

Photos: Livestock Auction,
Cook Off Winners, Page 2

HC Commissioner commits to
Deputy Pay Raise, Page 4

CF&R BBO BRISKET WINNER



The 2025 Crosby Fair & Rodeo BBO Brisket 1st Place belongs to Liberty Bank. See Pages 1,2

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

Barrett's Founders' Day 150th & Juneteenth

By Gerardo Hernandez

BARRETT, TEXAS - Barrett Station, is set to mark its 150th Founder's Day on June 14, 2025, a significant milestone that celebrates the town's rich history and vibrant community spirit. The town is reaching out to the whole community for participation.

The celebration promises to be a lively affair, featuring historical exhibits, live performances, a parade, local vendors, and a variety of family-friendly activities. Barrett invites the Barrett Station community to attend the event in person to enjoy the festivities and help commemorate this historic occasion.

Barrett's Founders' Day 150-Year Celebration June 14, 2025

Place: Riley Chambers Community Center,
808 1/2 Magnolia Ave,
Barrett, TX.

The event includes:
-Parade at 10:30am (lineup starts at 8 am Gulf Pump Rd.)
-Legacy of Harrison program at 12-2 pm. (Riley Chambers Community Center)
-Exhibit display will be available from 2-5 pm. (Riley Chambers Community Center)
-Zydeco music with Curtis Poulard & Band from 6-8 pm.

Klobassa Festival Saturday June 21

Crosby Knights of Columbus Klobassa Festival, Saturday June 21st from 11am - 5pm. at 915 Runneburg Road, Crosby. Live Music, Car Show, Raffle, and Dinner Plates. Raffle Tickets \$10, Dinner Plates \$15, Live Auction. See ad on Page 7 for Raffle Prizes. All Proceeds go to Help Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Youth Groups. Info 713-819-4912.

Historic Barrett, Texas Set to Host 150th Founder's Day Celebration

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A young, 15-year-old teenager named Harrison Barrett, who was bound by slavery in the mid-1800s and freed on Emancipation Day in Texas in about 1865 will be remembered and celebrated as the founder of the historic town Barrett, Texas on its 150th anniversary, June 14, 2025.

The day-long festivities start at 10:30 a.m. with a parade through town that begins at Gulf Pump Road with lineup and proceeds south down FM 2100 to the Riley Chambers Community Center. The Grand Marshal is Roger Barrett (He is the great nephew of Harrison, the son of Frank Barrett who is Harrison's brother) Roger is the oldest male Barrett living.

At noon, guest speakers



A young, 15-year-old Harrison Barrett who was bound by slavery in the mid-1800s and freed on Emancipation Day in Texas in about 1865 will be remembered and celebrated as the founder of the historic town Barrett, Texas on its 150th anniversary, June 14, 2025.

commemorating the day include Wilbert Eagleton, Harris County Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey, State Representative Harold Dutton, descendant Fred Barrett, and Ty Singleton.

Throughout the day there will be historical displays and exhibits chronicling the town's rich history, live performanc-



Harrison Barrett's wife Annie who he met while they both were slaves on the same plantation.

es of local jazz talent and a headline performance by the Curtis Poulard Zydeco Band.

A youth fashion and talent show is planned and of course, food and beverages celebrating the flavors of African American culture.

All the activities are a celebration of young Harrison Barrett.

"His parents and siblings were sold off as slaves (to other owners) and got separated," said his descendant and great grandson Fred Barrett.

With no cell phones, GPS, he was still able to find all but one sister when the Emancipation Proclamation reached Texas in 1865.

"He found his mom and dad first in 1867, then he built a home on some property that he was staying at. He later married a young lady that was on the same plantation as he was, and then between 1870 and 1875, he traveled and found the rest of his brothers and sisters, all but one," he said.

She was never found and was believed to still be in Louisiana.

Continued. See HISTORIC BARRETT, Page 5

Crosby Rodeo Closes On a High Note

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The 2025 Crosby Fair and Rodeo closed last Saturday night still buzzing from the sellout crowd who showed up to see the teen sensation and rising country star, Ty Myers.

Drawing on his social media popularity, Myers attracted a crowd estimated to have reached close to 8,500, a record crowd for Crosby Fair and Rodeo.

"We know how many tickets we sold but we also had to estimate the number of lifetime members like me, and badge holders and members that come in without a ticket," said Ronny Ehrlich, president of the board. "By my estimation, we believe there was



Steer Grand Champion -Peyton Givans

between 8,000 to 8,500."

It was a night to remember, and Myers wasn't the only youth that impressed at the rodeo.

"Honestly, I liked everyone on the card this year. The Twenty Twos are local, of course, and we really enjoy them and want to support them when we can.

They're a good bunch of kids," Ehrlich said.

Then there were more youth to be proud of with the auction this year. Despite the number of entries being down from 116 from last year to 103 this year, at press time, the auction pulled in \$439,000 this year, down slightly from last year at \$459,000.

For some reason, bidding on the grand champion steer was down this year, going for only \$10,000 which affects the rest of the lot of steer entries.

"Some of our big buyers for the last couple of years weren't there this year, not because they don't support us, but because they had other obligations already," Ehrlich said.

But others stepped up in their place and helped boost sales.

Ehrlich has served on the board for 17 years, four years as president, and says he's seeing a decline in the number of steers, which are expensive to raise.

"It's not just the money, but with a lot of the farms in the area selling out to de-

velopers, it also means they don't have a place to raise their animals," he said.

Ehrlich said they were on the downhill side of exhibitors.

"I don't know why or how it's happening, but I believe it will come back. Some of these newer kids moving in will come into the program and build it back up again," he said.

The only other place for students to raise their animals is at the school barn, but they have to be in FFA to do that. Members of Crosby 4H don't always have a place for their members to raise their animals. "I've had my barn, and

Continued. See CROSBY RODEO, Page 2

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.

Crosby Fire Dept. dedicates New Maintenance Facility



Harris County ESD 80 and Crosby VFD officials cut the ceremonial ribbon at the dedication of their new maintenance facility located at 123 South Diamondhead Blvd. in the center of Crosby.

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Crosby Volunteer Fire Department desperately needed more space as they continue to keep up with the growth in the

department and the community. On Friday, they dedicated the newest tool in their arsenal with a new maintenance building located at 123 South Diamondhead Blvd. behind Station 82 to help service

and store much of their equipment.

"Today is the end of a fairly long journey that we've taken in getting this building done," said Assis-

Continued. See CROSBY CVF NEW FACILITY, Page 2

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Record-Breaking crowd & youth talent highlight 2025 Crosby Fair & Rodeo,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

my youngest son graduated in 2014 and I've had people in my barn ever since," he said. That changes in a couple of years, however, because he will be shutting it down.

"I have some grandkids coming who will be showing so I need to rebuild some pens so they can show animals."

He didn't think it would be feasible to build a barn on their acres in the middle of Crosby. It would be a tradeoff.

"We would probably lose somewhere between 200 to 400 parking spots. I don't know how that would really work as far as who would control it. None of us are paid, we're just volunteers," he said.

Parking is already at a premium. At the concert with Ty Myers, cars were parking in the back lot, next door at the American Legion Hall, and many took advantage of parking across the street at Crosby Middle School which was a dangerous proposition with people crossing a busy FM 2100.

Ehrlich said he was proud that the crowds were respectful and didn't trash the town as they left the venue and they really don't have any control over them.

Two new buyer's clubs entered the arena this year, one with the 1823 Salsa Company and another named Bulls and Heifers. Ehrlich is involved in the salsa company.

"We wanted to do something to raise money to help the kids out. We collected \$11,000 and Bulls and Heifers raised \$12,000. We put every dime of that back into the kids sale this year," he said.

They purchased animals and donated them back to the students and then did some add-ons to raise the money other students made on their projects.

He said when they left, they had zero dollars in their bank account.

A lot of families don't necessarily have that kind of money to buy an animal by themselves, but they can do add-ons or go together with other businesses or families and make purchases.

"I would like to thank the community for coming out and supporting the Crosby Fair and Rodeo including our buyers and our 21 board members who volunteer to do this. We could not do this without any of them," he said.

2025 CF&R Livestock Auction Raises \$439,000 for Scholarships

All photos are courtesy of the Crosby Fair and Rodeo



Broilers GC - Brighton Fuchs



Food GC - Ryan Hood



Turkey GC - London Harvey



Horticulture GC - Sadie Manual



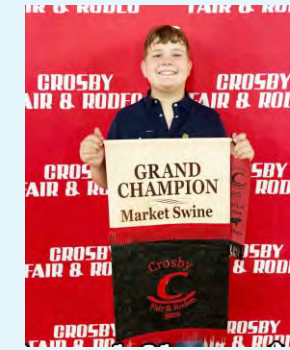
Photography GC - Paisley Harlien



Rabbits GC - Ryland Hudson



Sewing-Craft GC - Annabelle Tauber



Swine GC - Jace George



Steer GC - Peyton Givans



Steer RC - JJ Givans



Goat RC - Addison Maxey



Goat GC - Allie Brady

2025 CF&R BBQ Cook Off Winners



BRISKET 1st Place - Liberty Bank



CHICKEN 1st Place - Double D's Cookers



FAJITAS 1st Place - Hula Hut



MARGARITA 1st Place - Double D's Cookers



OPEN DESSERT 1st Place -



OPEN DISH 1st Place - Moonshine Monkeys



RIBS 1st Place - Smoke Wagon



BRISKET 2nd Place - TAM



CHICKEN 2nd Place - Double K Cookers



It was a huge crowd that packed the Rockin' C Arena to hear teen sensation Ty Myers at the Crosby Fair and Rodeo last week.

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

MB - Stay Informed

Register for Mont Belvieu INFOrcer alerts. Mont Belvieu INFOrcer Alerts are important notifications sent by the City of Mont Belvieu directly to residents.

These notifications include information and updates on emergencies, traffic, road construction, amber alerts, water issues, evacuations, and much more.

Listen to instructions from local officials for information on evacuation times and routes. After the storm, stay at your destination until advised to return home by local officials.

And, be sure to join us at this year's Hurricane Preparedness Workshop on **Thursday, June 5th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** at the Eagle Pointe Golf Course Pavilion for more tips from Mont Belvieu Fire Department and Emergency Management Team!

www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/regaction?pa=montbelvieu

Rock The Park Summer Concerts

Get Ready to Rock: Mont Belvieu's 2025 "Rock The Park" Lineup is Here!

We hope you're ready to turn up the volume because the City of Mont Belvieu's **Rock The Park is back for 2025!** Our free concert series is bringing an electric lineup to **Mont Belvieu City Park** (10900 Eagle Dr.) that'll have you singing, dancing, and making the most of those perfect Texas nights.

This year, we've got something for everyone:
June 13 - The Chee-Weez (80's Tribute Band) (8:00 p.m.)

July 4 Celebration Braedon Barnhill - 4:00 p.m.

John Morgan - 5:30 p.m.

Stoney LaRue - 7:30 p.m.

"We are excited to bring Rock The Park back this year," said **Dustin Schubert**,

MontBelvieu Parks and Recreation Director. "Great music, delicious food, and an amazing crowd—what's not to love? It's always a fantastic time for the whole family, and we're looking forward to some truly unforgettable concerts."

For full details on the bands, food vendors, and all the fun extras happening on concert nights, visit www.montbelvieu.net/concerts.

Visit our New Website for Chambers County News:
www.BHDPRESS.com

Mont Belvieu Swings into the Future with High-Tech Driving Range at Eagle Pointe

The City of MontBelvieu recently cut the ribbon on the revamped driving range—The Range at EaglePointe—celebrating its official debut with a focus on innovation and community enjoyment. Eagle Pointe is an amazing golf course and now this addition just takes it over the top. Congratulations to the City of Mont Belvieu as you continue to grow and make this community the best.

The opening was shared via social media with excitement: "We're all so excited to open the new range and debut the new Trackman tech! Book a bay today."

Whether you're a tech-



obsessed golfer tuning your swing data or a weekend player wanting a casual evening hit, the new Range at EaglePointe has something for everyone.

Located at 10900 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, it's now a cutting-edge practice

hub with pro-level tools and community charm.

Advanced Features & Amenities

Comprised of a double-sided setup:

-East side - exclusive access for members

-West side - open to the



public

Highlights include 15 Trackman-powered hitting bays, measuring detailed ball data—distance, spin rate, launch angle—for tech-savvy golfers.

The range also boasts open-air mats, scenic

views, and LED lighting for play under the stars.

Experience the future of golf practice at The Range — where advanced technology meets laid-back Texas hospitality.

Operating Hours & Pricing

-Open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (with the first day starting at noon on Tuesdays).

-Range balls are \$10 per bucket.

-Trackman bays are available by reservation at \$20/hour

Questions or ready to tee off? Call the Eagle Pointe Golf Shop at **(281) 385-6666**

Eileen Caudle Wins Baytown Rotary Raffle Grand Prize at Shrimp & Catfish Festival

BAYTOWN, TX — Luck was on Eileen Caudle's side at the 2025 Shrimp & Catfish Festival, where she was announced as the grand prize winner of the Rotary Raffle, walking away with a brand-new 2025 Honda Pilot.

Caudle purchased the winning ticket from Rotarian Rusty Senac, who joined fellow club members to celebrate the moment. In the winning photo, she is pictured alongside Cherie Melendez, Rusty Senac, Carol Skewes, and Steve Daniele, representing the Baytown Rotary Club. The photo was taken by Mari Centeno, Sales Consultant at Community Honda.

The Rotary Raffle is a long-standing tradition at the festival, raising funds to support scholarships, local service projects, and youth programs throughout the community.



Rotary Raffle Winner
Pictured from left are Rotarians Cherie Melendez, Rusty Senac, Raffle Winner Eileen Caudle, Carol Skewes and Steve Daniele. (Photo by Sales Consultant Mari Centeno of Community Honda)

"This raffle is one of our biggest fundraisers, and we're thrilled to see it bring joy to a local resident like Eileen. All the work paid off and guests had a great time with good food."

The Baytown Rotary Club extends its gratitude to Community Honda and all those who contributed to making the 2025 Shrimp & Catfish Festival and Rotary Raffle a memorable event for the entire community.



Chambers Co. presents PIO Seminar

CHAMBERS COUNTY - Emergency Services Chief, Ryan Holzapfel, and Economic Development and Grant Management Director/PIO, Samantha Humphrey, had the honor of presenting at the TDEM Conference. Their engaging session titled "PIO for Dummies" was a hit, filling the room with eager attendees.

We are grateful for their dedication and expertise, which continues to shine a light on our county's emergency services and economic development efforts. Thank you, Ryan and Samantha, for all that you do.



United Way to Host 2024-2025 Annual Meeting June 24 to Review Community Achievements

BAYTOWN, TEXAS—United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County will host its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Eagle Pointe Pavilion, Mont Belvieu, Texas. The organization will celebrate the year's community wins, recognize partner agencies and volunteers, and unveil the organization's vision heading into its 80th-anniversary year.

"Every achievement we share belongs to the neighbors, partners, and volunteers who prove daily that united is the way we make a difference in our community," said United Way Chief Executive Officer Melissa Reabold. "We're honored to gather our volunteers, donors and many friends as we launch the next phase of our bold work that impacts the Baytown area and Chambers County."

This event is open to community members, do-



nors, and volunteers to see how our collective impact is making a difference right here in our community. Current donors will have an opportunity to vote for the 2025 class of Board of Directors nominees, which include Brett Brosseau of Houston Methodist - Baytown Hospital, Tony Cooling of ONEOK, Carol Skewes of The Baytown Sun, Alyssa Moretti of Community Resource Credit Union, and Kim Hamm of ExxonMobil.

★ 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.

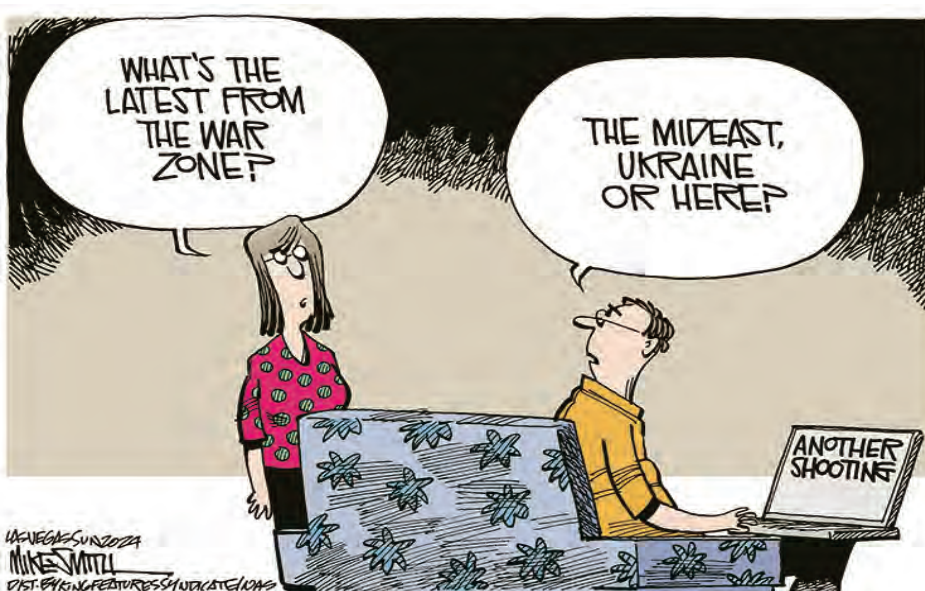
As the American Public Health Association (APHA) notes, gun violence affects public health at every level—from individual trauma to population-wide disparities. HCPH works collaboratively with local leaders, organizations, and community members to advance safety, equity, and wellness.

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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Associate Publisher..... **Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman**
Managing Editor..... **David Taylor**
Assignment Editor..... **Julieta Paita**
Website Editor..... **Kristan Hoffman**
Production Manager..... **Gerardo Hernandez**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Barbers Hill Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 pm, June 23, 2025 in J. Justin Jenson Conference Center, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.80230/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.25010/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	1.7	% Increase
Debt Service	18.2	% Increase
Total expenditures	5.5	% Increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 21,506,936,423	\$ 22,154,222,033
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 538,526,999	\$ 200,853,099
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 13,074,309,022	\$ 14,034,446,716
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 503,761,049	\$ 199,330,839

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$561,700,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.81300	\$0.23940	\$1.05240	15,512	600
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.72222	\$0.26793	\$0.99016	14,765	1,254
Proposed Rate	\$0.80230	\$0.25010	\$1.05240	15,608	377

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$362,258	\$409,536
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$174,992	\$186,057
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.05240	\$1.05240
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,841.62	\$1,958.06
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$116.44

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.05240. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.05240.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$40,588,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$35,689,000

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Barrett Station 150th Founder's Day Celebration,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The land he was living on was part of Stephen F. Austin's old 300 owned by Reuben White who received the land from the Mexican government and told to settle it.

"The Mexican government had all this land, and they wanted to develop Texas. They gave it to 297 families, but they called it the old 300. Reuben White was a farmer and stock raiser.

White received approximately 2,214 acres. It was a descendent of White that sold some of the property to Harrison Barrett where he settled along the San Jacinto River.

His great grandson said he opened a sawmill and raised money breaking horses.

"He also worked as a laborer when they were building shell roads, and he would contract himself out as a laborer," Barrett said.

"I grew up in the late 60s and I'm 72 now. Barrett was a black town when I was born. My first exposure to white people was when I went off to college at the University of Houston. I was kind of a duck out of water for a while, but it made me a better person," he said.

The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 caused some growth to Barrett with African Americans fleeing looking for jobs.

"Barrett was a safe haven and considered a free-man's town so we had people of color moving here," he said.

Another growth spurt occurred when the Houston Ship Channel was built and the industrial park that surrounded it.

"They provided much-needed jobs," Barrett said. "They didn't care what color you were; they needed laborers for the construction boom."

Barrett said that contributed to the economic stability of Barrett and the petrochemical industry.

For Barrett, his family and siblings, living under the shadow of having a town named after your descendant came with both honor and pressure.

"I would tell my kids they were special. 'You can't go out here and misbehave because you're not only representing the family, you represent the whole town. You have to be extra special in how you conduct yourself,'" he told them.

Barrett continues to grow with two large developments, one in the north and one in the south. The widening project of Main Street from I-10 through Crosby has changed the look and dynamics of the small town.

He's only had one disappointment.

"We have petitioned the U.S. Postal Service to give us our own zip code, but it has never happened," he said.

In 1945, the U.S. Postal Service System decided they wanted to put in a substation here in Barrett, and they called it the Barrett Station. Many residents quit calling it the original name of Barrett Settlement to Barrett Station. That name changed too.

"In about 2005, they closed it and built a multi-million-dollar post office in Crosby, and we were left without a post office," he said.

With no zip code, and no post office, the town has adapted, and it remains Barrett, Texas after its founder.

For more information on the celebration, contact Dr. Shalonica Cluse or Tonya Eaglin at
 sclusephd@gmail.com or
 tonya.benitez1@gmail.com.

Form 50-883

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate does not exceed the lower of the no-new-revenue tax rate or the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §26.061.

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$ 0.05000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of BHISD Branch Campus

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$ <u>0.05000</u> per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$ <u>0.05000</u> per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$ <u>0.054108</u> per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for BHISD Branch Campus from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that BHISD Branch Campus may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that BHISD Branch Campus is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON June 23, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at J. Justin Jenson Conference Center, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, BHISD Branch Campus is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the BHISD Board of Trustees of BHISD Branch Campus at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposed tax rate or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: _____
 AGAINST the proposal: _____
 PRESENT and not voting: _____
 ABSENT: _____

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

Crosby Volunteer Fire Department new maintenance facility ribbon cutting ceremony,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tant Fire Chief Russell White.

When the new Station One was opened in 2011, the old station became the fall back for a maintenance facility.

"When that building was originally built, it wasn't tasked for the bigger trucks that we use today," White said, "and it served its purpose."

There was a need for something else.

"In 1984, when I joined the department, we had six moving pieces of equipment. Today, we have 26 support apparatus and 19 other support or suppression apparatus for a total of 45 moving units that we have to do regular maintenance on," White said.

"This facility was designed to meet the growing needs of our fleet and the community's needs."

The project was a total of \$4.1 million and was completed on budget without any overruns. They already owned the land which saved taxpayers additional costs.

Before the ESD was ready to spend taxpayer dollars, Board member Randy Foster said they go through a process.

"When Russell came to us, we kind of already knew the need but with a lot of the capital projects we go through, we want a written justification. It spells out what they want, what the outcome will be. We look it over and sometimes there's tweaks and if it's something we believe is viable, we will approve

it," he said.

Foster said he's a taxpayer too and wants to make sure that every penny spent is stretched to satisfy the public.

"We want to get the biggest bang out of every buck," he said.

Two of the board members also served on the building committee so they stayed abreast of the progress and decisions being made.

Foster said this was an easy decision.

"The trucks being built today are much larger and longer. The old facility was built in the 60s and we couldn't even shut the bay doors because the trucks were sticking out," he said.

Fire chief Alan Kulak also said that the new towed truck and many of the other new trucks require the cab to open on top to do mechanical work.

"We would have to roll the tower truck out, raise the tower, then we could open the cab of the truck to do maintenance work. If there was bad weather, we were down with the truck until it cleared up enough for us to do the work and put it back in service," he said.

The old station only had a couple of bays to work on the trucks because of storage issues as well.

The new station, designed by Joiner Architects, and the general contractor was Axis Builders, boasts 11,000 square feet, with 2,000 of it upstairs for storage.

"There's a gate on the



The new maintenance facility for the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department sits behind Station 82 and will help service the 45 vehicles in the fleet.

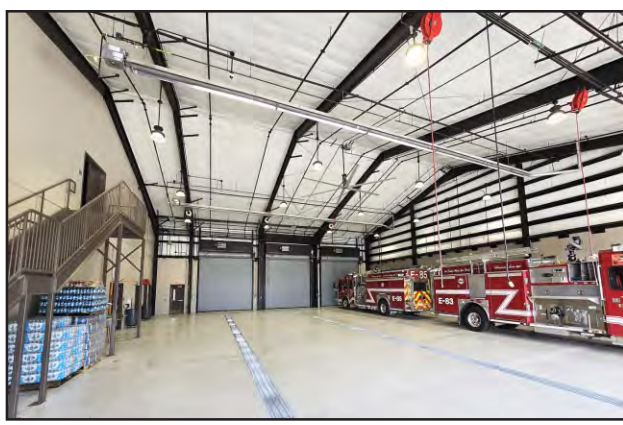
landing of the second-floor stairs where we can open it up and use a forklift to move heavy things up there," said Cameron Elles, assistant fire chief and committee member.

The new facility also has both rear and front entry with rollup doors, and six bays, three times the size of the previous building and long enough and high enough at 30 feet to accommodate raising the tower and the cab on the biggest truck.

There are a couple of small offices, a storage space for the auxiliary ladies and a rollup door in their space for easy loading and unloading. One of the nice features connecting to the floor where the maintenance is being done is a parts room.

"We will be able to stock parts we typically use often based on previous experience," White said. It will save time and keep trucks operational as much as possible.

Another feature is a nice-sized weight room.



The old maintenance facility only had two bays and was too small for the newer fire trucks, so much so they actually couldn't close the door and they would sit out by about five feet. The new maintenance facility not only has the height to open the bays to do the mechanical work, but the length to fit the newer apparatus.



One of the rooms will host the workout equipment for firemen trying to stay in shape. Previously, the equipment took up room in one of the bays and didn't have any privacy.

The department wants firefighters to stay in shape as much as possible and provide equipment at the previous maintenance facility, however it was using up space in one of the bays. Now firefighters can use the equipment without impeding.

The department already has a certified emergency vehicle technician (EVT) to work on the trucks.

"No more shade-tree mechanics," White said. "They have to be certified to touch these trucks in the event of a lawsuit, or for safety reasons as well."

The only technology in the building is the security cameras and access control program system that allows them to control access to many of the rooms including entry and exits by mobile phone.

"It's the same system we use throughout the district," Elles said.

Elles was particularly helpful with the construction of the building since he already has a background in construction.

Members of the committee included Russell White, Cameron Ellis, Chuck Murray, and Buddy Brewer.

Work at the facility is already underway with two trucks receiving much-needed air conditioning repairs.

No bond was necessary to finance the construction.

"Now comes the hard part of moving in and getting everything set up," White said.

Students residing within the Crosby Independent School District attendance boundaries, but attend private non-profits schools, may be eligible to receive supplemental educational equitable services from the following programs:

- Title I, Part A Improving Basic Programs
- Title II, Part A Preparing, Training, Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Leaders, Principals and other School Leaders
- Title III, Part A English Learners
- Title IV, Part A Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant

A private school must have nonprofit status to be eligible to participate in federally funded services. Private, nonprofit schools interested in learning more about the federal program services are invited to attend an informational and planning meeting on June 17th, 2025, at 10:00 am or June 19th, 2025, at 10:00 am. Individuals can attend this meeting in the Board Room located at 14670 FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532. Please email a request to attend including a valid email address to ihbert@crosbyisd.org by June 16, 2025 indicating which meeting you plan to attend in-person.

All parents of students served on participating Title I campuses are also invited to attend this informational and planning meeting. Schools that receive federal program services must comply with all required federal policies and procedures.

Your input will provide the district with valuable information. Please make plans to attend this important meeting.

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June 21st, 2025

11am - 5pm

All Proceeds goto Help Sacred Heart Catholic Church & Youth Groups

Raffle Tickets \$10
Dinner Plates \$15
Live Auction

- 1st- 6 person Offshore Fishing Trip
- 2nd- Weekend Hotel Package
- 3rd- \$1000 Ace Hardware gift card
- 4th - Astros Game Experience
- 5th- \$250 Gift Card

Live Music & Car Show

915 Runneburg Rd Crosby, Tx 77532





NATURE FORMS

by MEI HOFFMAN

SOLO EXHIBITION
JUNE 1 - 30, 2025

SPECIAL RECEPTION
SATURDAY JUNE 14
4 - 6 PM
ALL ARE WELCOME

THE SILOS @ SAWYER YARDS
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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.

by Dave T. Phipps

MY BIKE ISN'T RIDING RIGHT, HUGO.

I THINK IT NEEDS WORK.

I'LL GIVE IT A ROAD TEST.

by Bud Blake

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.

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 Cen. 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; 6. A type of fungus or mushroom; 7. Seth Rogen; 8. British Branding Corp; 9. Hummingbird; 10. A recipe base of onion, celery and carrots

King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

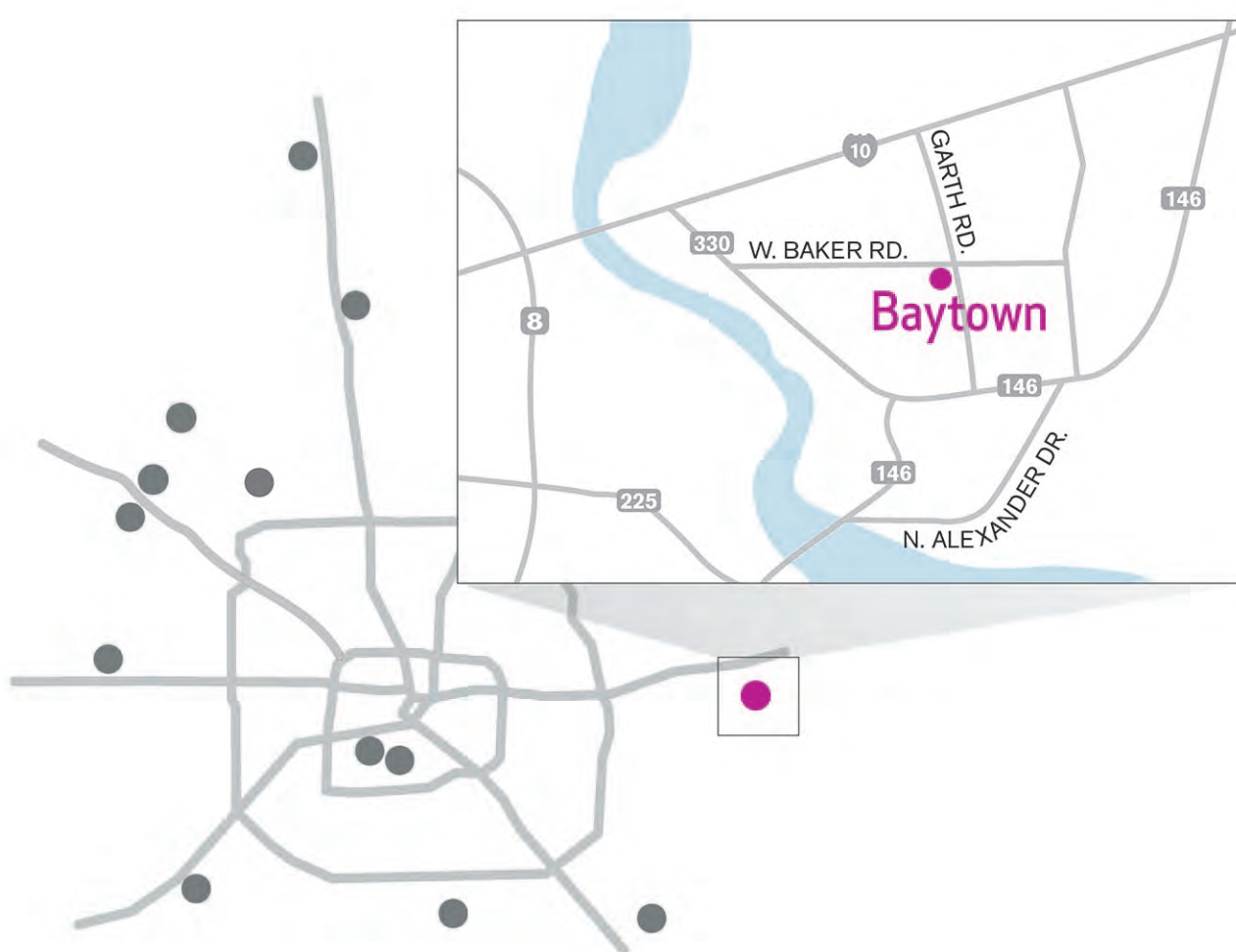


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