

Aid for Hill Country Flood Victims, Page 3

Teen killed at Pool Party Shooting in East Harris County, Page 5

Remarkable Survival



Two occupants of this plane crash in Crosby walk away from the burning plane. Story Below. (Photo by JC Chavez)

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

# Star Courier

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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## Chamber's First 'Concert on the Water' Makes a Splash with Community

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce (CHCC) celebrated the successful debut of its "Concert on the Water" event last Saturday at Lake Houston Brewery, drawing more than 150 attendees for an evening of music, community, and lakeside fun.

"This is our first annual concert on the water. We wanted to try and bring a community-friendly, family-friendly event to the chamber for raising money," said Toni Handley of the Chamber of Commerce.

"The chamber is a non-profit, and in order for us to continue to support businesses within the



The Twenty Twos of Crosby were the headliner act for the first Concert on the Water, hosted by the Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce at the Lake Houston Brewery. It was a perfect day out.

Crosby and Huffman communities, we have to keep our doors open too. So, this was the first of many concerts on the water."

Patrons arrived by car, by boat, and even as walk-ups from the brewery's restaurant, swelling ticket sales beyond initial expectations.

"We started off with about 105 individuals through pre-sales, including our VIP tables, and picked up an additional 40 to 50 as people joined us throughout the evening," said Handley. "Not too bad. We're pretty excited for our first event."

Local acts Bluebonnet Bastards and The Twenty Twos took the stage as the

Continued. See LOCAL BANDS SINE AT CROSBY HUFFMANT, Page 2

IN THE STARS

## Rotary installs Patricia Scott as next President Connie Russell named Rotarian of the Year

Designer Purse Bingo Friday Aug. 8th

Seniors Helping Seniors High-Town will host a Designer Purse Bingo on Friday, August 8 at 6:00pm at the Baytown Fairgrounds, 7900 N. Main St. in Baytown 77521.

Tickets \$50, inquire at 281-787-4256. Benefitting Seniors Helping Seniors.

Visit our Website for all Star-Courier news and Back Issues: www.STARCOURIERNEWS.com

HIGHLANDS - Members of the Rotary Club and guests held their annual Installation Ceremonies last Friday, June 27 at the Woodall building. The theme for the evening was Patriotic, and almost all of the 25 attendees wore red, white and blue colored clothing, for a colorful and fun time.

The new president for 2025-2026 is Patricia Scott, and she was sworn into office along with her officers by Assistant District Governor Gilbert Santana. New or returning officers include President-Elect Connie Russell, Secretary Diana Weaver and Treasurer Sheila Parker. Board members include



Newly installed President of the Highlands Rotary Club Patricia Scott receives the Gavel of Authority from the outgoing president GayLynn Milliorn. Scott is the daughter of Dr. W.L. Herndon, one of the first presidents of the club.

Weston Cotten, Foundation Chair; Connie Russell, Membership Chair; Denise Smith, Public Image Chair; Karrie Torina, Service Projects Chair; Andy Scott, International Chair;

Robert Woodall, Vocational Chair, and Denise Smith, Next Generation Chair. GayLynn Milliorn is the Past President.

The highest honor of the year, Rotarian of the Year,



Rotarian of the Year Award was presented to Connie Russell, president-elect for next year and chair of the Chili Feast, by outgoing president GayLynn Milliorn.

was awarded to Connie Russell for her work on membership and other community projects.

Outgoing president GayLynn Milliorn reviewed the accomplish-

ments of her year, and then incoming president Patricia Scott outlined the goals for her year.

Continued. See ROTARY INSTALLATION, Page 2

## TWO SURVIVE CROSBY PLANE CRASH

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

A small, Cessna type single-engine plane crashed in a field off Adlong Johnson Road in Crosby early Monday morning, according to the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office.

The crash occurred when the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department was toned out just before 7:50 a.m.

The two people on board actually made it out safely, said Brandi Dumas with the Fire Marshal's Office. They crash landed right at the edge of what looks like a pond. They were able to carry out their luggage with their belongings, she said.

The fire marshal's office responded to assist with the containment of aviation fuel that was flowing out. The plane did catch fire and burned but was quickly extin-



Two escape burning plane after crash in Crosby. (Photo JC Chavez).

Continued. See PLANE CRASH, Page 2

## Crosby Museum Seeks Dedicated Docents to Preserve Local History

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The Crosby Historical Society is reaching out to the community in search of enthusiastic volunteers to serve as docents at the Crosby Museum, inviting those with a love for history to help keep local stories alive for future generations.

The museum, a cherished institution dedicated to preserving Crosby's vibrant past, is currently in need of individuals willing to dedicate a few hours each week as guides and storytellers.

"We're just looking for people who enjoy sitting, chatting about Crosby history, and welcoming visitors," said Donna Davenport, president of the Crosby Historical Society that oversees the mu-



The Crosby Area Museum of History celebrated their 500th visitor since its opening last year. Nicole Williams of Crosby received a copy of Crosby's Heritage Preserved 1823-1949 written by Edith Fae Cook Cole. For the museum's hours, visit them on Facebook or call Donna Davenport at 281-731-7010.

seum. "It's not a high-pressure job—sometimes you'll sit quietly for an hour, and then suddenly five or six

Continued. See CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Page 2

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# Local Bands shine at Crosby Huffman Chamber's First Annual Concert on the water,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

event's featured performers, both groups well-known in the Crosby and Huffman music scene.

"We tried to keep it local this year—both bands are really loved in our community," Handley said. "We were really excited to bring them out to kick off our first Concert on the Water."

Lake Houston Brewery served as host for the event, with sponsorship support from Trusted Insurance Group and several advertising partners. Handley emphasized the importance of community backing.

"We can't thank Lake Houston Brewery enough for providing the venue, and a big thank you to Trusted Insurance Group for being our big sponsor this year. And of course, thanks to everyone who came out to support the bands and the chamber."

Despite a little summer heat, attendees enjoyed a pleasant evening as the sunset and a gentle breeze swept over the water. With activities for children and affordable ticket prices for families, the event was designed to be accessible for all.

Handley credited the chamber's committee of volunteers and staff for the event's smooth execution.

"It takes a committee of volunteers to make this happen, and we had a fantastic committee, as well as the ladies who work at the Chamber of Commerce, coming together to make this a successful event. We truly hope to make this an annual thing and keep it growing year after year—always in July, when people are just coming back from vacations and getting ready for school."

As the Chamber looks ahead to future events, the success of the inaugural Concert on the Water already has organizers and attendees alike eager for a repeat performance next summer.



Chamber reps were ready to greet customers as they entered the Lake Houston Brewery. From left, Tracy Galyean, Deanna



Lead vocalist Hayden Eidson busts out some strong vocals at the Twenty Twos appearance Saturday night at the Lake Houston Brewery.



Kay Sosa and Velma Ellison enjoy the sounds of the music and good fellowship at the first Concert on the Water event, hosted by the Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce at the Lake Houston Brewery.



Chamber members kick back and relax with the great food and entertainment at the Concert on the Water.

# Rotary installs Patricia Scott as next President,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Red, White and Blue was the theme for the Installation. It made for a colorful event!



Assistant District Governor Gilbert Santana swears in Patricia Scott as the new President.



Board Members and Officers, ABOVE & BELOW, were sworn in. Weston Cotten, Connie Russell, Denise Smith, Karrie Torina, and Robert Woodall.



# Two Survive Crosby Plane Crash,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

guished by Crosby fire department.

We're also there to document the scene as well, she said. The cause of the fire was the crash, but everything now in the inves-

tigation has been turned over to the Federal Aviation Administration.

It appears the pilot was able to navigate the landing without hitting a nearby Transmission Tower

and lines owned by Center-Point.

The male pilot and female passenger didn't appear to have any injuries and walked away from the crash.

# Crosby Historical Society seeks volunteers to preserve local history at Crosby Museum,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

people will come through the door," she explained.

A docent at the Crosby Museum serves as a friendly face to greet visitors, share fascinating facts about local artifacts, and answer questions about the area's history. While the term "curator" may conjure images of someone managing entire collections, the role of a docent is more focused on hospitality, education, and community engagement. As Davenport puts it, "A docent is really a caretaker—someone who enjoys helping others learn about the remarkable stories found right here in Crosby."

The museum welcomes applications from anyone over 18 who has patience, curiosity, and a willingness to help others discover the region's heritage.

"You don't need to memorize every detail," Davenport emphasized. "It's more important to know where to find the informa-

tion or simply have the desire to learn along with our visitors."

While prior knowledge of local history is a plus, it is not required; the museum provides training materials and support to ensure that new docents feel comfortable and confident in their role.

The opportunity is ideal for retirees or anyone looking to give back to the community on their weekends.

"This would be perfect for someone who wants to volunteer a few hours on a Saturday," Davenport said. "It's strictly a volunteer position—there's no pay involved, but there's plenty of satisfaction in connecting with neighbors and sharing Crosby's story."

Prospective docents will not be thrown into the role alone. Each new volunteer will be paired with a director from the Historical Society during their first shifts, gaining hands-on experience and guidance.

Training materials are provided, and interviews help ensure that each docent is a good fit for the museum's welcoming atmosphere.

Applicants should be residents of Crosby or surrounding areas—Huffman, Dayton, Baytown, and Highlands are all welcome, reflecting the regional scope of the museum's collection. Dress is casual but neat; no need for formalwear, but a presentable appearance is encouraged.

Those interested in volunteering as docents can contact Davenport directly for more information or to sign up at 281-731-7010.

With the need for volunteers growing as the museum's popularity increases, the Historical Society's call for docents is a reminder that preserving Crosby's history is a community effort. For anyone seeking a meaningful way to connect with local heritage and make a difference, the Crosby Museum's doors are open.

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# Barbers Hill Press

## Dayton

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

#### Summer Activity Guide

Summer is the best time of year in Mont Belvieu. With so many things going on, who can keep up? We're here for you this summer to keep the kids engaged in sports, activities, and events to keep their minds and bodies energized.

**City Events**  
Discover the vibrant pulse of Mont Belvieu's community life, where Parks and Recreation hosts an exciting array of events throughout the year.

From lively concerts to bustling markets and captivating outdoor movie nights, there's something for everyone to enjoy in our picturesque park setting. Join us as we bring the community together for unforgettable experiences and cherished memories.

Whether you're tapping your feet to the rhythm of live music, browsing the stalls at our bustling markets, or cozying up under the stars for a cinematic adventure, City Park is the place to be for summer fun.

#### Operation 36@ Junior Golf Academy

We have brought the Operation 36@ Golf Program to Mont Belvieu! Operation 36@ is an effective program to teach beginner golfers, ages 7-18 years, to learn to play.

Learn more and register online at [www.montbelvieu.net/juniorgolf](http://www.montbelvieu.net/juniorgolf)

#### Eagle Pointe Summer Membership Special

3-Month Membership  
Individual: \$129.00  
Family: \$159.99  
On sale from May 1, 2025, until July 31, 2025.

#### Eagle Pointe Wave Pool

Eagle Pointe Wave Pool offers the ultimate summer escape with its pristine beach and thrilling wave experience. From toddlers to the elderly, everyone can enjoy the pool's gradual depth from ground level to six feet. Relax in shaded areas, play sand volleyball, or let the kids enjoy the play area. Grab a snack at the concession stand and enjoy background music as you lounge in paradise.

#### Hours of Operation

Daily Hours: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
Season: May 24th - August 10th  
Post-Season Weekends:  
August 16th & 17th  
August 23rd & 24th  
August 30th - September 1st

Visit our New Website for Chambers County News:  
[www.BHDPRESS.com](http://www.BHDPRESS.com)

## Rotary Club of Baytown Joins Statewide Effort to Aid Kerr County Flood Victims

**BAYTOWN TEXAS** - The Rotary Club of Baytown, along with other local organizations, have come together in a powerful display of solidarity to aid the flood-stricken communities of Kerr County. At a recent Rotary District 5890 meeting, club leaders—including Disaster Aid USA coordinators—held strategy sessions with Rotary District 5840 to plan immediate and long-term relief efforts for Kerrville and the surrounding Hill Country.

Our Rotary District 5890 in the greater Houston area, is collecting donations to support urgent disaster relief efforts following the devastating flooding in areas of Rotary District 5840 which is lo-

cated in South Central Texas.

Rotary District 5890 Charities, Inc. is recognized as a 501(C)(3) charitable organization.

Together with Disaster Aid USA, the donation campaign will be strategic by purchasing and immediately distributing supplies such as water, diapers, etc. to the affected areas. The focus will then shift to chainsaw work, debris removal, much and gut of homes, and simple-story roof tarping. For long-term, we'll support rebuilding, resupplying, and rejuvenating that area during the rescue and recovery phase.

For those Rotary clubs or individual Rotarians



**Tom Kelchner, District 5890 Governor**

who wish to contribute via check:

Please make your check payable to "Rotary District 5890 Charities." Please mail to Attn: PDG Bob Gebhard, 1204 N. Riviera Circle, Pearland, Texas 77581.

To donate or volunteer, see links below.

**1. Hill Country Immediate Financial Support for supplies to DisasterAidUSA at <https://disasteraidusa.networkforgood.com/projects/249980-texas-flooding>.** DisasterAidUSA will use these specifically earmarked funds for purchasing and immediately distributing supplies to the affected areas in Rotary District 5840. The focus is now on chainsaw work, debris removal, muck and gut of homes, and single-story roof tarping.

**2. Hill Country Long Term Financial Support through Rotary District 5890 Charities.** Donations to our 501c3 will be specifically earmarked for long-term sup-

port of those affected. There will be a need for rebuilding, resupplying, and rejuvenating that area. You may send a check made payable to Rotary District 5890 Charities, Attn: PDG Bob Gebhard, 1204 N. Riviera Circle, Pearland, Texas 77581, or donate via credit card at <https://rotaryd5890.org/donate/rotary-district-5840-disaster-donations/>

**3. Volunteerism.** For those of us who wish to physically contribute to the restoration effort, please access <https://www.stability.org/join/DisasterAidUSA> to indicate your interest.

Thank you for helping in this time of need!

## "Matilda The Musical" Set to Dazzle Audiences at Lee College Performing Arts Center

By Gerardo Hernandez

**BAYTOWN, TX** — The curtain is about to rise on Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical at the Lee College Performing Arts Center, with opening night just one week away directed by: Noah Dobbs & Chelsea Denard. After a summer of dedicated rehearsals and behind-the-scenes preparation, the cast and crew are ready to bring the beloved story to life onstage.

Audiences can expect a thrilling production filled with energy, emotion, and humor as they meet the bold and brilliant Matilda, a young girl with a love for books and a knack for standing up to injustice. From the defiant "Naughty" to the touching "When I Grow Up," and the explosive "Revolting Children," the musical promises a dynamic experience for theatergoers of all ages. Directed By: Noah Dobbs & Chelsea Denard

With colorful characters, powerful

performances, and show-stopping choreography, Matilda The Musical is set to be a highlight of the summer arts season in Baytown. Tickets are selling fast, and excitement is building across the community.

#### All Performance Dates:

July 25 & 26 - 8:00 pm

July 27 - 2:30 pm

August 1 & 2 - 8:00 pm

August 3 - 2:30 pm

To secure seats, visit website

[baytownlittletheater.org](http://baytownlittletheater.org)

or box office 281-425-6255

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ROALD DAHL  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

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Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin  
Directed by Noah Dobbs

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[WWW.BAYTOWNLITTLETHEATER.ORG](http://WWW.BAYTOWNLITTLETHEATER.ORG) OR BOX OFFICE 281-425-6255

## Fugitive from N.J. Arrested after High-speed Chase in Mont Belvieu

**MONT BELVIEU** - A New Jersey man being sought on a felony theft charge in his home state was arrested Tuesday in Texas after a high-speed chase in a stolen vehicle, officials said.

Khamvilay Cartagena-Gonzalez fled onto Interstate 10 east in Mont Belvieu at about 10:15 a.m. after police got an alert about a stolen vehicle on a local road and tried to pull him over, the department said.

As two Mont Belvieu police vehicles pursued Cartagena-Gonzalez, the Texas Highway Patrol deployed a tire-deflation device. The device successfully disabled the car the Trenton resident was driving.

Authorities in Chambers County charged Cartagena-Gonzalez, 38, with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and evading.



Information on the felony charge in New Jersey wasn't immediately available.

Cartagena-Gonzalez remains held in the Chambers County jail, according to jail records.

## Stolen Vehicle Pursuit Ends in Arrest on I-10

**MONTBELVIEU** - On June 30th, Chambers County deputies were alerted to a stolen vehicle out of Pasadena, TX, traveling westbound on Hwy 73 toward Winnie.

A short time later, one of our deputies spotted the vehicle near I-10. Deputies initiated a pursuit, and with help from DPS troopers and Texas Game Wardens, the vehicle was successfully spiked near mile marker 813—but the driver continued until losing control and bailing out near mile marker 810.

The suspect took off running—crossing all lanes of I-10—but didn't get far. He was safely taken into custody shortly after.

The driver, Isaiah Mikal Wilson of Port Arthur, had two active warrants out of Harris County and is now facing multiple new charges in Chambers County.

Sheriff Brian Hawthorne applauds the teamwork between CCSO, DPS, and the Texas Game Wardens that helped bring this situation to a quick and safe resolution.

Another great example of agencies working together to keep our communities safe!

All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Current and Back Issues are available on our website:  
[www.starcouriernews.com](http://www.starcouriernews.com)

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By Brandon Herrera Texas Chair for U.S. Term Limits

Texas Should Lead the Charge on Congressional Term Limits

Americans of all political persuasions are fed up with career politicians. Congress is broken—and it's long past time for bold reform. The best solution? A limited Article V convention that proposes a congressional term limits amendment. Texas, with its proud history of independence and leadership, must lead this effort.

"Term limits would cure both senility and seniority—both terrible legislative diseases," warned President Harry S. Truman, calling out the corrosive influence of entrenched leaders. Across the political spectrum, this sentiment resonates today as we labor under the weight of decades-long incumbencies.

Take, for example, the aging giants of senior congressional leadership: Hal Rogers (86), Chuck Grassley (90), Nancy Pelosi (84), and Jim Clyburn (84). Collectively, they represent nearly 200 years of congressional tenure. Their extended control has yielded predictable results—a routine congressional logjam, ossified committee power, and decisions influenced far more by special interests than by constituents. When legislators become fixtures of Washington, the "swamp" grows deeper and more impenetrable.

Dwight Eisenhower understood that Congress would never limit itself. He said, "A constitutional amendment for congressional term limits could never achieve the blessing of Congress; it could be initiated only by the states". Eisenhower was right: meaningful reform will only come from the states rising up.

That is exactly why states must use their Article V power. Under our Constitution, two-thirds of the states can call a convention to propose amendments. These aren't runaway conventions—they're strictly limited to one issue: congressional term limits. Texas has the chance to become the 34th state needed to trigger this convention, leading the nation in restoring citizen-legislators and breaking the grip of long-term power brokers.

Why term limits are urgently needed in Congress:

1. Renewal of representative democracy. Modern Washington is a permanent class of lawmakers—self-perpetuating, insulated from voters, and beholden to lobbyists. Over 90% percent of incumbents are reelected—a feat enabled by gerrymandering, fundraising machines, and name recognition. Texans want real choice, not the same officials in perpetual reelection mode.

2. Combat elder-entitlement and seniority politics. As Truman decried, seniority and age combine to block fresh energy and new ideas. When committee chairs stay in power for decades, bold reforms stall and special interests entrench.

3. Pressure-tested timelines spur action. Elected officials under term limits prioritize delivering results over campaigning for lifetime office. They approach each day with urgency—not as lifelong career bureaucrats.

4. Limiting special-interest sway. The longer officials stay, the more dependent they become on big donors. Term limits reduce that incentive. As the late Clymer Wright, Texas conservative and municipal term limits advocate, argued, limits restore the balance between citizens and institutions.

Critics decry term limits as limiting voter choice. But let's be honest: the current system already limits choice. With incumbents virtually unbeatable, voters are locked out of true competition. Term limits would open opportunities, letting everyday Texans — teachers, veterans, small-business owners — serve as citizen-legislators without being priced out by perpetual incumbency.

Opponents also cite the 22nd Amendment as precedent for limiting tenure. But that amendment only capped the presidency, even though—Truman lamented—it left Congress untouched. It's time to finish the job.

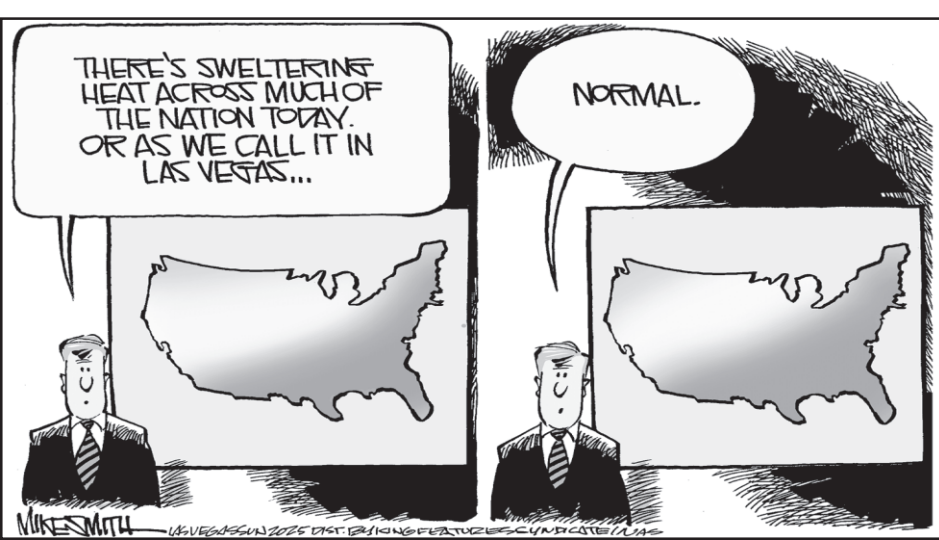
What Texas must do next:

- Pass the U.S. Term Limits resolution in both the House and Senate, applying for an Article V convention to propose congressional term limits.
• Keep the convention's scope narrowly focused, so it only addresses term limits—preventing a broader constitutional overhaul.
• Join sister states like Florida, Missouri, South Dakota, and Indiana, showing the potential for national leadership.

Texans know what's at stake. We built the greatest constitution on the planet—not because politicians planned it, but because everyday citizens demanded it. We understand that power left unchecked becomes abusive. We understand the meaning of "citizen-leader"—a public servant who serves and then returns home.

As Eisenhower put it: qualifying term limits "could be initiated only by the states". That is what our republic asked us to do. That is what Texas should do. Let's cure the "senility and seniority" in Congress once and for all.

Brandon Herrera is Texas State Chair for U.S. Term Limits.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Kerr County death toll tops 100, with 161 still Missing

Search teams have recovered 103 bodies in Kerr County after the devastating July 4 floods along the Guadalupe River, with Gov. Greg Abbott saying at least 161 people were still unaccounted for.

President Donald Trump visited the area on Friday to survey the damage, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The president promised the federal government would "fully fund" recovery efforts.

The statewide total of flooding deaths stood at 126 as of Sunday, including eight recovered in neighboring Kendall County from the Guadalupe River flooding, and separate flooding incidents in Travis, Williamson and Burnet counties.

Forecasts by the National Weather Service predicted much less rainfall than actually fell in Kerr County, with early predictions having the storm hit hardest near the Rio Grande. Two days before the flood, the Texas Division of Emergency Management staged rescue equipment and personnel in San Antonio, according to the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Free legal resources are available to low-income individuals affected by the Central Texas counties, according to the State Bar of Texas. That assistance includes assistance in securing government benefits, help with insurance claims, and other issues. Texas RioGrande Legal Aid can be contacted toll-free at 833-329-8752.

MEXICAN FIREFIGHTERS ASSIST IN FLOOD RECOVERY

A 13-person crew from Mexico joined Texas firefighters in rescue efforts in the Texas Hill Country, the Texas Standard reported. The firefighters are highly trained in search-and-rescue efforts and have volunteered all over the world.

The crew is composed of members from the Rescate Acuático de Protección Civil y Bomberos de Acuña, Coahuila, in coordination with Fundación 911. Ismael Aldaba is president of the foundation.

"Our guys have experienced [missions] worldwide. They've been traveling to earthquakes. They've been traveling to tsunamis in other parts of the



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

world," he said. "This is way different. This is the worst we've seen."

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum praised the crew for its work in Texas.

"The sense of solidarity and brotherhood characterizes us and must always characterize us," she said. "No matter the circumstances, Mexicans lend a hand to those who suffer, to those left behind."

FLOOD RESPONSE NOW TOPS SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

The July 21 special session called by Abbott includes addressing the July 4 flood, including improving early warning systems and infrastructure in flood zones, beefing up emergency communications, funding for affected areas and updating state preparedness and recovery procedures, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"We delivered on historic legislation in the 89th Regular Legislative Session that will benefit Texans for generations to come," Abbott said in a proclamation issued last week. "There is more work to be done, particularly in the aftermath of the devastating floods in the Texas Hill Country. We must ensure better preparation for such events in the future."

A total of 18 items are on the special session agenda, including congressional redistricting, regulation of hemp-derived products, and further reducing property taxes. Redistricting is sure to spark controversy, as the Republican majority seeks to expand its grip on the state's congressional seats. Any new redistricting maps almost certainly would face legal challenges.

Only the governor can call a special session, which is limited to 30 days, though he can

call as many as he wants between regular biennial sessions.

ANGELA PAXTON FILES FOR DIVORCE FROM TEXAS AG PAXTON

State Sen. Angela Paxton last Thursday filed for divorce from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The McKinney legislator cited "recent discoveries" and "biblical grounds" in a statement on the social media site X.

"I believe marriage is a sacred covenant and I have earnestly pursued reconciliation," she wrote. "But in light of recent discoveries, I do not believe that it honors God or is loving to myself, my children, or Ken to remain in the marriage."

The announcement came just weeks after Paxton announced he is running against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in next spring's GOP primary.

The divorce filing accused Paxton of adultery and says the couple stopped living together in June 2024. She is seeking what the petition calls a "disproportionate share" of the couple's assets because of her husband's alleged fault in the breakup of the marriage.

The attorney general issued a statement about 20 minutes after his wife.

"After facing the pressures of countless political attacks and public scrutiny, Angela and I have decided to start a new chapter in our lives," he wrote.

PERRY WANTS TO BUILD NUCLEAR COMPLEX IN WEST TEXAS

Former Gov. Rick Perry has co-founded a company he says plans to build the country's largest nuclear complex on nearly 6,000 acres owned by Texas Tech University, according to the Houston Chronicle. Perry, who also served as energy secretary during Trump's first term, is promoting the Advanced Energy and Artificial Intelligence Center.

His company, Fermi America, claims it would be the world's largest data center campus. Tech companies would be able to rent space to pursue artificial intelligence efforts. Fermi America's executive chairman, Toby Neugebauer, said tech companies are desperate for electricity. The company plans to construct four large-scale nuclear reactors, capable of generating sufficient electricity to power approximately 1 million homes.

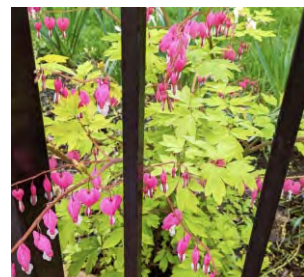
"Fermi America is in the artificial intelligence creation business. We're not in the power business," Neugebauer said. He added that what is missing in artificial intelligence is not chips or algorithms — it's the power needed to fuel data centers.

The ambitious project faces hurdles. The country's nuclear energy industry has built just one nuclear plant in the past 35 years, in Burke County, Georgia. That project ended up seven years late and \$17 billion over budget. In contrast, China has built 22 nuclear reactors to power AI, Perry said in a company statement.

"We're behind, and it's all hands on deck," he said.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Pictures of Flowers



The internet has gotten to be a mean place.

I have a Facebook author page (CarrieClassonAuthor), but folks looking for insightful comments on current events will be disappointed. I post pictures of flowers most of the time and occasional photos of my cat, Felix. It is not the place to go for cutting-edge news. Other than my photos of flowers, I don't do much on Facebook, but I am a member of a few groups, and most of them have to do with writing.

As of this week, I think that might change.

"Is anyone writing today really addressing the important subjects?" Someone wanted to know in one of these writers' groups.

"No. The only writers saying anything important are dead," someone else replied, and a whole lot of people agreed.

I couldn't let this sit unanswered. Of course, in retrospect, I should have. But there are so many people writing today whom I admire.

"Of course there are!" I wrote. "Like who?" The poster wanted to know.

Oh, dear. Now I was on the spot. But this person seemed to want to know, so I felt I owed them an answer.

I wrote down Anne Lamott, just because I happened to be reading right now her book on faith. And then I thought of how happy Louise Penny made me feel every time I visited her community in Three Pines. I thought of how every one of Elizabeth Strout's books has made me tear up because they are just so true and so close to the heart. I kept writing down more authors' names as I thought of them. I wanted to assure this person that important and beautiful and true things were being written by living authors every day. It was quite a list by the time I was through.

"So, has any of them actually said anything important?" this person asked.

Oh, my. Now I felt that all of contemporary literature was resting on my shoulders.

Since I was at my computer, and I knew Anne Lamott posted something nearly every day, I simply took the last words she wrote on Facebook and pasted them into my reply:

"I have no answers but do know one last thing that is true... Life is much wilder, complex, heartbreaking, weirder, richer, more insane, awful, beautiful and profound than we were prepared for as children, or that I am comfortable with. The paradox is that in the face of this, we discover that in the smallest moments of taking in beauty, in actively being people of goodness and mercy, we are saved."

A moment later, a reply appeared. "So, she sold you on the idea to accept being ignorant, but if we see pretty things, we're good to go?"

And I felt so unreasonably sad. I somehow thought this person really wanted to know if there were important things being written about today. Instead, they were looking for more fuel for an argument that had finished long ago in their head.

I went for a walk. I walked into a church that keeps the little chapel open for meditation. I sat with a handful of people in the candlelight. I wondered if all of them had just gotten beaten up on the internet.

And I realized it didn't matter. Wonderful things are being written every day. My writing down a few writers' names had simply reminded me of some I had neglected.

When I got home, I went back to my book by Anne Lamott. I'll stick to posting pictures of flowers from now on.

Till next time, Carrie

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.

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# Texans Coach DeMeco Ryans Inducted into Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame

By Allan Jamail

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

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

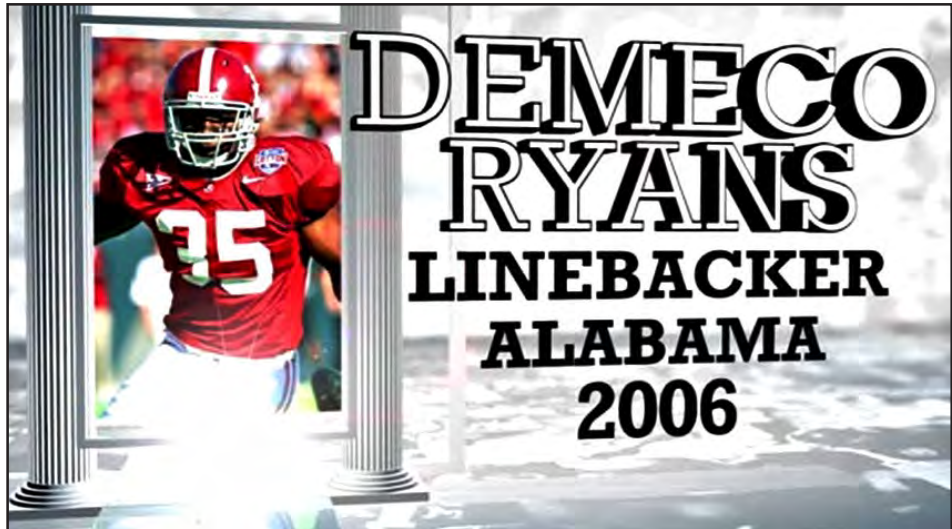
Alabama's Ryans in 2006 from his linebacker position was literally a coach on the field for the Crimson Tide. As a senior, he earned unanimous All-America recognition and was named Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year. In the Alabama's 13-10 victory over Texas Tech in the 70th Cotton Bowl Classic, Ryans and teammates held the nation's top-ranked passing attack in



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

check. He was credited with seven tackles, five of them solo, two tackles for loss that included 1.5 quarterback sacks for minus-12 yards and was selected as the Felix R. McKnight Outstanding Defensive Player of the Game. He excelled in the classroom too, graduating with honors and named the school's top male stu-

dent-athlete. The Cotton Bowl selection committee selected the inductees, they were Notre Dame fullback *Jerome Bettis*, Texas linebacker *Randy Braband*, Ole Miss head coach *David Cutcliffe*, Nebraska running back *Tony Davis*, Cotton Bowl Athletic Association Chief Ambassador, Past Chair



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

and former Team Selection & Playoff Committee Chair *Finley (Fin) Ewing III*, CBAA Historian *Charlie Fiss*, Auburn running back *Bo Jackson* and Alabama linebacker *DeMeco Ryans* to be recognized for their lasting impact on the Cotton Bowl Classic, on and off the field.

W. Kelvin Walker, Chair of the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association (CBAA), which oversees the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic, and Cotton Bowl Foundation said, "Today is

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

DeMeco, his wife Jamila and their children are members of Houston's

Fifth Ward Church of Christ ([www.fwcc.org](http://www.fwcc.org)). Allan and Linda Jamail writers for the North Channel star attend there as well. Allan said, "Brother DeMeco who serves as a Deacon at the church was recognized Sunday in their Bible class for his hall of fame honors."

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

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

# One teen dead, two injured at shooting at pool party



EAST HARRIS COUNTY - A pool party filled with teenagers at an east Harris County apartment complex Sunday turned deadly, with at least one of the teens killed and two others seriously hurt.

It's unclear what led up to the shooting, but according to Major McConnell with the Harris Co. Sheriff's Office, deputies were called just before midnight at an apartment complex on Liberty River Drive near Crosby Freeway off Highway 90. The neighborhood is close to Gene Green

Park off Highway 90. Investigators believe about 25-30 teenagers were hanging out for a pool party, possibly unsupervised, when, for unknown reasons, several shooters fired into the crowd. At least six teens were detained, and a total of three teenagers were injured by the gunfire.

One of them, an unidentified young man, was killed. Two others were rushed to a hospital in serious condition, via ambulance and helicopter. Major McConnell said one

of them was last said to be in surgery, but their latest conditions were not disclosed.

Officials are still in the early stages of the investigation, so information is scarce. At last check, they were combing through surveillance cameras but are urging residents to come forward if they know anything.

"We're going to need the help of the public," Major McConnell said. "If you were here, you know something? Your kid was here? Please give us a call. 713-221-6000."



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North Shore Rotarians purchased the Grand Champion Pig at this year's CFR Livestock Sale. Above, Rotarians included Sean Silman, Mini Izaguirre, Danna and Don Nino, Scott Stephens, and Dan Meaux. Thank you for your support.

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Christopher McDonald, left, and Adam Sandler star in "Happy Gilmore 2."

"Happy Gilmore 2"

"MATERIALISTS" (R) — "Past Lives" director Celine Song, who scored a handful of nominations for her feature directorial debut, has released her second feature film, which is available to rent beginning July 22. Another romance-centered film, "Materialists" stars Dakota Johnson ("Madame Web"), Chris Evans ("Deadpool & Wolverine"), and Pedro Pascal ("Gladiator II"). Johnson leads the film as Lucy, a matchmaker in New York City who has successfully created nine marriages through her work. At the wedding of one of her clients, she's introduced to finance bro Harry (Pascal), a "unicorn" of a man who expresses romantic interest in her. But at the same time, she crosses paths with her ex-boyfriend John, who is Harry's opposite in every sense of the word, and now finds her-

self torn between two enticing love affairs. (Amazon Prime Video)

"HAPPY GILMORE 2" (PG-13) — Here's a major event for Adam Sandler lovers! (I know there are a lot of them!) Almost 30 years after Sandler's cult classic "Happy Gilmore" was released in theaters, the sequel will be available to stream on July 25! Of course, Sandler reprises his role as golfer Happy, who's coming out of retirement to pay for his daughter's ballet school. Sandler's real-life daughter, Sunny, also plays his daughter in the film, while Julie Bowen ("Modern Family") reprises her role as Virginia. New names added to the cast include Ethan Cutkosky ("Shameless") as one of Happy's many sons, Puerto Rican singer Bad Bunny ("Bullet Train"), and Benny Safdie ("Oppenheimer"). You don't

want to miss this one! (Netflix)

"FRIENDSHIP" (R) — Tim Robinson ("Saturday Night Live") stars opposite Paul Rudd ("Death of a Unicorn") in this A24 black-comedy film out now to rent! "Friendship" follows the socially awkward Craig (Robinson), who's missing a social connection that is often pointed out by his wife, Tami (Kate Mara). Tami takes it upon herself to accept an invitation from their neighbor, Austin (Rudd), to the reluctant Craig for a beer, and the result is the blossoming of the most precious friendship in Craig's life. This friendship, in all its chaos and shenanigans, is a turning point for Craig to reinvent his life and find purpose in himself again. "Heartwarming, yet hilarious" is a good description for this film. (Apple TV+)

"THE ASSESSMENT" (R) — Buckle up for a weird ride with this one. In this sci-fi thriller set in the "near future," regulations on parenthood are at an all-time high due to a lack of resources and a collapsing environment. So, aspiring parents must undergo a seven-day-long assessment that determines if they'd actually be suitable enough to have children. Mia (Elizabeth Olsen) and Aaryan (Himesh Patel) deeply wish to become parents, but when their government-appointed assessor, Virginia (Alicia Vikander), shows up at their door, the assessment she puts them under is no easy feat to overcome. Without giving too much away, Vikander gives an incredible performance, bringing her character to life in a way that transcends the screen. Out now! (Hulu) (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q:Is it true that Ozzy Osbourne is dying? Is that why he had his farewell concert recently? — C.M.

A:According to his daughter, Kelly Osbourne, her 76-year-old father is not dying. She also condemned a video circulating the internet in which it appears Ozzy is saying, "I don't need a doctor to tell me that I'm going to die." But it's not his voice; it's AI.

Ozzy revealed publicly in 2020 that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. While Kelly admits that his mobility is "completely different than it used to be," Ozzy was able to perform with his band Black Sabbath in early July. \*\*\*

Q:I read that Tom Ellis' new FBI show is undergoing changes and won't be ready this fall. I hope it doesn't get shelved for good. He's my favorite actor since I saw him in "Lucifer." — Y.B.

A:Don't worry, Tom Ellis' upcoming series has been pushed back by CBS as a mid-season replacement instead of premiering this fall, but it's not being scrapped. The series originally titled "FBI: CIA" — now simply titled "CIA" — is set to launch as the fourth series within the "FBI" franchise. But creative differences have emerged, and original showrunner David Hudgins has been replaced by Warren Leight (of the "Law & Order" universe).

According to Matt Webb Mitovich of TVLine, other than Tom Ellis, no other casting announcements have been made, and scripts are undergoing "further polishing." A fan asked if any cast members from the canceled "FBI" franchises could land on "CIA," but it's doubtful now that "FBI" has been axed out of the title.

"Watson," a medical drama starring Morris Chestnut, has now been moved up from mid-season to the fall by CBS. It will make its sophomore season debut on Oct. 13 at 10 p.m. ET, following the season eight premiere of "FBI." \*\*\*

Q:What ever happened to Mary Louise Parker? I loved her in "Weeds," but I haven't seen her in anything since. — W.U.

A:Mary Louise Parker's career was at its peak in the early 2000s, but it's far from over. Now aged 60 and looking fab-



Singer-songwriter OZZY OSBOURNE

ulous, she's still building a long resume with one acting role after another, but no project was as impactful as Showtime's "Weeds," where she earned three Emmy nominations. You can currently see her in the limited series "The Institute" on MGM+, which is based on a novel by Stephen King. Over the years, she's had recurring roles on shows like "The Blacklist," "Billions" and "Elsbeth."

Next up, she'll be starring in "The Auction" with Audra McDonald ("The Gilded Age") as well as her ex Billy Crudup ("The Morning Show"). Their relationship was all over the tabloids when they split late during her pregnancy when he fell for actress Clare Danes, but they are now amicable.

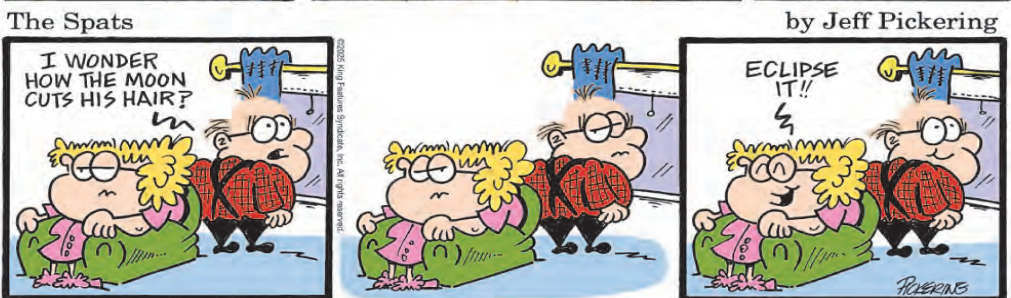
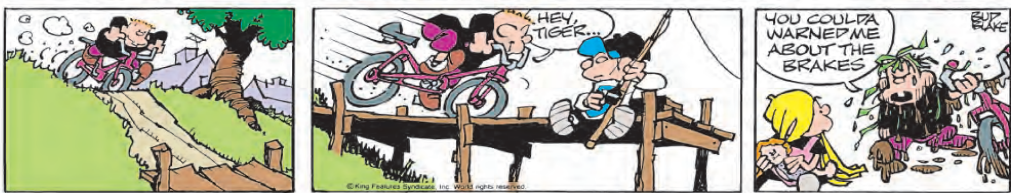
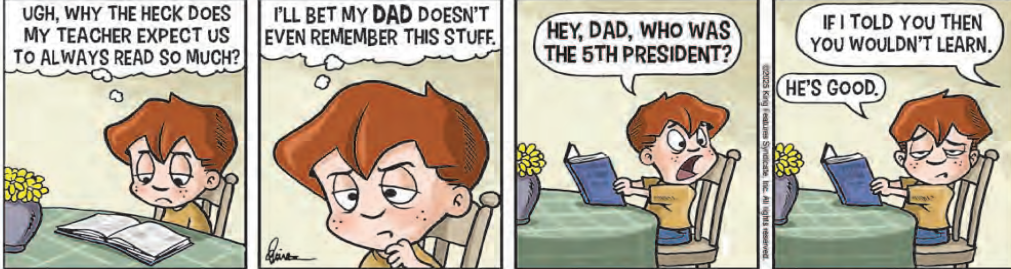
She'll also star in the upcoming political satire "Kissinger Takes Paris," opposite Tim Roth ("The Hateful Eight"), in addition to the film adaptation of Justice Bateman's book "Face" with Carrie-Ann Moss ("The Matrix Resurrections") about society's reaction to women who age naturally.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. Includes a small 9-box square grid.

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

July 21, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword grid and word list. Includes ACROSS and DOWN clues such as "Hold on ...", "Low voice", "Pouch", etc.

Trivia Test Answers. 1. Five (four dream levels and limbo). 2. Montana. 3. "Slaughterhouse-Five" by Kurt Vonnegut. 4. A foal. 5. Graphics Interchange Format. 6. William Henry Harrison, who died 23 days after taking office. 7. Sunnydale. 8. Rome, Italy. 9. 24. 10. Greek physician Hippocrates.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 1. MOVIES: How many dream levels does the crew enter in the film "Inception"? 2. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is "Treasure State"? 3. LITERATURE: Which 1969 novel begins with the line, "All this happened, more or less"? 4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby horse called? 5. ACRONYMS: What does the acronym GIF stand for? 6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president served the shortest term? 7. TELEVISION: In which fictional town is "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" set? 8. GEOGRAPHY: What international city's nickname is "The Eternal City"? 9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many time zones exist on Earth? 10. SCIENCE: Who is known as the father of medicine?

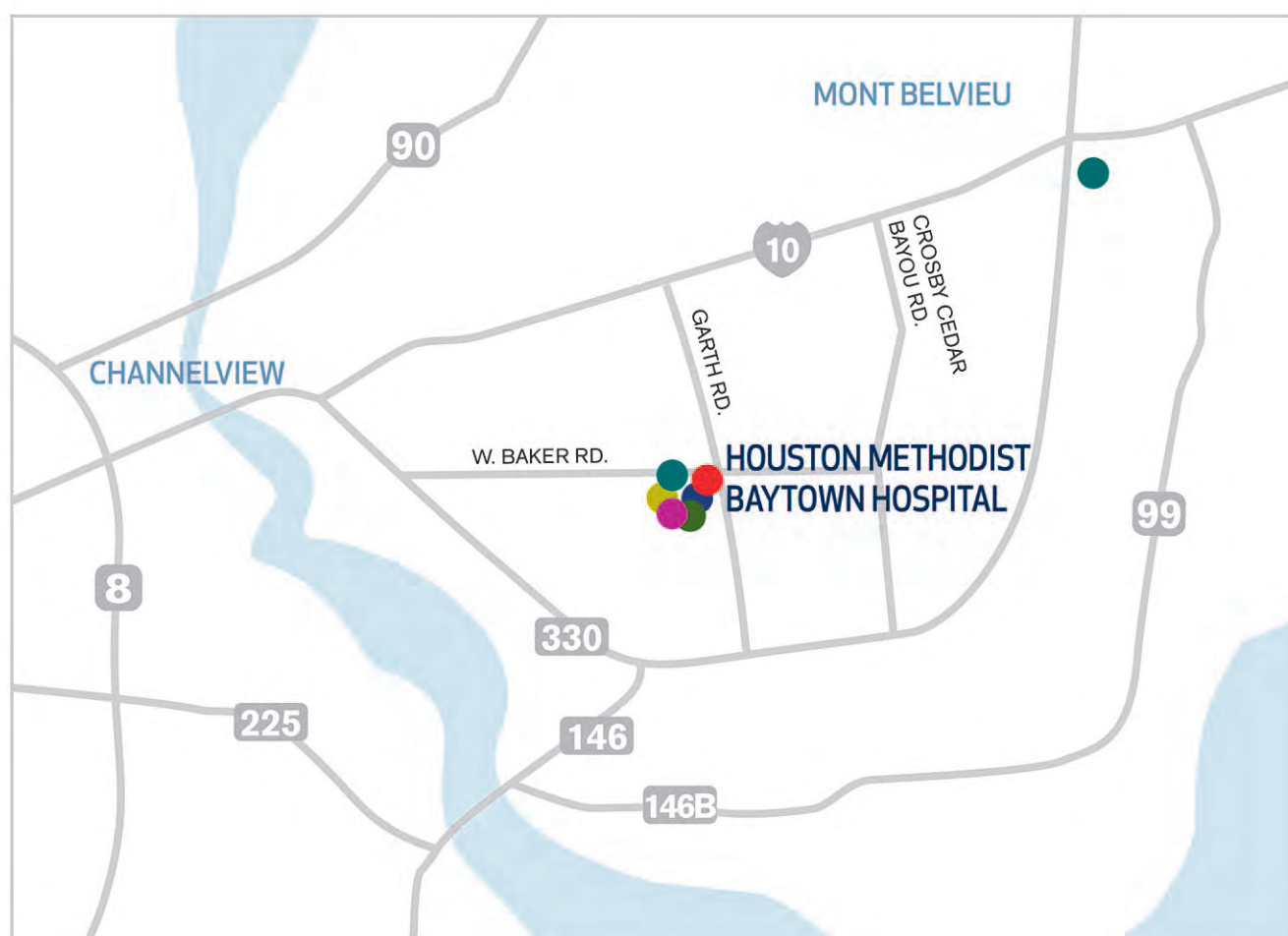


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