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# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 12, NO. 2 (#501) THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024 [www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)

## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### North Channel 47th Annual GALA Jan. 19

North Channel Chamber Annual Awards & Installation Gala, Friday Jan. 19, 2024. New Venue: Hyatt Regency Baytown.  
6:30pm Reception  
7:00pm Dinner & Dance  
Live Music & Dancing with the Greenway Band.  
Silver Sponsor Available, \$2000. Individual tickets \$100. RSVP to [ysenia@ncchamber.com](mailto:ysenia@ncchamber.com), or 713-450-3600.

### Public Health Watch Environmental Meeting Jan. 12

Public Health Watch has done a deep investigation into environmental hazards in Channelview and along the San Jacinto River, including long-term exposure to benzene, a known carcinogen.

The group will present the results of its investigation and ask a panel of experts to talk about solutions.

The meeting will be held:

Friday, January 12 from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

At the Flukinger Community Center

16003 Lorenzo St, Channelview, TX 77530

5:30 Doors and refreshments

6:00 Panel discussion

6:30 Community Q&A

### TXDOT I-10 East Public Meetings Jan. 23-31

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is engaging the community in a study to identify current and future transportation needs along I-10 East from I-69/US 59 to SH 99 (Grand Parkway). TxDOT is hosting a VIRTUAL public meeting with IN-PERSON options in multiple locations to share project information and receive input from the community.

In-Person Open Houses are from 5 - 7 p.m.  
TUESDAY, JAN. 23  
Houston Food Bank Conference Center  
535 Portwall St.  
Houston, TX 77029

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24  
Lee College PAC  
805 W. Texas Ave.  
Baytown, TX 77520

TUESDAY, JAN. 30  
North Channel Branch Library  
15741 Wallisville Rd.  
Houston, TX 77049

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31  
Barbers Hill ISD Leadership Support Center  
9600 Eagle Drive  
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523

The public meetings will be conducted in English and Spanish.

View the Virtual Public Meeting and take the online survey beginning Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024 at 5 p.m.: [www.txdot.gov/projects/  
hearings-meetings.html](http://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html) Or scan the QR code  
Questions? Please contact: (713) 802-5837 | [Stephan.Gage@txdot.gov](mailto:Stephan.Gage@txdot.gov)

## After 47 years, Chamber Remains ‘Vital’ to Community, celebrates at Gala

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

With the 47th Annual Chamber Gala set for January 19, Margie Buentello is encouraging businesses to join the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce. The director, who led the organization through some of its toughest years during the pandemic, is reminding area businesses, industry, and individuals that there are benefits to a chamber of commerce membership.

Just a couple of short weeks away, the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce is preparing for its annual Awards and Installation gala. Set for Friday, January 19, 2024, the social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner is served at 7:00 p.m. The event will be at the celebrated new Hyatt Regency in Baytown at 100 Convention Center Way.

“Chambers of Com-



Adrian Michael and The Greenway Band will provide the musical entertainment for the 47th Annual North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Awards and Installation gala on Friday, January 19, 2024, the social hour begins at 6:30 p.m.

merce play an important role in not only the development of our nation and state, but obviously our community and every chamber is unique—no chamber is identical,”

Buentello said.

She pointed out that they all have similar goals and perform similar duties like ribbon cuttings, golf tournaments, galas, and after-hours networking,

but they also play the role of advocate for their community.

“We not only advocate locally, but statewide and federally to ensure that the community receives

projects, funding and completion of items needed,” she said.

During Hurricane Harvey and COVID, Buentello said they tried to provide their member businesses resources to apply for PPP and small business loans, how to maneuver their business through the pandemic, and in some cases, help with online resources.

“We had to learn skills ourselves with Zoom and host meetings online,” she said.

All of that is made difficult because the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce doesn’t have the typical one school district in its boundaries, but three including Galena Park, Channelview, and Sheldon.

“We are not afforded a centralized government like so many have as a

Continued. See NC Chambers of Commerce Gears up for 47th Annual Awards Gala, Page 2

## Texans Win AFC South Division

By Allan Jamail

See Also COWBOYS WIN, Page 7

Monday, January 8, 2024 ~ The Houston Texans and the Dallas Cowboys won their divisions this weekend. (See also Cowboys article Page 7)

On Saturday, January 6, 2024 – The Houston Texans made the playoffs for the first time since 2019, with their 23-19 victory over the Indianapolis Colts. Saturday’s win clinched them a wild-card spot. But on Sunday the south division’s leading Jacksonville Jaguars lost 28 to 20 to the Tennessee Titans making the Texans the 2023 AFC South division champs. Last season they were one of the worst teams in the NFL and now they’re the champs. (Read below 2 of the reasons how improvements were made)

Welcome to the playoffs, Houston Texans fans. The Cleveland Browns



Texans C. J. Stroud (Photos Getty Images)

will come to Houston Saturday (1-13-24) to face for the first time Texans rookie quarterback (QB) C.J. Stroud. The game will be televised at 3:30 PM on NBC (Channel 2).

In a rematch these two teams will kick off the NFL postseason playoffs. Already winning once in Houston just four weeks ago, the Browns will look

for a repeat performance from QB Joe Flacco and wide receiver Amari Cooper, who set a franchise record for single-game receiving yards in that matchup. It’s worth noting that the Texans were without starting QB C.J. Stroud in that game because he was sidelined by the NFL head concussion protocol rule.



Houston Texans Head Coach DeMeco Ryans

Two big reasons for the Texans going from a miserable losing team with only 3 wins last season to a division champ in one season is due to the hiring of DeMeco Ryans as their new head coach. Ryans’ decision to use the Texans first draft choice to pick C. J. Stroud as their quarterback was monumental in his effort

to rebuild the team.

Stroud played college football at Ohio State, where he holds many school records, including most passing yards in a single game with 573, as well as being the first player to throw for six touchdowns three times.

Continued. See TEXANS WIN AFC SOUTH DIVISION, Page 3

## Wreath Ceremony: “The Honor Was Mine”

A Personal Account  
By Jim Cihak

The Fallen Warriors Memorial is located just North of 249 and 1960, only minutes from Downtown Houston. As you approach the memorial on foot, the large granite pillars greet you offering their silent testimony to the more than 630 fallen warriors, U.S. service men and women from the State of Texas, who paid the ultimate price while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As I read the inscribed names in the granite, I couldn’t help but feel I was standing on hallowed ground. About 25 yards South, two bronze statues stand in tribute to the many K9 heroes, the mili-



tary service dogs who never made it home.

On Sunday December 10th, 2023 it was my absolute pleasure to escort two of our very own local heroes from North Shore to the Fallen Warriors Memorial. As a member of the

Southeast Texas Patriot Guard Riders (PGR), I invited two Vietnam War Veterans to attend the 4th Annual Wreath Ceremony at the Fallen Warriors Memorial with me. The event was cohosted by the Patriot Guard Riders, Rolling

Thunder, Blue Star Moms, The Girl Scouts, and other organizations and individuals. I transported U.S. Navy Electrician Mate 2nd Class Trouard Alfred Breard III (age 84) and U.S. Army Special Forces Staff Sergeant James



“Jim” Bishop, Sr. (age 79) from North Shore to the memorial.

As the Operations Manager for Pineforest Jewel-

Continued. See WREATH CEREMONY HONORING FALLEN WARRIORS, Page 7





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## Scholar Squad Visits McCord Development

Dr. McCall’s Superintendent Scholar Squad visited Sheldon ISD Partner in Education McCord Development for their monthly meeting. The students learned more about potential career opportunities from Mr. Brian Roth, director of land development. The Scholar Squad represents fourth through twelfth grade students in Sheldon ISD who serve as a student advisory group to Dr. McCall. The group meets monthly.

## 15 Students Achieve All-Region Choir

Congratulations to Sheldon ISD middle school students for being named to the Middle School All-Region Choir. Five students from King Middle School and 10 from Null Middle School have achieved this award, which includes two first chairs.

*You can read the North Channel Star current and back issues on our website:  
[www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)*

## SHELDON ISD NEWS

### King High School Presents “Chicago”

The King High School theatre department presented their winter musical performance, “Chicago,” with performances on Friday, December 8, Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10. Students are under the direction of King High School Theater Director Evan Hoffman. Last fall’s musical, “Little Shop of Horrors,” earned the theatre program 22 Houston Theatre Under the Stars Tommy Tune Awards nominations, with 4 finalists and 1 winner. “Chicago” is one of the largest performances for the students this year.

### Sheldon ISD’s Tamika Bartley Receives State Recognition

Sheldon ISD’s Tamika Bartley has been announced as the 2024 Mercedes Bonner Leadership Award (MBLA) winner. The MBLA is a special award given to a Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (TCTELA) member of a diverse background who has made a significant contribution to

TCTELA or has actively and tirelessly supported the professional community or has advanced the awareness of multicultural issues. Bartley is Sheldon ISD’s Secondary English Language Arts Middle School Coordinator. She will be recognized at the annual conference in January.

### Elementary Librarian Shines in STEM Education

Learn more about Amanda's efforts at <https://sites.google.com/view/amandachacon>

National Girls Collaborative Project

NGCP

TEXAS GIRLS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

THANK YOU, TEXAS GIRLS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT!

Together, we can create equalized and inclusive opportunities for girls to engage in STEM!



Carroll Elementary Librarian Amanda Chacon has been awarded the Stand Up For STEM Educator Award by the Texas Girls Collaborative Project organization. This annual award seeks to recognize and elevate the work of incredible mentors, companies and organizations within Texas. Mrs. Chacon is highlighted for her demonstration of passion for encouraging girls to pursue a STEM career and willingness to share skills, knowledge, and expertise with others and develop a network of support. She helps design, support and offer programs for her students that actively and thoroughly incorporate STEM mentors and role models.



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Community

When you hear the word community, what picture comes to mind? Some will think about the apartments or the subdivision they live in. Some think a little larger, thinking about what businesses, churches, and schools are in the area.

Some people may think community as a group of people they interact with. For many business professionals in the area, their community includes others who belong to the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce or one of the Rotary International Clubs in our area. Community can also be the groups that are connected by professions or a certain interest. Still others will think about the monetary impact of the various businesses in the area.

When natural disasters happen, such as hurricanes, floods or chemical spills, community members come together from all over the area to help each other. Even when it is not a natural disaster, but a reoccurring event, such as back to school or the holidays, the community joins together to meet the needs of the less fortunate.

Each week there are numerous groups of neighbors that gather to pray for the area as well as those who work on raising funds to help beautify the area and those who get together for fellowship and participate in the events hosted by the County Commissioners. It is all about helping others understand that no man is an island. The more people we interact with, the more we can accomplish. It is about community.

This past Saturday, Sheldon ISD Superintendent Dr. McCall welcomed a group of Precinct Chairs who hosted a community breakfast for neighbors to meet and ask questions of currently elected officials. The event was held at Cravens Learning Academy and drew senior adults, homeowners, apartment renters, parents with young children and elected officials such as Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia, State Representatives Harold Dutton and Carol Alvarado, Justice of the Peace Lucia Bates and representatives from Constable Eagleton's office, Commissioner Rodney Ellis' office as well as several pastors. In the audience, some were members of the local PTA, and some were members of their home-owners association. One thing they all wanted to do was to learn how to make the community a better place. They were not just thinking about their own needs and desires, but those of everyone in the room.

East Harris County Empowerment Council CEO, Terence Narcisse shared passionately how important it is to get involved. He encouraged everyone there to not only learn the history of the area but to help shape the area for future generations. He spoke about the impact of neighbors working together to help with food distributions, to reporting roads that need attention. He encouraged everyone to look around and see the improvements that had been made in the past five years. He referenced the Generation Park campus which San Jacinto College opened and how Representative Dutton authored legislation to help make it possible, along with the voters of the College District. He mentioned that the people in the room not only vote for the elected leaders who were present at the event, but also serve on the SJC Board of Trustees. In the audience were Shumona Collins, Channelview ISD Board Member as well as John McGee, Harris County Board of Education Board Member who were acknowledged for the work both Boards have done.

Longtime Precinct Chair Carolyn Riggs reminded guests that they should register to vote and get involved with the upcoming elections. It was also announced that due to a new law, each year those who wish to vote by mail need to request to be added to the list for mail ballot applications each year. One word that was heard throughout the morning was "community" and the importance of being active.

NC Chamber of Commerce Gears Up for 47th Annual Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

city," she said, "so much of our area relies on us to get them the help and attention they need for projects."

Buentello also expressed her joy in the North Channel community for their response to dire circumstances and being overcomers.

"I know we weren't the only chamber concerned about losing members and some around the area did, but we actually gained members during COVID," she said. She believes they were seeking assistance with their business to find ways to market their business and pivot in the face of extreme conditions.

"It really didn't hurt us financially either, but what was difficult was re-inventing the way we conducted business," she said.

Operating in the unknown gave her plenty of sleepless nights.

"It affected a lot of businesses, some more than others, but we worked to be a help to them," she said.

Buentello said they also work with neighborhoods and their county liaisons make sure streetlights are repaired, and this year, they adopted a road to keep clean.

"Last year, we adopted Woodforest through a county program. They provide the supplies and the vests, and garbage bags and we go out there at least twice a year to work on our street," she said. Buentello also encouraged community organizations

to participate in the program and offered to help them get in touch with the county officials to get them started.

"We act like city hall in the place of one to help citizens facilitate the issues they face in our community," she said.

It's not too late to purchase a ticket to the annual awards banquet and Buentello would like non-members to come and see what the chamber is all about.

"This will be a fun night and not boring by any stretch of the imagination," she said.

Most years, the chamber invites a special guest to speak to the business community, but this year, they will host a dance with the music of Adrian Michael and The Greenway Band to accompany the party.

"They play just about every style of music really well and they were a big hit last year," she said, "so this year we decided to have a dance instead of a speaker."

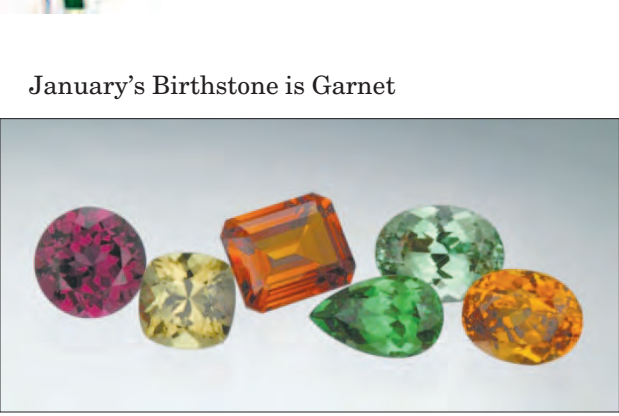
Michael is a former American Idol contestant and the band plays pop, folk, country, rock, R&B, jazz, and much more.

Tickets are \$100 and rooms at the hotel can be reserved with special pricing by using Group Code: G-NC47. Tickets reserved after Jan. 9 will be charged a 20 percent surcharge.

For more information or to buy a ticket, call 713-450-3600 and speak to H Y P E R L I N K [hyperlink@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:hyperlink@pineforestjewelry.com)

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is the Birthstone for January?"



January's Birthstone is Garnet

"Happy New Year everyone! I hope that 2024 is full of prosperity, health, and happiness for you all. Be well!" ~ Diamond Jim

For babies born in January, the garnet is the perfect gem to represent their birthstone. This beautiful stone, which is most commonly red but can be found in a range of other colors, symbolizes peace, prosperity and good health. Some say it even has the power to give the wearer eternal happiness, health and wealth.

We say it's the perfect way to start each year!

Garnet is actually the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the Pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of Tsavorite. Some rare garnets are even blue, colorless, or—most rare of all—change colors in different lights. But the most common color is a beautiful range of reds, from rust colored to deep violet-red.

The garnet is a very durable gemstone (6.5-7.5 on the Mohs scale) found all over the world, including Wyoming, Czech Republic, Greece, Russia, Tanzania, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and India.

The folklore on garnet is extensive. Legend has it that the garnet can bring peace, prosperity and good health to the home. Some even called it the "Gem of Faith," and it's believed that to those who wear it and do good, more good things will come. (Conversely, it was also said to bring very bad fortune to those who commit bad acts while wearing it.)

It is also believed that the garnet symbolizes deep and lasting friendship. With that "legend" in mind, give a garnet to someone whose friendship you deeply value. No matter why or how you wear garnet, this beautiful gemstone is perfect for those who share January birthdays and get to start each New Year with a sense of goodwill, happiness, and purpose.

HOW TO BUY GARNET

If you're looking to purchase a garnet for yourself or a loved one, it is a great way to celebrate friendship, toast a 2nd wedding anniversary or recognize the wearer's January birthday. When you're ready to buy a garnet, visit a jeweler you can trust to assist you like Pineforest Jewelry. Look at how the garnet reacts under light and check for an intense, saturated color.

Try to find a cut that spreads light evenly over the surface of the gemstone. This will help to bring out the overall beauty and color of the garnet. No matter which stone or piece you choose, remember that the garnet is known for its durability and richness of color, so your investment will not only have great emotional value but could be a piece that stands the test of time.

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

Texans Win AFC South Division,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The 39 year old DeMeco Ryans was a college star himself, he played for the Alabama Crimson Tide as Inside Linebacker from 2002 – 2005. He won the South East Conference Defensive Player of the Year award in 2005. Ryans was named the 2006 Cotton Bowl Classic defensive MVP in their 13–10 win over Texas Tech. Following his senior season, Ryans received the \*Lott Trophy (\*Integrity, Maturity, Performance, Academics, Community, and Tenacity) for his combination of athletic excellence and off-the-field achievements and was recognized as a unanimous All-American.

Ryans played 10 years as a pro in the NFL; six years as a Houston Texan and four years with the Philadelphia Eagles. In 2006 he won the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year Award and made the NFL All Pro Team twice. Before taking the Texans coaching job he was the San Francisco 49ers Defensive Coordinator.

This past Sunday after Saturday's winning game DeMeco and his wife Jamila joined NC Star writer Allan and Linda Jamail on the same pew at the Fifth Ward Church of Christ where both families are members. After services the Jamail's visited with the Ryans' who have three children and congratulated DeMeco on the Texans win.

TEXANS 23 ~ COLTS 19

In Saturday's game Texan's future NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year candidate quarterback C.J. Stroud played an incredible game, completing 20 of 26 passes for 264 yards and two touchdowns. The first play of

the game for the Texans on offense was a 75 yard bomb from Stroud to Nico Collins for a touchdown. Nico Collins was his favorite receiver catching all nine of his passes for 195 yards and one touchdown bringing Collins' season's totals to 80 receptions for 1,297 yards and 8 TD's.

Stroud's rookie season performances have put him in a superior group of rookie company. He made NFL history for the most passing yards in a single game by a rookie with 470 yards against Tampa Bay. With the two touchdowns and zero interceptions on Saturday, Stroud tied the single-season record for rookies for games with two or more touchdowns and zero interceptions. So far his season's pass completion record is 63.9% of his 499 pass attempts for 4,108 yards and 23 touchdowns a 1% pass interception percentage.

Stroud will become the third quarterback drafted in the top two since at least 1967 to start a play-off game. The Texans also become the fifth playoff team to feature a rookie quarterback and a first-year head coach in DeMeco Ryans.

As for the Indianapolis Colts, they relied on star running back Jonathan Taylor. He rushed 30 times for 188 yards and one touchdown, but briefly exited the matchup in the second half due to an ankle injury. He was listed as doubtful to return but he did return. He helped carry Indy to the red zone before the game-deciding Colts dropped pass on 4th and 1. Indy QB Gardner Minshew completed 13 of 24 passes for just 141 yards, his second-lowest total in a start this season.

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## OPINION

Harris County Judge  
Lina Hidalgo



## Seeking a Better Life is Not a Crime

On December 18th, Governor Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill (SB) 4 into law. SB 4 makes unauthorized entry into Texas a state crime and authorizes state and local law enforcement officials to arrest individuals deemed to be in violation of the law. In practice, SB 4 will allow judges across the entire state of Texas to deport people, even if they are here seeking asylum. SB 4 empowers police officers to detain immigrants for deportation, pulling resources away from what should be their priority — fighting violent crime. SB 4 is in direct violation of the U.S. constitution and the federal government’s constitutional authority over immigration law.

Our community – and our nation – needs immigrants. In Texas, we have 1.6 million undocumented immigrants who have built lives here in the U.S., have families here, and pay \$2.6 billion in federal taxes every year.

SB 4 will make our communities less safe. Once the law goes into effect on March 5, immigrants who are victims of crime will feel like they can’t call the police because the police are now in charge of enforcing immigration law. If people are more scared to report crimes, no matter who that person is, that poses a threat to our public safety.

Not to mention that our jail system is already at the breaking point. Even if only 1% of Harris County’s current undocumented population were to be detained in the county jail system, it would cost the County \$500,000 a day. This burden will ultimately fall on Harris County taxpayers.

Earlier this month, I led other Texan County Judges in writing a letter to the Biden Administration requesting that the federal government take action to prevent this law from taking effect. Harris County renewed our Immigrant Legal Services Fund, which helps immigrants who can’t afford their own lawyer to access legal representation. And on December 19th, Commissioners Court approved the first-ever county-funded Immigrant Resource Hotline, which will be available in mid-January and will help connect callers with legal information and free social services.

We will continue to push back against the damage this will do to our security, our economy, and all of the undocumented residents of Harris County that are here to build a life.

Playing with people’s lives just to make a political point is very cynical and it shows what our state leaders are really interested in with this law. If they truly want to pass meaningful immigration reform and make our border safer, let’s have a meeting, let’s work with our federal partners on this, and work out some real solutions.

Sincerely,  
Lina Hidalgo



## Reflecting on January 6th: A message from Congresswoman Garcia

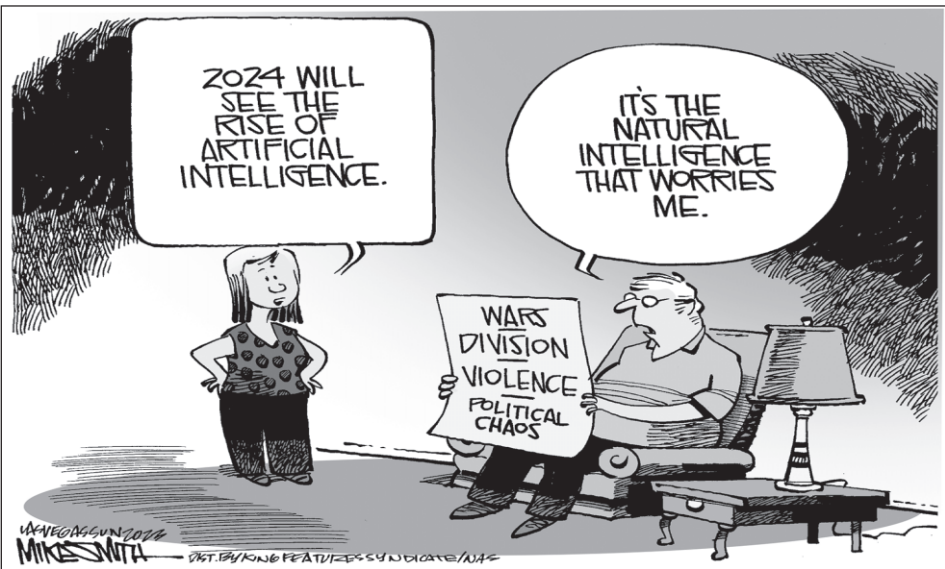
Today we mark the somber anniversary of January 6th, a trying day for our democracy that will be forever etched in history. It is with a heavy heart that we reflect on the events that unfolded within the halls of our nation’s Capitol.

This day serves as a reminder of the challenges we face as a nation in preserving the principles that define us.

On January 6th, 2021, we faced a grave threat that shook our nation to its core. I find myself reflecting as not only a member of Congress but as someone who experienced these events firsthand. Amid all the chaos, I vividly recall the overwhelming urgency as Capitol Police rushed my colleagues and me to safety in an effort to protect our democratic process. Yet, during the havoc, the dedication and sacrifice of Capitol Police was a testament to the resilience that unites us as a nation.

On this solemn occasion, let us remember the strength that we have gained from our shared commitment to the values of unity, resilience, and a firm belief in a better future. We reflect on not only the trials and tribulations but the hope that emerged during our darkest hours.

May this day serve as a reminder that despite differences, we are all bound by our allegiance to our great country. It is through this that we find hope and continue to work together to strengthen our community and our nation.





## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## Spate of New Laws Effective Jan. 1

After the Texas Legislature spent much of 2023 in session, a bevy of new laws go into effect on New Year’s Day, though some have been delayed by lawsuits challenging their constitutionality.

The Austin American-Statesman reported on SB 17, a new law that institutes a ban on programs and policies “designed or implemented in reference to race, color, or ethnicity” at Texas public universities or colleges — commonly known as diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI.

GOP lawmakers who pushed the ban through argued that DEI programs are divisive. Those opposing the ban said it would eliminate initiatives designed to help people of color feel more included on campus. Universities have already begun the process of renaming and eliminating the types of programs that will be outlawed under SB 17.

Another law taking effect in 2024 doubles the state franchise tax exemption, with up to \$2.47 million of a company’s annual taxable revenue being exempt.

Another measure that passed with bipartisan support creates a diversion program for juveniles accused of low-level offenses. Local governments now will be able to turn to rehabilitation services, job training, and alcohol and drug awareness programs as alternatives to more punitive measures.

HB 4758 makes it a crime for companies to target minors with advertising for e-cigarettes, the use of which by teens has increased markedly in the past decade.

Not all laws passed by lawmakers will take effect on Jan. 1 because of lawsuits filed after their passage. As The Dallas Morning News noted, a bill that prohibits sexually explicit performances in front of minors — and was targeted toward drag shows in particular — was declared unconstitutional by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge David Hittner ruled the ban violated performers’ free



speech rights under the First Amendment. That decision is being appealed.

Another law that would regulate what books children can read in schools is still in effect. An initial ruling that it was unconstitutional was appealed to the 5th Circuit, which has yet to issue a ruling.

### MEDICAL BOARD SILENT ON ABORTION LAWS

The Texas Medical Board remains silent on how to interpret the state’s abortion laws, The Texas Tribune reported, despite a call from the Texas Supreme Court to offer more guidance to doctors on how to interpret the laws.

This came after the high court rejected a Texas woman’s bid to terminate a non-viable pregnancy that she maintained threatened both her health and ability to have future children. Kate Cox later obtained medical care out of state.

“While the judiciary cannot compel executive branch entities to do their part, it is obvious that the legal process works more smoothly when they do,” the justices wrote. In response, Dr. Sherif Zaafran, board chair, said the Texas Medical Board is not likely to do so while other court cases were proceeding.

“It wouldn’t be appropriate for us to start making any kind of movement or decisions while all that is out there still being adjudicated,” Zaafran told the Tribune.

### PAXTON MUST TESTIFY IN WHISTLEBLOWER TRIAL

A state district judge ruled last week that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton must testify in a whistleblower case that led to his impeachment and subsequent acquittal. That case revolves around Paxton’s dealings with developer Nate Paul, who is under federal indictment for wire fraud, The News reported.

Four top deputies were fired after reporting Paxton’s dealings with Paul to the FBI. A \$3.3 million settlement with the whistleblowers fell apart when the Legislature refused to fund it. The former deputies claimed, among other allegations, that Paxton “created a legal opinion to prevent the foreclosure sales of several of Paul’s properties.”

Paxton’s attorneys are appealing the judge’s ruling. The whistleblower case is more than three years old. Paxton remains under federal investigation and faces trial in early 2024 for a nearly nine-year-old state securities fraud indictment.

### RRC INSPECTORS OUT CHECKING NATURAL GAS FACILITIES

Inspectors for the Texas Railroad Commission were out in force in December, conducting weatherization inspections at hundreds of critical natural gas facilities across the state to ensure adequate gas supply this winter.

The RRC said inspectors have checked 99% of the facilities that directly connect to electric generating plants — including gas processing plants, underground storage facilities and pipelines.

“The commission will continue to inspect these facilities multiple times during the winter season,” Wei Wang, executive director, said. “In total, we expect to conduct more than 5,600 inspections of critical gas facilities on the electric supply chain map.”

Another important factor is the amount of natural gas stored in underground facilities that would be available if the state is hit with another severe winter storm, such as Winter Storm Uri in 2021, or the ice storm last February. The amount stored is up 6% from the same time last year and is the highest winter level seen in the past six years.

### UNCLAIMED POT OF MONEY GROWS TO \$9 BILLION

Texas has almost \$9 billion in “unclaimed property,” according to kut.org. This includes funds from paychecks, refunds, deposits and dormant bank accounts. If the money hasn’t been claimed after a few years, the asset holder, such as a bank, must send the funds to the Texas Comptroller.

The amount that gets returned to the rightful owner is only a fraction of the amount sent to the office. For example, in fiscal year 2023, the state collected \$1.1 billion but only returned about a third of that amount, or \$340 million.

Folks can find out whether the state is holding money that belongs to them by going to ClaimItTexas.gov.



## THE POSTSCRIPT

By  
Carrie Classon

## Year End Ambitions

It’s the time of year when I look back and see where I’ve been and wonder where I’m going.

On the shortest days of the year, I like to do a little recalibration. I take a look at what I had hoped to do and ways in which I want to change my thinking. Some years I have had major changes in the works—going back to school or starting a new career. Other years, my biggest ambition has been to finish off the last of the Christmas cookies before the year’s end in case they have an end-of-the-year expiration date and pose a danger to those with a less robust constitution.

This year is somewhere between the two.

Part of becoming older and a bit more at peace with myself is looking at the new year a little differently. Instead of a series of challenges to overcome and changes to enact, I look at the new year with a renewed sense of wonder. Instead of looking at new mountains I’d like to conquer, I like to spend a little time questioning the things I do every day without thinking, and how those things could be better. Some are profound. Most are not.

“I’m changing lipsticks,” I tell my friend, Cheri. She does not seem to register that this is a major life event.

“I only do this once every 10 years or so,” I add, so she understands the enormity of the choice.

“I had Thanksgiving dinner with a woman whose lipstick stayed on for the entire meal,” I explained. “I want to be like her.”

I got the sense Cheri did not think this end-of-year ambition was worthy of her attention. I decided not to tell her about my other goal: to polish off all the dangerously old Christmas cookies.

But I have a few other ideas for the new year as well.

I just got word that an old friend of mine has a ruthless form of cancer. We have not been in touch for years, but he was a good friend in high school, and the prognosis is not good. It is so hard for me to imagine the youthful, cheerful, impossibly energetic person he has always been becoming so ill and facing anything so dire. And yet he is. And so could we all.

And so, the biggest change I would like to make in the new year is to stop behaving as if I have all the time in the world. While I don’t know how much time I have (and I hope it is still considerable), none of us knows. I’d like to be a little gentler on myself in this new year. I’d like to treat myself like a person who is not going to live forever—simply because I am not.

Today would be a good day to write to my old friend and tell him I have nothing but wonderful memories of him. Today would be a good day to lay aside all my petty grievances against people who might think differently than I do or hold different beliefs. Today would be an excellent day to let go of any fears I have of being rejected or blamed or embarrassed.

On the shortest days of the year, it’s good to be reminded that my time is short as well. It’s a good time to do the things that matter and the things that bring me joy. It’s a perfect time to send out a little more kindness, eat a few more cookies and buy new lipstick.

Till next time,  
Carrie

HIGHLANDS

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Jake Johnson, left, and Anna Kendrick star in "Self Reliance."

“Self Reliance”

**“SELF RELIANCE”** (R) — In his directorial debut, Jake Johnson (“New Girl”) plays Tommy, a single network manager, who gets approached by Andy Samberg to star in a dark-web reality show with a prize of \$1 million. The premise of the show is simple: For 30 days, Tommy must avoid a group of hunters who will try to kill him. His only saving grace is that the hunters can only attack when he’s alone. So, to survive, this lone wolf must find someone to shadow him. After a handful of people find excuses not to shadow him, Tommy finally encounters another player in the reality show, named Mad-dy (Anna Kendrick), and the two strangers team up to effectively avoid getting murdered. This comedy thriller releases Jan. 12 (Hulu)

**“THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES”** (PG-13) — In 2020, author Suzanne Collins released a prequel to her megahit series, “The Hunger Games,” and it was quickly adapted to the big screen to join the other four films in the franchise. Starring Tom Blyth in his breakout role as a young Coriolanus Snow and Rachel Zegler (“West Side Story”) as Lucy Gray Baird, the prequel is set 64 years before the events of “The Hunger Games.” It focuses on Coriolanus’ beginnings as an Academy student and how he was chosen to be Lucy Gray’s mentor for the 10th Hunger Games. Clever and dangerously ambitious, Coriolanus knows that he can seize this opportunity to gain great power, but first, he needs to ensure that his songbird District 12 men-

tee gets out of the arena alive. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

**“TED”** (TV-MA) — Based on the feature films created by Seth MacFarlane (“Family Guy”), this prequel series takes viewers back to Massachusetts in 1993 to tell the origin story of the foul-mouthed teddy bear that everyone came to know and love in the first two films. In his early life, Ted lives with the family of his 16-year-old best friend, John (Max Burkholder), previously portrayed by Mark Wahlberg. After being pressured by the family to get an education along with John, Ted enters the terrifying realm of high school and attempts to find hilarity in all the awkward teenage milestones that come with it. The full series, consisting of eight episodes, premieres Jan. 11. (Peacock)

**“LIFT”** (PG-13) — A heist group consisting of six key players faces a choice between getting charged for identity fraud, money laundering and more or taking a deal offered by a government agent. This score would be their biggest yet — half a billion in gold — but the catch is that the gold is locked away in a safe on a plane. The only chance to stop the gold from reaching the terrorist who’s desperate to get his hands on it is to steal it mid-flight. Kevin Hart leads this action-packed film, which also stars Gugu Mbatha-Raw (“Loki”), Jean Reno (“Leon: The Professional”), Sam Worthington (“Avatar”) and more. Don’t miss out on its premiere on Jan. 12. (Netflix)

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Ryan and Tatum O'Neal in "Paper Moon" (1973)

Q:I was sorry to hear about the death of Ryan O’Neal. “Paper Moon” is one of my all-time favorite movies. How is his daughter Tatum doing? — H.G.

A:Tatum O’Neal wrote in her 2004 autobiography, “A Paper Life,” that she and her father did not speak for two decades. According to Entertainment Weekly, they started to repair their relationship in the months before his long-time love, Farrah Fawcett, died after her cancer battle in 2009. The father and daughter duo, who starred in the classic film “Paper Moon,” reunited on-screen in 2011 for their own reality show, “Ryan & Tatum: The O’Neals.”

Their bond continued to grow until his passing on Dec. 8 at the age of 82. In a statement to People magazine, Tatum stated that her dad “meant the world to me. ... I’ll miss him forever, and I feel very lucky that we ended on such good terms.”

\*\*\*

Q:I know most of the new shows are starting later this season, but when is my favorite, “Station 19,” returning? — K.L.

A:“Station 19” is a spin-off of “Grey’s Anatomy,” one of the longest-lasting drama series ever, but unfortunately “Station’s” time is coming to an end, as ABC recently announced that the upcoming seventh season will be its last. The show boasts six cast members who have been there since the beginning — Jaina Lee Ortiz (Andy), Jason George (Ben), Grey Damon (Jack), Barrett Doss (Vic), Jay Hayden (Travis) and Danielle Savre (Maya).

Due to the writers’ and actors’ strikes in Hollywood, which have fortunately ended, the fall TV season was pushed to 2024 and will air much fewer episodes. “Station 19” will premiere its final season on March 14 at 10 p.m. ET., the first of just 10 episodes.

\*\*\*

Q:What happened to the show “Big Sky”? A friend told me it was canceled. This surprises me. I thought it was great and was looking forward to more. — B.F.

A:“Big Sky” was a very promising series created by David E. Kelley. If that name sounds familiar, it’s because

Kelley has created and/or produced many highly successful shows like “L.A. Law,” “Ally McBeal,” “The Practice,” “Big Little Lies” and “The Lincoln Lawyer.” In between these notable hits have been some misses (“Big Shot” for one). “Big Sky,” however, probably sits somewhere in the middle. It lasted only three seasons, but with its beautiful scenery (set in Montana) and compelling storyline, it seemed to have the makings of a hit.

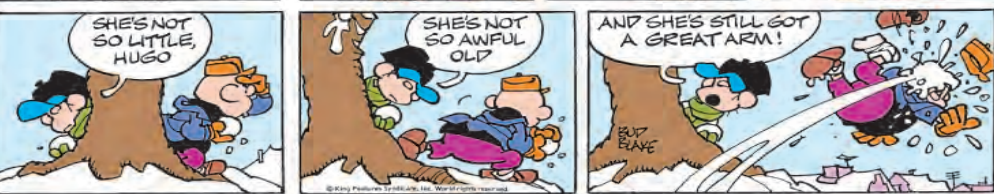
It starred Katheryn Winnick (“ Vikings”), Kylie Bunbury (“Pitch”) and Dedee Pfeiffer (“Cybill”). Pfeiffer is actually the sister of Kelley’s wife, actress Michelle Pfeiffer. When the show wasn’t generating its desired ratings, the name of it was changed to “Big Sky: Deadly Trails,” and two stars were added to the cast — Reba McEntire (“The Voice”) and Jensen Ackles (“Supernatural”). Alas, it wasn’t enough, and the series was canceled back in May.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**HOCUS-FOCUS**

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Buttonholes are added. 4. Bricks are lower. 5. Headlight is missing. 6. Shirt is different.

January 8, 2024 Posting Date

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Muscat's land
- 5 Droid
- 8 — Romeo
- 12 Squid dish
- 14 Crowd noise
- 15 Earring shape, often
- 16 Rock's Moetley —
- 17 Little louse
- 18 Great —
- 20 Spiral
- 23 Cannon of film
- 24 Sofa brand
- 25 Cake mixes
- 28 Links org.
- 29 Los —, California
- 30 Satisfied sigh
- 32 "Say something!"
- 34 "Alfred" composer
- 35 Flower part
- 36 Run-down
- 37 Sudden bursts
- 40 Aachen article
- 41 Dog's bowlful
- 42 Fly at a low altitude
- 47 Grate
- 48 Points of view
- 49 Pro votes
- 50 Bit of butter

**DOWN**

- 1 Calendar abbr.
- 2 Actress West
- 3 Pie — mode
- 4 Land created by C.S. Lewis
- 5 Lisa's brother
- 6 Spanish gold
- 7 Apex
- 8 Esoteric
- 9 Chicago's Mayor
- 29 Portal
- 31 "Psst!"
- 10 Mythic man-goat
- 11 War god
- 13 1509, to Cato
- 19 Back muscles, for short
- 20 Trendy
- 21 Heart charts
- 22 Bound
- 23 Fact
- 25 Pastry store
- 26 Scarce
- 27 Hourglass fill
- 33 Prevents, legally
- 34 Virgil epic
- 36 Billboard
- 37 Poet Teasdale
- 38 Theater production
- 39 Church section
- 40 Work on proofs
- 43 Clean air org.
- 44 — polloi
- 45 Single
- 46 Calif. clock setting

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**Answers**

**King Crossword**

**Answers**

**Weekly SUDOKU**

**Answers**

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

**Trivia test**

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** The Darien Gap separates which two countries?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What is Three Kings Day also known as?
- MOVIES:** What's the name of the supervillain character in the animated film "Despicable Me"?
- LITERATURE:** Who is the author of "The Kite Runner"?
- TELEVISION:** What is the name of the motorcycle-riding greaser in the sitcom "Happy Days"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which musical instrument does former President Bill Clinton play?
- GAMES:** In the game Battleship, how many ships does each player have at the beginning?
- MUSIC:** Which famous rock singer was born with the name Farrokh Bulsara?
- HISTORY:** What was the name of the first U.S. Space Shuttle?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state is home to the Mammoth cave system, believed to be the longest in the world?

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1. Panama and Colombia.; 2. Epiphany.; 3. Gru.; 4. Khaled Hosseini.; 5. Fonzie.; 6. Saxophone.; 7. Five.; 8. Freddie Mercury.; 9. Columbia.; 10. Kentucky.





# ROTARY CLUB NEWS




## North Shore Rotary hears about heart health from retired athlete



The Speaker at the regular weekly luncheon of the North Shore Rotary Club last week was Michael Montgomery, speaking on heart health and his personal experiences.


Our Club would like to express our sincere appreciation to Michael Montgomery for his insightful and engaging presentation at today's meeting. His passion for educating and empowering people to build a healthier future for our children and raising awareness that Sudden Cardiac Arrest is preventable truly captivated our members. Thank you for contributing to the success of our meeting and for your dedication to making a positive impact on our community.

Michael Montgomery is a former gridiron football defensive end. He retired from the Green Bay Packers in 2011. Michael is founder of the Heart of Michael Foundation. To learn more visit: <https://www.heartofmichael.org/>



# PET MATTERS

In Memory of Susan Hoffman



## BARC at Full Capacity, needs help with fostering or adopting

HOUSTON – BARC, the City of Houston's Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, is at capacity and urgently needs the public's help. If you have ever considered signing up to help as a foster or have wanted to adopt a shelter pet, now is the perfect time.

"Since Friday afternoon, our intake and adoption kennels have been filled, leaving us with nowhere to hold newly arrived pets who need our help. We're typically closed on Mondays to allow our staff time to perform necessary training and deep cleaning, but it's crucial we use every opportunity we have to open kennels," said Shelter Director Jarrad Mears. "The demand for room has become so great that our shelter team has brought in temporary pop-up crates to house newly arriving pets. When those pop-up crates appear, the situation is critical."

Here are ways the public can help:

Adopt: as the Finale for its Home for the Holidays campaign. BARC's adoption center is located at 3300 Carr Street and is open the following hours\*:

Noon – 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Friday – Sunday

Noon – 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays

Foster: Short-term holiday fosters are also needed for our long-stay shelter dogs as the shelter faces its current capacity needs. Opportunities are available for those in our approved foster boundaries to pick up a PURRFURRED pet from BARC through December 21 and foster them for the holidays. After the holidays, fosters can make an appointment to bring them back to the shelter. Fall in love with your foster? Adopt them for just \$5 and make their holiday wish come true. Learn more: [https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/foster\\_a\\_pet.html](https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/foster_a_pet.html).

Get Involved:

VOLUNTEER: <https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/volunteer.html>

FOSTER: [https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/foster\\_a\\_pet.html](https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/foster_a_pet.html)

ADOPT: [http://www.houstontx.gov/barc/adopt\\_a\\_pet.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/barc/adopt_a_pet.html)

RESCUE: <http://www.houstontx.gov/barc/Rescue2.html>

DONATE: [https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/donate\\_landingpage.html](https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/donate_landingpage.html)

URGENT PETS: <https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/urgent-pets.html>

Although BARC is traditionally closed for adoptions on Mondays, Urgent Pets can be adopted via the shelter's 3200 Carr St. entrance those days. Learn more about adopting from BARC: [https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/adopt\\_a\\_pet.html](https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/adopt_a_pet.html)

About BARC

BARC, the City of Houston's Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, takes in more than 25,000 animals annually regardless of behavior, breed, or medical condition. BARC works each day to improve Houstonians and their pets' health and safety by pioneering programs such as low-cost and no-cost spay/neuter services, mobile adoptions, transfer/rescue partnerships, and community outreach.

Visit [www.houstonbarc.com](http://www.houstonbarc.com) or [www.Facebook.com/BARCHouston](https://www.facebook.com/BARCHouston) for more information.

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<p>NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE</p> <p>Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 ("District")</p> <p>The District's administrative office is located at 911 Hollywood Street, Houston, Texas 77015.</p>			<p>NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 is Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue Station No. 1 located at 7601 Uvalde Rd., Houston, Texas 77049.</p>			<p><b>Mobile Tractor Repair &amp; Service</b></p> <p>Oil change, Lube, Light Repair East Harris, West Liberty, Chambers Counties <b>832-530-0054</b></p> <p>38-8T</p>		

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# Market Street Gets Attention at Pct. 2 Open House



**Why Are We Here**  
Market Street is a major east-west arterial through the study area. It connects with the Beltway 8 and IH-10 frontage roads in the west and The San Jacinto River Park in the east where it terminates. This study proposes locations along Market Street to establish mixed used developments and natural open spaces. Improving this roadway would create a safe and multimodal route to these natural assets for the existing residents and signal public sector support to incentivize private sector investments in the area.

By David Taylor  
Editor

Market Street in Channelview has long been a neglected stretch of road in the Channelview area south of Interstate 10, but last Friday afternoon, it became the focus of a Precinct 2 open house. The Reimagining Market Street Project focused on the stretch of Market Street between Beltway 8 and the San Jacinto River. All afternoon, dozens of residents filed through to look at the image boards and put what they would like to see done to the roadway when considered by engineers.

“Some of the input we’ve received today was improvement of the road, better lighting, and sidewalks in the area close to the school and playground,” said Sonia Cantu with Pct. 2 Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia’s office.

“Some wanted more green with grass maybe in the medians depending on traffic flow,” she said.

The purpose of the meeting was to gauge input from the public who live and work in the area.

In the early days, farmers coming from Goose Creek, Anahuac, Baytown, and Pelly navigated across the San Jacinto River at Lynchburg on a pull bridge and traversed to the other side down Market Street into downtown Houston where they would sell their crops. The trail and roads were dusty and bumpy, but the trek was profitable to east county residents looking to sell their wares. It was the major artery in East Harris County into Houston until Interstate 10 was built in the 60s and early 70s.

Today, Market Street has developed mostly industrial and commercial ventures with a few remaining neigh-

borhoods and only one school, De Zavala Elementary, south of I-10 in Channelview.

The project is part of the Revive2Thrive Community Revitalization Initiative.

Cantu said after the meeting, engineers would take the information they received and produce a design.

“We’ll have another community meeting in about a year,” she said, “and ask the public for any tweaks and changes they’d like to see,” she said.

“This is for our 2023-year budget and if it’s passed on to construction, it will be up for consideration in the 2022 (infrastructure) bond that was passed,” said Amanda Marshall, assistant director of capital projects for Harris County Pct. 2. The precinct’s share of that bond equated to approximately \$294 million. The funds for the design and study come from the annual operating budget, she said, of between \$20-\$30 million.

“We’re doing these studies to look at the entirety of our area and then prioritize based on budget and looking at developing where the money is needed and spend it over the next 5-10 years,” Marshall said.

Currently, there are 31 projects underway across Precinct 2 area.

Byron Acevedo, senior director of engineering for Pct. 2, said residents shouldn’t despair if they don’t see the ideas they wrote down on the sticky and stuck to the board.

“That probably means that they are probably being looked at as a future project because it costs more money and takes more time to develop the project,” he said.

Acevedo said they will also seek out community development block grants and other forms of funding to help along with some of the projects and those take time.

Bruce Arenales, structures task lead for AKV engineering in Houston, has a little more interest in the project than most. Arenales is a graduate of North Shore Sr. High School and is very familiar with the neighborhood and roadway.

“My first job was here at TapcoEnpro,” he said. His company, AKV, will design a segment of the 6-mile project. “I care about it because it’s my community.”

Four different engineering companies will work on the project including HDR, AKV, Signtech and Concept Engineering.

“We typically break it down into smaller projects or it gets too expensive,” Marshall said. “We won’t build the whole six miles at one time.”

Carolyn Stone, a Lakeview resident since 1981, said she didn’t think Market Street had been touched in all the years she has lived here.

“This part of Channelview is the most neglected,” she said. “It’s also the part of Channelview that a lot of people come to do business with industry and other commercial business, and this is the impression they get,” she said.

Stone hoped that the addition of sidewalks, road repairs, stepped up patrols, and a more refined look would encourage additional investment and get rid of crime.

“It’s hard to hide in the light,” she said.

Marc Soriano with HDR engineering firm was present at the meeting to assist residents with questions.

“We’ve been hired to provide an assessment and develop a schematic level drawing of the Market Street corridor. We’ll provide options to improve the corridor,” he said.

His focus will be to improve pedestrian and automo-



Marc Soriano with HDR Engineering firm listens as two residents explain to him their concerns and hopes for the overhaul of Market Street in Channelview. The roadway is the focus of an initiative by Harris County Pct. 2 to reimagine the area with road, sidewalks, possible curb and gutter improvements.

bile safety and specifically to increase the safety of the roads for trucks who travel to the area.

While it’s not a done deal, with the amount of truck traffic that travels Market Street, they are leaning toward concrete with curb and gutter.

“Adding that six-inch curb will be another layer of safety to delineate between vehi-

cle traffic and pedestrians,” he said.

Engineers spent part of the hot summer days walking the corridor to get the feel of the roadway and make some assessments with traffic patterns.

“We’ll do traffic counts, some manual counts and types of vehicles in the near

future that will also help us in our evaluations,” Soriano said.

They will also be taking bores in the current roadway to assess the current state and how to improve it.

To learn more about the project, visit the Precinct 2 website at <https://www.hcp2.com/>.

## Wreath Ceremony Honoring Fallen Warriors,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

several years as one of our countless military veteran customers. Both he and Jim are members of the VFW in Channelview. Upon arriving at the staging area, many of the PGR and Rolling Thunder members were already there. These true patriots greeted Alfred and Jim with warm smiles, handshakes, and respect.

When we left the staging area and arrived at the memorial for the ceremony, both Alfred and Jim were asked if they would like to participate in the ceremony by presenting/ placing the wreath for their respective branch of the military under which they served. Their faces lit up and they both accepted the invitation.

The Master of Ceremonies welcomed the attendees and introduced a few of the guests of honor...those who had organized this event as well as the caretakers of the memorial. Jim was the first to place a wreath at the memorial on behalf of the United States Army. After placing the wreath, he came to attention and saluted. At the appropriate time, Alfred did the same presentation of his wreath and salute on behalf of the United States Navy.

A little bit about these two Vietnam War Veterans from North Shore:

Trouard Alfred Breard III – Electrician Mate 2nd Class U.S. Navy, assigned to the USS Thetis Bay (a World War II ship that was re-fitted as the world’s first amphibious assault helicopter carrier). During the Vietnam war, the ship’s missions included being a launching point for



transporting Marines via helicopter to critical landing zones and to provide training and support for helicopter pilots to fly from the ship into Saigon and evacuate designated U.S. Citizens.

James “Jim” Bishop, Sr. – Staff Sergeant U.S. Army Special Forces, assigned to serve in SE Asia as a demolition’s expert. While setting an explosive charge to disable an enemy boat, the charge detonated prematurely and seriously injured Jim. The concussive blast was so severe that he was examined by US Army personnel and

determined KIA (Killed In Action). Hours later Jim awoke and, when he had recovered enough, crawled to cover to wait for night-fall. It took Jim many days to get himself back to his base by hiding during the day and traveling at night. After some time, Jim’s “KIA” status was rescinded.

Once we returned to North Shore from the memorial event that Sunday, both Alfred and Jim thanked me and told me how honored they were to present the wreaths. My reply to them was simple: “The Honor Was Mine”.

## Cowboys Win NFC East Division

By Allan Jamail  
See Also TEXANS WIN AFC SOUTH, Page 1

Monday, January 8, 2024 ~ The Houston Texans and the Dallas Cowboys won their divisions this weekend. (See Texans article)

The Dallas Cowboys fans, myself included should be in a jubilation mode since their “America’s Team” had another great season (12-5) and finally put together a great performance on the road. They won the NFC East title with their 38-10 win over the Washington Commanders (4-13) in the final week of the NFL regular season.

The win earned them home-field advantage at AT&T Stadium in the first two rounds of the playoffs. This is their second winning game in a row heading into the playoffs.

The Cowboys were in a pressure-to-win position, they had everything to gain, and the Washington Commanders who were out of playoff contention had nothing to lose in their season’s final game.

Dallas now has at least 12 wins for three seasons in a row under head coach Mike McCarthy after going 12-5 every year since 2021. This stretch marks the \*\*second



DALLAS QB DAK PRESCOTT

time in franchise history for that to occur, joining the Cowboys’ 1990s dynasty run from 1992-1995 in which they won three Super Bowls in four seasons.

McCarthy is the first Cowboys head coach to accomplish this feat. \*\*Hall of Famer Jimmy Johnson was Dallas’ head coach for the first two of those seasons in the 1990s from 1992-1993, but Barry Switzer was the Cowboys coach for the 1994 and 1995 seasons.

Dallas outperformed the Commanders by a wide margin in every aspect of the game. Comparison: first downs (31-12), total yards (440-180), turnover margin (three takeaways to one) and time of possession (33:55-26:05).

Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott led the offense with four red-zone TD’s. He got whatever he wanted when throwing to his favorite receiver CeeDee Lamb, com-

pleting all 13 passes thrown his way for 2 TD’s and one TD each to Jalen Tolbert and Brandin Cooks. He competed 86 percent of his passes (31-36) for 279 yards and 4 TD’s. Prescott became the first Dallas quarterback to ever lead the NFL in touchdown passes, tossing 36 in 17 games.

The Cowboys and Prescott will next play a ragged Green Bay Packer secondary at home next Sunday (1-14-24) at 3:30 PM on TV – Channel Fox.

The Cowboys have played in 8 Super Bowls and won 5 of them they’ve not played in a Super Bowl since 1996.

Worth mentioning, the Cowboys kicker named, The Automatic Brandon Aubrey, missed a field goal Sunday for the first time in his NFL career and then missed another before making one of 50 yards on his last attempt. Aubrey entered Sunday having made the first 35 field goals to begin his NFL career, nearly doubling the previous league record of 18.

The Commanders are in dire need of a reset. Washington has lost eight consecutive games, the longest active losing streak in the league.

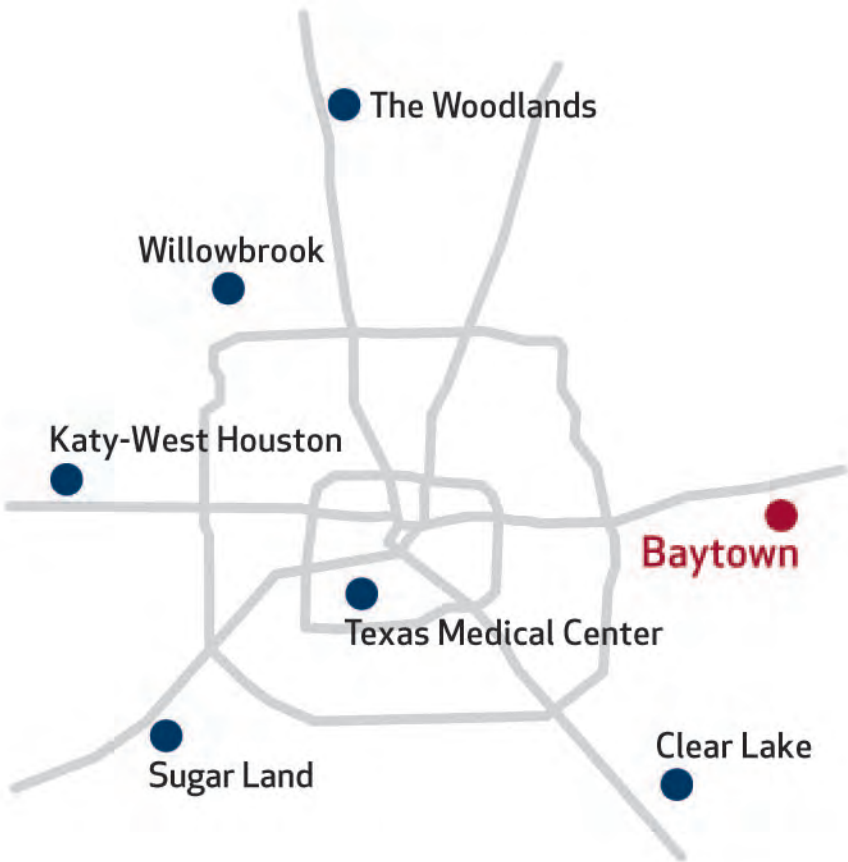




# THERE'S A BETTER APPROACH TO CANCER CARE in Baytown

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