUTDOOR DOGS / 10 FOOT RULE / DOG CHAINING IS ILLEGAL

Texas passed the Safe Outdoor Dogs Act (TSOA) which establishes rules about tying and chaining dogs outdoors. Dog on chains is illegal. The main changes include:

All dogs must be kept on a leash or have a physical barrier separating them from the public when outside of their owner's property.

Dogs cannot be tied unattended outdoors with a restraint less than 10 feet long.

The leash must be attached to a proper collar or harness, not directly around the dog's neck. Tied up dogs must have access to drinkable water and adequate shelter from the sun, heat or freezing temperatures.

Under the TSOA owners are now barred from

tying up their dogs outside with chains or weighed-down restraints. The length of an outdoor restraint must be 10 feet long or five times the dog's length from nose to tail. A good walking leash length in order to keep control of a dog is from four to six feet and not over ten feet.

Tying up a dog outside is prohibited when a heat advisory or hurricane, tropical storm, or severe thunderstorm warning has been issued. Tying dogs outdoors is banned when the temperature drops below 32°F for more than 4 consecutive hours.

These rules aim to prevent inhumane treatment and dangerous conditions for outdoor dogs in Texas. Violations are punishable under the state's animal cruelty laws.

As a patrolman before I became chief of police-city marshal I had the city's first official K-9 dog that was used on patrol in a police unit. My German Shepherd's name was Susan but called Susie for short. Susie helped me one night apprehend a criminal who broke into the office of the Houston Wiper & Mill Supply Co. When out at night patrolling Susie always gave me a sense of security, I kept her window down, when stopping a vehicle as I talked to a driver she would bark loud and the driver knew my K-9 was watching and nearby.

READ MORE SGT. PIERSON & K9 BOSS BELOW.

Sgt. Misty Pierson is a 31 year veteran with HPD, having started on patrol in 1994 and now a K9 Sergeant on the second shift. She said, "I'm the first of my family in becoming a police officer; it was my goal as a student now it's

working with BOSS and keeping him healthy so he can have a long career."

"My dad graduated with a degree in engineering at UH, my mom was a LVN nurse, they both supported my law enforcement career," she said.

"Getting into law enforcement has provided me with a comfortable life, and because I have always been passionate about it, I have enjoyed it. That is certainly a benefit. I know not everyone enjoys going to work but I can honestly say that I love my job. I love what I get to do every day," Pierson said.

A goal of Sgt. Pierson is she hopes to encourage others, especially young people, to consider law enforcement as a career field. There are countless opportunities on the police department; people can work in with almost any role or environment you could imagine. From patrol, to investigations, forensics, special operations, and even administrative positions; as a police officer, there is a place for everyone. Currently HPD is short of 1,200 officers.

She encourages young people to find a career that they're passionate about, "because when you enjoy what you're doing, it goes by quickly and you can have a lot of fun, Pierson said.

BOSS is dual-purpose K9 they work together as a patrol unit and an explosive ordinance disposal unit (bomb dog). Sgt. Pierson's K9 (BOSS) is a black male German Shepherd trained for searches for man, weapons, and explosives. Training for a new dog and a new handler is about 16 weeks.

She said, "We train constantly on our downtime, between calls, and BOSS

conditions daily. We do have weekly structured trainings for the whole shift, and we train additionally for his bomb detection."

HPD has 18 patrol canines like Boss, in-addition they also have airport canines, and narcotic canines, which are separate from patrol canines. The breeds they use are German Shepherds, Dutch Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, and some are mixes of those breeds.

HPD has canines on all three shifts with at least two patrol canines on the street for our minimum staffing requirement. K9's are assigned to a single handler that they live with and take them to and from work every day. She has other pet dogs too.

In my interview with Sgt. Pierson I learned her kids are the biggest influence in her life. She and her daughter enjoy cooking Manicotti together, it's one of their favorite meals to cook, and she enjoys a steak dinner too.

Her morning ritual is simply coffee and quiet time to work out the days' structure to help keep her organized. Her evening's is just getting to decompress after work and taking the time to reflect.

Her summer plans are to spend time with my family and friends and maybe get a short vacation.

In high school she played basketball and was a part of a few clubs. Her hobbies are exercise, travel, and movies. A book she enjoyed was, Lincoln on Leadership. She's traveled through Europe, and enjoyed England the most.

Citizens are safer with dedicated officers as Sgt. Misty Pierson and BOSS on patrol.

ENTERTAINMENT

June 23, 2025 Posting Date

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	5		7						
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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

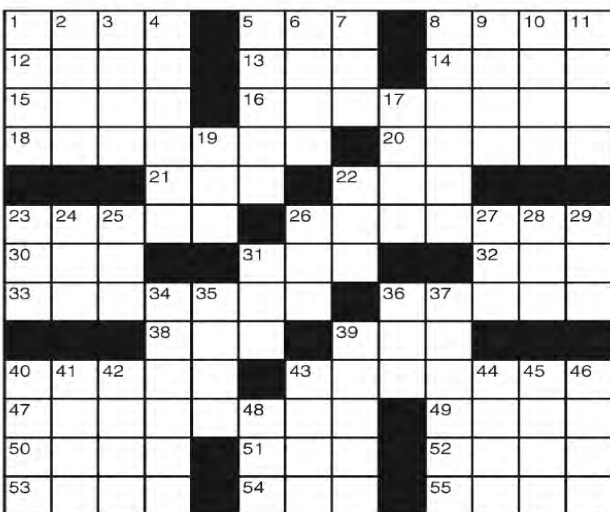
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Desk is wider. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Blinds are higher. 4. Pocket is moved. 5. File cabinet is taller. 6. Desk lamp is different.

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Wax-coated cheese
 - Jug handle
 - Thinker
 - Descartes
 - The Big Easy acronym
 - "No seats" sign
 - Squad
 - French perfume brand
 - Western toppings
 - Treeless plains
 - Thoreau piece
 - Remiss
 - Boxing legend
 - Stupefies
 - Spy's asset
 - Compass dir.
 - Actress Tyler
 - Tic-tac-toe win
 - Sound systems
 - Ridicule
 - Last (Abbr.)
 - Airline to Sweden
 - Ballroom dance
 - First-rate
 - Big name in pianos
 - Architect
 - Saarinen



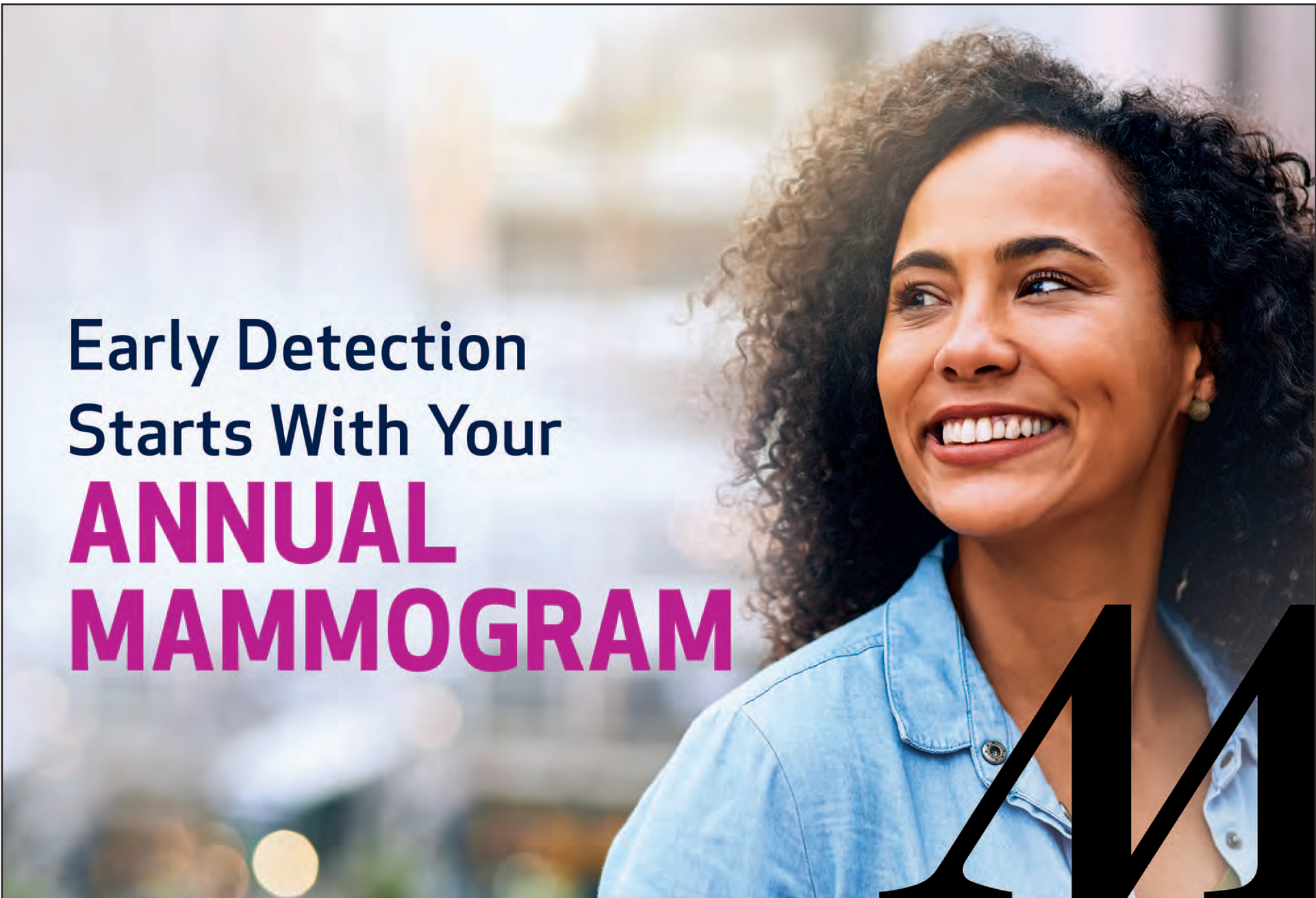
- DOWN**
- Goals
 - "Act now!"
 - Lotion additive
 - Christie sleuth Jane
 - English county
 - and crafts
 - Shad product
 - Memo
 - 100%
 - Work on proofs
 - Hot tubs
 - Hwy.
 - Cushions
 - Moscow's land
 - Son of Seth
 - Pinta's companion
 - Online crafts site
 - Far (Pref.)
 - de deux
 - Off-roader
 - (Abbr.)
 - Moines
 - Busy insect
 - Wye follower
 - Bro's sib
 - Singer Rawls
 - Heavy weight
 - Sizzling
 - Parking place
 - July birthstones
 - Panache
 - Menlo Park monogram
 - In dreamland
 - Fashion
 - Taxpayer IDs
 - Perched on
 - Self-referential
 - Popcorn seasoning
 - Castor's mother
 - Desertlike
 - Decays
 - Series of battles
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Trivia test

- TELEVISION: "The Simpsons" first appeared as a short on which TV show?
 - GEOGRAPHY: What is the distance between mainland Russia (Siberia) and mainland United States (Alaska)?
 - GAMES: What is the highest score you can achieve in one frame of bowling?
 - MYTHOLOGY: What is the Roman god of the sea called?
 - SCIENCE: What are the only letters that don't currently appear in the Periodic Table?
 - MOVIES: Which animated movie's tagline is "Escape or die frying"?
 - LITERATURE: The Republic of Gilead appears in which 1980s novel?
 - FOOD & DRINK: Which spice is often praised for its anti-inflammatory properties?
 - GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In which country did Cirque du Soleil originate?
 - LANGUAGE: What is glossolalia?
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1. "The Tracy Ullman Show"; 2. About 55 miles; 3. 30; 4. Neptune; 5. J and Q; 6. "Chicken Run"; 7. "The Handmaid's Tale"; 8. Turnmer; 9. Canada; 10. The ability to speak in a previously unknown language, also known as speaking in tongues

King Crossword
Solution time: 23 mins.
Answers

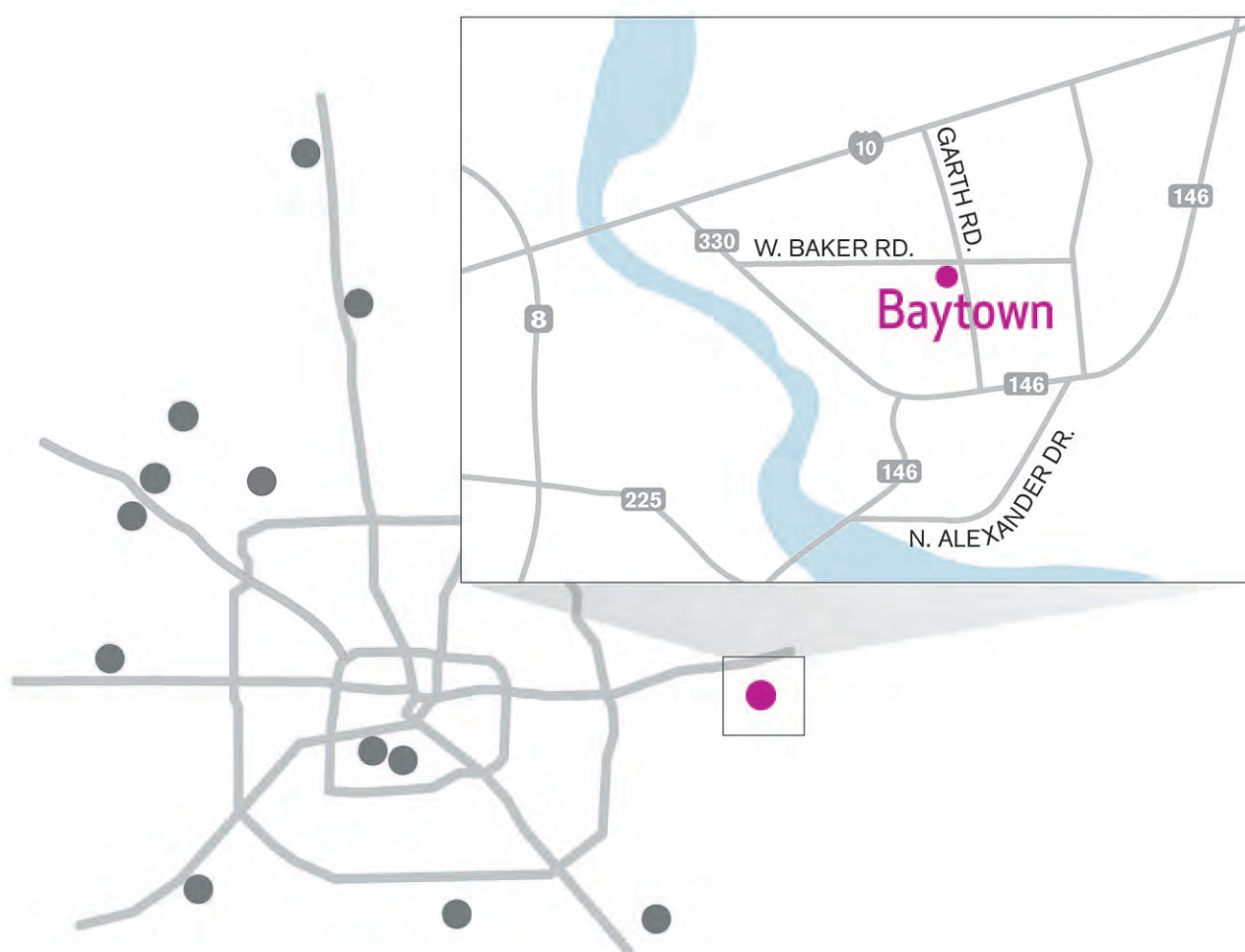


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