# NORTH CHANNEL㰦STAR 

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| VOLUME 12, NO. $5(\# 504)$ | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 | www.northchannelstar.com |

## CHANNEL CURRENTS

## EVENTS

(2)

Send your valentine a Special Message in our Feb. 14 issue.
Details on Page 5. NCA Chamber Luncheon Feb. 2
North Channel Chamber will hold the
first monthly luncheon of the New Year on
Friday February 2nd Friday, February $2 n$
at the Monument at the Monument
Room of San Jacinto College North, 5800 Uvalde Road. Meeting starts at 11:30am. Speaker is Bill
Eckert, Executive Eckert, Executive
Director of the Bay Area Homeless Services.
Presenting Sponsor is Houston Heart Health. Guests are
encouraged to "Wear Red" for Heart Awareness Month. Reserva-
tions $713-450-3600$. Members cost $\$ 25$. Non-member $\$ 35$ Rotary FISH FRY Saturday April 20 North Shore Rotary will hold its 49 th Annual Catifish Fry, Shrimp and Craw
Boil. Serving from Boil: Sering fiom
11:00am to 3:00pm, the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville Road behind the Courthouse. Also a Live and Silient
Auction, and a Raffe to Auction, anc a Ratitet
award a lucky ticket holder a new Toyota Tundra Pickup truck, or a Toyota Rav4 SUV, from Community Toyota ${ }^{2}$ Honad
Raffle tickets s 100 Raftie tickets $\$ 150$,
Food Tickets $\$ 15$, available from all N Shore Rotarians.

## North Channel Chamber changes Leadership, presents Awards

By David Taylor
Managing Editor
It was a bittersweet
night for Outgoing Presi-
dent Ronny Dwairy. The
owner of Bestway Oilfield,
Inc. in Channelview has
led the chamber to new
heights during his reign as
leader of the North Chan-
nel Area Chamber of Com-
merce.
"You know, a lot of
times after you do a big job
or a tiring job, you say,
thank goodness, this is
over. This was completely
the opposite," he said. "T'm
going to miss it. I didn't
want it to be over. This is
just such a great associa-
tion and the best people
that are that are involved
in this chamber. So a lit-
tle sad, to be honest, but
I'm so grateful for the time
I had."
Last Friday night, the
chamber swore in a new
president, board, and offic-
ers and then dished out
several com mu nity
awards to deserving busi-


The new officers and board members for the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce received their oath of office from The Honorable Judge Joe Stephens. Pietured from left to right, Ronny Dwairy, Ramon Garza, Chad Moody, Dr. Tory C. Hill, Robert Perez, Wanna Giacona, Darnald Kimble, Anna Clark, Bill Palko, Erin Kerr, Jim Wadzzinski, Ken Wimbley, Erika Koenher, Dr. Allatia Harris Dr. Alexander Okwonna, Elvira Granados, Nelson Espitia, and
Judge Joe Stephens (swearing the board inl, Dana Nino, Rubin Shah, Pedro Garcia, lan Adler, Emily Conklin, Lon Squyres, and Linda Tijerina.
 that continue to make the community vital and vibrant. ny have been members of he chamber for 10 yeas and the family's company part of the community

$\begin{array}{lc}\begin{array}{l}\text { for three decades. } \\ \text { "We wanted to get in- } \\ \text { volved and find ways for }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { "It's been a lot of fun. } \\ \text { We just show up, have fun, } \\ \text { do work for the communi- }\end{array}\end{array}$ giving back and thanking ty, and meet new peopie" this community," he said. he said. Four years after joining $\begin{gathered}\text { His parents were born }\end{gathered}$ the chamber, he was elect- in Nazareth, Israel and he was born in Houston and
attended Deer Park High

School becoming a first generation Texan. He's most proud of be ing able to network businesses within and without CONTINUED. SEE NCC CHANGES LEADERSHIP, PAGE

## TxDOT holds 4 PEL (Planning) Studies for l-10 Improvements

## Justice for Galena Park Cheerleader's 1995 death

Decades after cheerleader's death, her alleged killer extradited from Mexico By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Decades after her 19-year-old daughter's death, Judy Martin was notified her daughter's alleged dited from Mexico by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and jailed in Harris County.
It's a bittersweet present of sorts for Christdaughter Kristie was a former cheerleader at Galena Park High School gunned down just days beago while she was out with friends celebrating the holdays. Jose Luis Rios, 47, is
suspected of murdering suspected of murdering
Martin at a park in Chan


KRISTE MARTIN
Kristie Martin was a
cheerleader at Galena cheerleader at Galena Park
High Scho High School before she was
allegedly gunned down gang member Jose Luis Rios gang member Jose Luis Rios
two days before Christmas in 1995. More than 1,000 packed into
Woodforest Woodforest Baptist Church for
the funeral of beloved the funeral of beloved member
Kristie Martin. Martin was the Kistie Martin. Nartin was the
victim of a drive by shooting at
Riverside Park in Channelview.
nelview on Dec. 23,199
in the early hours on Sa urday morning while Mar tin and her friend wer outside their vehicle walk ing and talking. ketball game with my oth er daughter Stephanie last week and when I arrived, she was out front," Martin
said. She couldn't under said. She couldn't under-
stand why her daughter was not inside watching the game, but she soon discovered the FBI was look-
ing for her ing for her. "I don't have a landline and they told her not to be good news and wanted to tell me first-hand," she tell me
said.
Her Her daughter lives in
the Memorial Martin is a former resident of Crosby and North Shore, Continued. See JUSTICE FOR CHEERLEADER, Page 6

By Allan Jamail
Part I of a series...
January 30, 2024 Houston, TX. -As a concerned citizen and writer for the North Channel Star public in ore four (Planning and Environ mental Linkage) study in formational meetings. My wife Linda attended as wison for Community Li tative Ana Hernandez. We both gained lots of good inrll share in this article and in another subsequent ar-
ticle. The of Transportation (TxDOT) of Transportation (TxDOT)
has been conducting traffic studies identified as

National Environmental
Policy Act. Policy Act.
The pur The purpose of a PEL
study is to identify study is to identify trans portation issues and to de-
velop the needs and purpose for proposed im-
provements. It initiates coordination with oversight agencies, stakeholders and
members of the public in members of the public in
order to streamline the overall project's goal and
development processes to minimize duplication. It will describe the socio-eco nomic conditions and pro-
mote efficient and cost-effective solutions and environmental steward-
ship. ship. It will help to reduce de Continued. See I-10 PLANNING


By Allan Jamail
January 30, 2024-The Houston Texans became League's (NFL) Cinderella Team of the 2023/2024 season. Rookie Head Coach DeMeco Ryans brought the cellar team Texans up in his first season as head coach to win
the 2023 AFC South Dithe 2023 AFC South Diwere one of the worst teams in the NFL and now they're the champs.
They were able to achiese They were able to achieve far more than anyone would reasonably expected of them.
Texans legend Watt showers DeMec Ryans and C.J. Stroud with praise, Watt had nothing but positive
Continued. See TEXANS WIN
ROOKIE HONORS, Page 5

The Pro Football Writers of America named four Housto Texans to get their NFL's Rookies of the Year Awards.


## TEXANS WIN ROOKIE HONORS

## SHELDON ISD NEWS

Construction on 9th and 10th Grade Campus to begin Summer 2024
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { purpose as the Sheldon } & \text { lea } \\ \text { Education and Communi- } \\ \text { ty Center. This center } \\ \text { would serve as a building } \\ \text { for the community with a }\end{array}$ mobile health unit in part
nership with Harris Counnership with Harris Coun
ty Public Health as well a opportunities for adult and community education
$\qquad$ Additional projects from $\frac{\text { the }}{\text { have started and include: }}$ *All elementary schools will receive playground ments this spring. *A roof assessment as sessment has been com
pleted and repairs and renovations to facilities will begin this summer. New fencing around beginning this spring fo added measures of safety *Design work has been Concepts for both Early Childhood Academies for the pre-kindergarten Fuel
ing Brains classrooms Classrooms are featured in
ating creativity to make learning exciting for our
younger students. *The FFA Agricultural ing, lighting, building repairs that will assist with upkeep of animals, roof
renovations, and more *Additional safety and security enhancements will begin in 2024 and include security camera upSrades, new fencing
around schools, traffic gates, and door security upgrades.
In February, the track receive repair Stadium will new scoreboard and sound system to complement the new lights installed earlier this school year.
*Additionally *Additionally the
bleachers in the girls' gymnasium at King Midde School will be replaced this ear. These items are unded with bond money Follow truction progg our conwebsite
www.sheldonisd.com.

## at

 a variety of thematic designs geared toward gener

## Indivi clude

 The King High Schooltheater department has
earned 25 Tommy Tune
nominations for their win-
ter musical performance of
"Chicago." This makes
school history for the total
nominations earned from
Houston's Theatre Under
the Stars. The nomina-
tions span 15 categories,
including Outstanding
Musical, Ensemble and
Technical Achievement.
Individual nominations in-
clude:
O U T S T A N D I N G
LEAD: Vonta Ward
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OUSTANDING SUP.
PORTING: Daniel Martin$\begin{array}{lll}\text { Porting: Daniel Martin- } & \text { son } \\ \text { ez-Rivera } & \text { (Mary } & \text { OUTSTANDING }\end{array}$
(Junshine), Lorhii Nelson (June/Squish), Darrell Jackson (Seargent Fog arty) ER: Alexandria Cordova (Roxie), Mellow Alfaro (Mama Morton), Vonta Ward (Amos) TOR: Vonta Ward (Amos) TOR: Vonta Ward (Amos)
Alexandria Cordova (Roxie), Mellow Alfaro (Mama Morton)
OUTS OUTSTANDING DI RECTOR: Evan Hoffman Daniel Martinez Rivera
OUTSTANDING MUSIC DIRECTOR: Taylor Surrat, Crysty Cruz OUTSTANDING CHO ReOGRAPHER: Er Perez, Kailah Brown
O U T S T A N D I N LIGHTING DESIGNER: Josaphine Gonzales-Claw-

King HS "Chicago" Theater Production Receives 25 Tommy Tune Nominations


## CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

Celebrating School Board Recognition Month!


Lynette Breedlove, was elected to Position 6 in November 2022 to a four-year term which expires in November 2026. She began working at the age of 14 at a hen moved to Channelview in 1988 with her husband Danny. They raised six children in Channelview and now have 13 grandchildren. Lynette worked for Channelview ISD for 27 years, mostly as the Financial Secretary at Channelview High School before retiring in June 2022. She enjoys camping, horseback riding, and spending time with her family.
THANK YOU Mrs. Breedlove for your dedication, passion, and hard work


We're highlighting CISD Board Trustee, Mr. Hector Martinez.
He was elected to Position 2 in November 2020 to serve a four-year term ending in THANK YOU Mr. Martinez for your dedication, passion, and hard work.


Dedication

Are you someone who is dedicated? Are you dedicated to arriving a few minutes ea
to work in order to be ready to start to work in order to be ready to start
working on time? What about at the end your shift,
are you ready to "punch out" seven minutes early or are you going to stay late to finish the assignment, even if you will not be paid overtime? Are you someone who goes the extra mile or just does
enough? enough?
There was a time where individuals chose a profession and put in twenty or more years to make a a cashier in the retail world and by the time they were ready to retire, they were a manager or perh had even moved up in the corporate office. Many teachers stayed in the say profession and went from being a teacher to advancing to be a Department Chair, an Assistant Principal, and the Principal and perhaps into the Administration ranks in the same
school district. school district
There were individuals who committed to marriage and no matter what happened, they remained
committed to one spouse. No matter how difficult it committed to one spouse. No matter how difficult marriage work. In the early 1980's many high school graduates had parents who had been married for twenty-five years or more. Sadly, today there are many elementary school students who have parents who were never married and the one parent never the children grow up not even knowing the absent parent's family.
Recently, I have talked with so many grandparnts who have missed out on seeing their grandchil and the child is the one who suffers. Somehow we must do better. As a nation, we need to stop being dedicated to making money, spending more on entertainment and material things and get back to being dedicated to making a difference. We need
children to know their relatives. Children should know both sides of the family. Life is hard enough. For those children who have gaps in their family tree, those of us in the community need to step up and get involved. Over the weekend, I saw a father asking about where he could find out about a Daddy Daughter Dance. He was sincerely wanting to take his daughter and show her not just an evening of fun
I sugrested that he gather
I suggested that he gather some other men and meet with a local organization that works with
middle school and high school girls and see if som middle school and high school girls and see if somehelp that organization as well as build community support.
There are several homeless individuals in the area that many are concerned about as well as a growing number of unsheltered individuals and groups showing up in the area. While there is a group of about twenty individuals working to provide for one sides. Those that are afraid of the homeless, those that see the homeless as an eyesore that will devalue their property, those that have a heart of compassion to feel the homeless. We need to become dedicated to making a difference. Ideas? Please contact me at Chalrotte.Jackson@yahoo.com

## NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## ASK DIAVOND JIM

## Diamond Jim:

 "Silver is on Sale"Silver is underpriced. In other words, silver is on
sale.


The current gold-to-silver ratio reveals this. This ratio tells you how many ounces of silver it takes to buy one ounce of gold. Or to put it another way, the gold:silver ratio tells you the price of gold in silver In general, the ratio tends to narrow as a pre-
cious metals bull market unfolds. In other words, silver outperforms oold. The opposite is true during a bear market for the monetary metals
The gold:silver ratio currently stands at over 87:1, meaning it requires 87 ounces of silver to reveals the significance of the current ratio. Simply put, it's out of whack. The average gold:silver ratio in the modern era has generally ranged between $40: 1$ and $60: 1$. When the ratio widens far beyond that range, as it has in recent years, it typically fell to 30:1 in 2011 and below 20:1 in 1979.
The pandemic era provides a more recent example. As the Fed cut rates and launched quantitative easing to prop up a shaky economy caused by rate hikes the prior year, the gold:silver ratio climbed to nearly 93:1. At the onset of the pandemic, the ratio rocketed to over 100:1. But as throughout the world, gold rallied and took silver with it. The price of gold charted a 39 percent gain rising above $\$ 2,000$ an ounce. Meanwhile, silver rallied to nearly $\$ 30$ an ounce, a 147 percent increase.
The big rally in silver drove the gold:silver ratio down from over 100:1 to just over 64:1, close to the high end of the historical norm. As the Federal Reserve cut interest rates to battle price inflation, the gold:silver ratio widened once again. History indicates that we could be setting up for anothe big rally in the price of silver. The supply and emand dynamics also look good for been released, global industrial demand for silver in 2023 is expected to set a record leading to another big market deficit, according to preliminary projections by the Silver Institute.
According to the Silver Institute, 2023 will chart the third consecutive annual silver supply deficit in a row. The Silver Institute called the 2022 production deficit "possibly the most significant deficit on record. It also noted that "the combined shortfalls of the previous two years comfortably offset the cumulative surpluses of the last 11 years." Silve isn't currently priced for this dynamic. Th tio reflects this realit
Meanwhile, silver premiums are very low. With silver on sale, it might be a good time to buy some. We (Pineforest Jeweiry) are bullion dealers offering bulk purchases of both silver and gold at th protecting your money by owning silver, call Jim Cihak at (713) 451-1321. He's available to answer all of your questions about silver bullion and prices. Protect your hard-earned money NOW Credit to journalist Mike Maharrey for the content of this article

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 Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and
precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.
If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches
diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestijewelry.com.

## Valentine's Day is a name-changer

 Ask her if she'll be yours for more than just a day
素 PineforestJewelry.com

# STARLITE <br> By Gil Hoffman, Publisher 

## The Great Hot Dog Chili Taste-Off

It's the time of year when Chili tastes especially good. A warm, tangy bowl heats the body and warms the soul. Appropriately, the local Highands Rotary Club holds a huge Chili Feast and eeds the whole town, and to top it off they hold a raffle and give away a new Car or Truck or SUV to some lucky sole.
But my interest in Chili goes way back, to the town I was raised in, New Castle, Pennsylvania You see, we had a Chili tradition, and a leading estaurant was Coney Island, with their specia recipe for chili on hot dogs. I grew up eating there, and when my daughters were old enough,
The Chili was especially tangy and delicious, with a thick texture of sauce and meat. I thought t was unbeatable.
Until.


The Great Chili Taste-Off was held in Cincinnati in The Great Chili Taste-Off was held in Cincinnati in
December, with Hot Dogs garnished with eithe Cincinnati' Skyline Chili or New Castle M\&P Coney sland Chili
My son-in-law and youngest daughter now live in Cincinnati, where the local tradition is known as Skyline Chili. Andy, my son-in-law, swears the Chili is the best, and it is certainly has a long radition. It's a thin, tomatoey base, and is not only used on hot dogs, but even on spaghetti. It's sually served with a heaping serving of shred ded cheese on top
So, I don't think it can compare or compete with my M\&P Coney Island Chili from New Castle. This Christmas holiday, I suggested to Andy that we decide which Chili has the better which one got the bragging rights
So, we had M\&P Chili flown in from New Castle, courtesy of my middle daughter who was also joining us for a family holiday get-togethe carefully delivered by FedEx in insulated, dry-ice packed containers.
On judging night, we ordered a dozen plain hot dogs from Skyline, and heated up a pot of their Evili, and a pot of MiP Coney Island Chili. Everyone in the family was the judge. Each got a and another with Coney Island Chili
And we tasted them, carefully and fully. The amily judges varied in age from 7 years old, to ld collecting the paper ballots which had been tendered in secret
And then the count.


The Holiday Family Dinner table was the site of the Taste-Off Judging, with everyone participating from

Would it be close? Would everyone have made up their mind beforehand? Would their familiar avorite be the winner?
Reed oversaw the ballot count, and Iris made the announcement
It was a unanimous vote, 7 to 0 , in favor of the New Castle M\&P Coney Island Chili. Best flavor, best texture, best color, best aftertaste, according to the discussion following the vote.
Andy led the hometown crowd in accepting a gracious loss.
And then later in the week, we celebrated the fun Taste-Off event with a victory dinner, at of all places the local Skyline Chili Restaurant!
At this point, you may well be asking, how do hese Chilis compare with our local Highlands Rotary "Chester's Famous Recipe" Chili? We did Chili is meant more as a bowlful, not as a topping and the texture is quite different. But maybe another day we will include it in the judging.


DOJ issues Scathing Report on Response to Uvalde Shooting
The U.S. Justice Department issued a scathing reMay 4, 2022, mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, the Austin Amer-can-Statesman reported.
Attorney General Merrick Atlorney General Merrick ference in Uvalde that officials' response that day and afterward "was a failure that should not have happened."
The Justice Department's nearly 500 -page report not ed that it took 77 minutes before the shooter was killed, and that officials made the mistake of attempting to ne-
gotiate with the killer in the gotiate with the killer in the
classroom where victims were trapped.
"This was the most significant failure," Garland said. That failure meant that law nforcement officials prioritized a protracted evacuation other classrooms, instead of immediately rescuing the victims trapped with the acive shooter."
The Uvalde victims' families were first provided cop-
ies of the report ahead of its official release.
MEDICAL BOARD PETITIONED MEDICAL BOARD PE
OIISUE ABORTION
GUDELIES
Two Austin attorneys are Board to issue guidelines on abortion laws to clarify the medical exceptions allowed
a
the Statesman reported. are married, asked the board to devise rules to "ensure males and implement medical emergency exceptions to laws that otherwise punish hose who perform abor
tions."
The medical board has 60 ayss to either initiate a rule equest.
The Texas Supreme Court made a similar request in December after rejecting the bid tal fetal diagnosis to have an abortion in Texas. Kate Cox ultimately traveled to New
Mexico to have the pregnan-
HIGHLANDS


## 5TH CIRCUIT THROWS OUT

 RECENTLY PASSED BOOK BANgrounds, the conservativ 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has halted a Texas law that deemed "sexually explicit," The Dallas Morning News reported. Two Texas bookstores and national trade groups representing
booksellers, authors and booksellers, authors and publishers had filed the suit
to challenge a law passed in the last legislative session. The law was to take effect Jan. 1, but a lower court blocked its implementation,
It was unclear whether the state would appeal to the state would appeal. Texas leads the nation in book bans, according to The News. Approximately 800
books were removed from Texas school libraries from July 2021 to June 2022. The ruling let stand a portion of the new law that requires the
State Board of Education State Board of Education to approve standards for Texas
school libraries to follow, school libraries to follow
which it has done. However without the ratings required by the new law, the statute will not operate as originally intended.

PAXTON: AGENCY WON'T FIGHT WHISTLEBLOWER SUIT Ken Paxton announced las week his agency will no longer fight a whistleblower sui neys who were fired in 2020 after accusing their boss of
corruption, The
News reported. Previously the Texas Supreme Court

## 

## Barbers Hill $\star$ Dayton PRESS

 NORTH CHANNEL * STAR
aides must testify under oath about what led to the firings. Paxton announced he will ac nal ruling on the lawsuit. Paxton again criticize the whistleblowers, whom he
previously referred to as "rogue employees." "I will not allow my office to be distracted by these disgruntled former employees and their self-serving sideshow," he said. ees and their legal team are evaluating their next steps in the case. A settlement was reached last year for $\$ 3.3$ refused to fund it, sparking the embattled attorney general's impeachment in the House and acquittal in the Senate. Joe Knight, one of he attorneys for the plain-
tiffs, said Paxton's argument against the validity of the case has already been rejected by four previous courts. Meanwhile, Paxton paid the attorneys who successfuly defended him in the Senmillion, the Texas Tribune reported. The money came out of his campaign funds, which is legal under state law.
gations from the whistleblowers that Paxton abused his office to help a major donor, Nate Paul, who has since been indicted on loan fraud CHIP POSTPARTUM COVERAGE EXTENDED TO 12 AGE EXTEN
MONTHS
A law
A law that takes effect March 1 extends Medicaid surance Program (CHIP) postpartum coverage from two months to 12 months, the Texas Health and Human Services commission an ounced.
rolled in Medicaid or CHIP who is pregnant or becomes pregnant is automatically enrolled for 12 month postpartum coverage.
"I thank Governor Ab and the Texas Legislature for standing by our families," said HHS Executive Commissioner Cecile Erwin Young. "Twelve months of
postpartum coverage will postpartum coverage will
help mothers across this state gain access to highquality healthcare." The state projects that about 137,000 women will
benefit from the extended coverage in fiscal year 2025 .

## STATE HAS TRANSPORTED

 MORE THAN 100,000 MIGRANTS TO OTHER CITIES Since April 2022, the stateof Texas has sent more than of Texas has sent more than
100,000 migrants to major cities in other states, the governor's office has said.
The largest number -
37,100 - have been sent to 37,100 - have been sent to
New York City, followed closely by 30,800 sent to Chicago. Other cities receiving migrants include Washingon, D.C.; Philadelphia; Denver; and Los Angeles. Adams has sued the bus companies paid by Texas to shuttle the migrants to his city.

Still Singing

My dad turned 90 this weekend, and we were all set to drive up north to celebrat his birthday.
He's a hard one to buy a
present for. My dad does present for. My dad does no
need more things. He like using the things he has until they are completely worn out.
He already has a line of slip He already has a line of slip-
pers on his top shelf, queued pers on his top shelf, queued
up for when the pair he's up for when the pair he's
wearing is threadbare. He wore his last pair of hiking boots until his socks showed
through through. Besides, he said "No presents!" in a very persistent
way. So my sister and I decide
to give him music. Barber to give him music. Bard was her idea. My sister and I went over to my parents' next-door
neighbors to talk to Rod about barbershop quartets "Y barbershop quartets. "You
won't find any," Rod told us. "Barbershop is dead."
Rod is a guy who would know. He's been involved in community groups of all
kinds, and he keeps track of kinds, and he keeps track of
these things. We were tryin to come up with some othe kind of music when our party plans hit another snag.
My brother-in My brother-in-law, Pepe,
recently received a call to recently received a call to
work as a pastor. Pepe en work as a pastor. Pepe enyears old, deciding-no mat ter how late it might be-this
was the thing he was meant was the thing he was meant
to do. The ordination was a to do. The ordination was a
celebration of his new life, celebration of his new life,
and no one wanted to miss it. But it fell on the morning af ter my dad's birthday. Since both were once-in-a-lifetime events, we had to move the
birthday party to my condo in the city so everyone could make it to the ordination the next morning.
"Maybe barbershop is not quite as dead in the city," I
suggested to my sister and I suggested to my
got online to see.
The first group I called would have loved to sing, bu their bass was in for a cardiac procedure and was not sup posed to exert himself for 24
hours. "It's nothing serious"" hours. the tenor who took my call. (But you'd expect a tenor to say that.)
The second group answered my call from Florida,
where two of the member were, while the remaining members were in the Mid west. "Too bad!" the leader said, "but I've got anothe name for you!"
The third $g$ The third group said they
would love to would love to come and sing
And I was over the moon. When they arrived, I understood why barbershop music was on the decline. One
member was four yer member was four years older
than my dad. But they drove than my dad. But they drove
through a snowstorm to make it to the party and, when they came in, my dad was very surprised.
They
They sang for about half an hour and, at the end, the invited my dad to come up
and sing bass in "Let Me Cal You Sweetheart." And he did I watched my dad singing and was so happy we were able to
do this-to celebrate do this-to celebrate with ou
dad on the day of his birth dad on the day of his birth
day, to hear barbershop mu sic while there were folks stil $\underset{\substack{\text { inging. } \\ \text { I esc }}}{ }$
I escorted the quartet down to the elevator after
ward and thanked again for coming out on such a snowy night.
a snowy night.
"I think we should do one
more," the more," the bass suggested.
And right outside the ele And, right outside the ele-
vator doors, they started vator doors, they started sing-
ing the Frank Sinatra tune "Don't Blame Me." The setting might not have been the most romantic, but the acous tics were perfect. Those bar bershop singers brought tear
to my eyes. to my eyes.
ful it was to spend this time with people we care about and to remember how fortunat we all are-at least for th day-to still be singi
Till next time
Carrie


## NASA Speaker at Rotary luncheon

sons ${ }^{\text {Rotary Club of North Shore }}$
Our guest speaker today was Mr. Andrzej M. Stewart, from Mission Control at the Johnson Space Center. Currently, he serves as an Orion spacecraft Navigator for NASA's Artemis
missions. He earned his degrees in Aerospace Engineering from the University of TEXAS missions. He earned his degrees in Aerospace Engineering from the University of TEXAS at
Austin and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His program was very informative. He recently served as Chief Engineer Officer of H1-SEAS IV, a year-long Mars simulation in Hawaii.


Speaker Stewart of NASA receives the famous "Gold Rim Cup" of appreciation from Rotary president Lee Brown.

## Texans Win Rookie Honors,

 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1things to say about his
former team and Ryans former team and Ryans mate after the 2023 season.
Watt Watt said, "I think it's an incredibly exciting time to be a Texans fan," Watt said. "Obviously,
DeMeco did an unbeliev able job with that team And any of us who knew DeMeco, knew exactly what he was going to do, and what he's capable of, because who he is as a person, and also who he brilliant. He also has the ability to communicate and get his message across to players extreme ly well."
"And then you add in a quarterback like C.J.
who not only has all the who not only has al
physical skills and talent to do everything on the field, but he also has the maturity and the leadership to handle that lock er room to do everything
the right way along with the right way, along with ly and in his press confer ences," Watt concluded.

The Pro Football Writ ers of America named four Houston Texans to get their NFLs Rookies of Coach DeMeco Ryans won the Rookie Coach of the Year Award (he was the PFWA's Assistant Coach of the Year honoree in 2022. Quarterback C.J. Stroud got both the
Rookie of the Year Rookie of the Year and
Rookie Quarterback the Year Awards. Defen sive End Will Anderson Jr. won the Defensive Rookie of the Year Award And Bobby Slowick won Assistant Coach of the
Year Award; he's also the Year Award; he's also the

Offensive Coordinator.
Ryans named the sixth head coach in Texans club history on January 31, 2023, Ryans enjoyed a remarkable first season leading the Texans, finall record and guiding the franchise to their seventh AFC South title and their first playoff berth since 2019. Under Ryans, the Texans improved their win total by six wins in
2023, making him the seventh head coach since 2019 to improve their club's record by at least six wins compared to the previous year. It also marks the fifth time the Texans have ever recorded 11-or-more wins in a
season, and they are the second team in NFL history to have a winning record directly following three straight seasons of less than four wins.
Ryans' success went hand-in-hand with rookNFL Rookie of the Year QB C.J. Stroud, as the Texans became the first team in NFL history to win their division with a rookie quarterback and first-year head coach.
C.J. Stroud selected No. 2 overall in the 2023 NFL Draft, he took the all 15 of his appearance and completing 319 -of499 pass attempts for a 4,108 yards, 23 touchdowns, five interceptions and a passer rating of 100.8, marking the thirdbest passer rating by
rookie in NFL history.
His 4,108 passing
yards rank third in NFL annals among rookie signal callers, while leading
all rookies this past sea son in all major passing categories. Stroud fin ished the 2023 campaign with 4,557 total passing
yards, including the post yeason, which is the sec-ond-most ever by a rookie

He also began his ca reer with a record 192 consecutive pass at tempts without an inter-
ception, the most ever by ception, the most ever by a player to begin a career passing yards per game (273.9), while also pacing the NFL in touchdown-interception ratio (4.60), becoming just the third player in NFL history to ries, joining Joe Montana (1989) and Tom Brady (2007).

Among his numerous record-setting perfor mances was his 470-yard, five-touchdown perfor
mance in Week 9 that earned him his first of two AFC Offensive Player of the Week honors, as he also captured the award in Week 18 after clinching a playoff spot and division crown for the
franchise's first time since 2019. Stroud also won NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month and AFC Player of the Month for November, becoming just the second rookie quar terback in league history to win AFC Offensive
Player of the Month and Player of the Month and to earn NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month in the same month

## Highlands

 Rotary Club's 49th Annual CHILI FEAST Raffle \& Auction $1 / 1$St. Jude's Catholic Church 808 S. Main Street, Highlands Chester's Famous 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Live Auction Noon-3 Saturday, February 3, 2024

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## Justice for Galena Park Cheerleader,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
so the FBI wanted to with the two.
She heard from two agents, one an investigator and the other with the Drug Enforcement Admin"They had been arrested in Mexico and the FBI had located him and was bringing him to Houston to be put Martin said.
Rios arrived in Houston on Wednesday, according to court records, and was supposed to appear on the
docket before a magistrate but for some reason did not appear until Friday in the 339th Criminal Court before Judge Te'iva J. Bell who denied Rios bond. ready been in contact with Salvador Barrera and his brother who was with Kristie the night of the hooting.
Martin learned one of Rios's ex-girlfriends alleghe had killed Kristie. Prosecutors are already busy building their case gainst Rios.
He's in jail, praise the know how long this process can take.
Martin's husband Brian, died 14 years ag from a heart attack. ithout the satisfaction knowing her killer hadn't been caught," she said. After 28 years, Marti herself had resigned he
 Jose Luis Rios was extradited fro
for the murder of Kristie Martin.
may be true for her until
the phone call came on the phone call came on Wednesday last week. "This news came out of
nowhere and almost on the 28th anniversary of her death," she said.
Rios, who went by the nickname Flaco, and his accomplice, Jorge Mendez, were reportedly driving a
red truck through River Terrace Park and ap proached Martin and Barrera standing outside of their blue Chevrolet BeretAccording to the police Rios called out to the couple, but Martin said they That's whene the park in the when Rios, sitting in the passenger side of the
red truck, allegedly opened red truck, allegedly opened
fire with an assault weapfire with an assault weapMartin was struck in the back and died at the scene while her female friend


Kristie Martin was a cheerleader at Galena Park High School
before she was allegedly gunned down by gang member Jose Luis Rios two days before Christmas in 1995
bullets while sitting in the back seat of the car.
Barrera positively Barrera positively iden-
tified Rios in a photo lineup, according to court documents, and an arrest warrant was issued for Rios and Mendez. Both

I-10 Planning Study, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1


The PEL study is in Phase 2; Identify Corridor Issues \& Concerns. As noted above (green tab). It's behind schedule because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
lays in delivering future I10 improvement projects. Conducting a PEL study planning decisions and planning decisions and
streamlines the project de stream process, and can Serve as a way for the pub-
lic to discuse transportss and prioritize transportation issues and project delivery. The pub-
lic was invited to four PEL meetings in Houston

Mont Belvieu, Channel-
view and Baytown view and Baytown. In the Public Input stage of our meeting Linda and I were able to sug. gest and make potential recommendations to try to prioritize and influence the future IH-10 projects. We gave our input on what we
felt would be in the best elt would be in the best
interest of traffic safety, improve traffic flow times
and to consider the envi ronment constraints an route.

SEE PART 2 ARTI CLE FOR ADDITIONAL INFO. ON CURRENT TRAFFIC VOLUMES AND CRASHES (both
minor and fatality ace dents)
and fled to Mexico. Mendez was arrested in Mexico in 2001, but instead of extradition to the U.S., he was
tried, found guilty, and tried, found guilty, and
sentenced to 31 years in prison. Rios absconded from law enforcement until August.
Detective Chuck Leithner, who worked on the
case, retired from the Harcase, retired from the Har-
ris County Sheriff's Office, ris County Sheriffs Office, ing for the Waller County Sheriffs Office. He retired from there last month.


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