



NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 12, NO. 30 (#529) THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Air Alliance explains Carbon Capture benefits, risks

CHIC Meeting hears how new technology would improve Ship Channel environment

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A proposal by ExxonMobil in 2021 calling on industry along the Houston Ship Channel and the federal government to raise \$100 billion for carbon capture and storage (CCS) would turn the 50-mile channel into a CCS hub. Residents heard a brief presentation by Air Alliance Houston on the benefits and risks to the Channelview community last week and some of the progress on the proposal.

Many of the industrial facilities along the ship



Carolyn Stone makes notes while listening to the presentation by Air Alliance Houston on hydrogen and carbon capture and storage technology. Stone is the founder of CHIC (Channelview Health and Improvement Coalition.)



Alex Spike, Air Alliance Houston Climate Justice coordinator, made a presentation to the Channelview Health and Improvement Coalition regarding hydrogen and carbon capture and storage technology (CCS). The technology is capable of capturing more than 90 percent of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from power plants and industrial facilities.

channel produce carbon dioxide and this new technology would capture it before it leaves their plant, then use it to develop a myriad of products or store underground in the Gulf of Mexico as suggested by some.

"We heard a brief presentation on this subject at our most recent CAPLE (Community Advisory Panel to Lyondell and Equistar) meeting and I had some questions about subsidence," said CHIC founder Carolyn Stone. While she said her ques-

Continued. See CHIC HEARS ABOUT CARBON CAPTURE, page 6

North Channel Chamber Magic Casino Night Aug. 9

Plan for the Magic of the Chamber Casino Fundraiser, Friday August 9th from 7pm to 11pm at the Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City. Sponsorships now available, from \$200 to \$1800, proceeds to NCAF scholarships. Call 713-450-3600.

Back2School Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 9 thru Aug. 11

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-11. This will be the 25th year of Texas' oldest sales tax holiday.

State law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The dates of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

Continued. See SALES TAX HOLIDAY, Page 2

Bottle Plant in Jacinto City to close

220 workers set to lose their jobs; City seeks new tenant for building

JACINTO CITY — The Ardagh Glass company has announced that it is closing its glass bottle manufacturing plant on Fidelity Street in Jacinto City. It is estimated that about 220 workers will lose their jobs as a result, and the City of Jacinto City will lose one of its largest employers and tax-payers.

The glass bottle plant was originally built by Owens-Corning Glass company, and later acquired by Anheuser-Busch's Longhorn Division in 2021. The plant's major custom-

er is the Budweiser plant in Houston.

Jacinto City city manager Lon Squyres told the North Channel Star that although the closing of the plant will have a short-term effect on the city's tax income, he expects that another company will be interested in the large warehouse facility, which is a fairly new quality building. He also noted that the Faust Distributing Company has announced a \$24 million dollar expansion, with additional new employment,



View of the Ardagh Glass Bottle plant on Fidelity Street in Jacinto City, before it closed.

which will help offset the loss of the Ardagh Glass plant.

Ardagh issued the following statement to Packaging Dive magazine. "After reviewing current beer market conditions, we have announced the clo-

sure of our Houston, Texas, glass production facility, effective July 2024," Ardagh Glass Packaging-North America Vice President of Marketing, Communications and New Product Development Gina Behrman wrote in a

statement to Packaging Dive. "The affected customer base will be supplied from Ardagh's remaining glass manufacturing facilities across the U.S."

Continued. See ARDAGH PLANT IN JC CLOSES, Page 3

Dignitaries, public attend final services for Sheila Jackson Lee

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ Thursday, August 1, 2024 at the Fallbrook Church in North Houston over a thousand constituents, friends and congressional colleagues showed up to bid their farewell to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (S.J.L.).

Sheila Jackson Lee was born January 12, 1950 and passed away on July 19, 2024 and was the U.S. representative for Texas's 18th congressional district in Houston, from 1995 until her death. The district includes most of central Houston. She was a member of the Democratic Party and served as an at-large member of the Houston

Continued. See SHEILA JACKSON LEE FINAL FAREWELL, Page 7 and more photos, Page 7



ABOVE: Dignitaries on stage at the Jackson Lee's funeral. L - R: Democrat's Congressional Progressive Caucus Chairwoman Pramila Jayapal, Civil Rights Leader Rev. Jesse Jackson, Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Steven Horsford, 42nd President of the United States William Jefferson Clinton & 67th United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. (Allan Jamail photo)

AT RIGHT: Vice President Kamala Harris gives eulogy at Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's funeral. Flowers in front grace the casket of Sheila Jackson Lee. (Allan Jamail photo)



Sylvester Turner, 5 others run for 18th Congressional seat

HOUSTON — Today, former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announced his intention to run for the Democratic party nomination for Congress, in the historic 18th Congressional District in Texas. The district has been represented for the past 30 years by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee,



Sylvester Turner
Former Houston Mayor

who passed away on July 19, 2024.

The Democratic Party's nominee will be selected by the Democratic Executive Committee members serving the 18th Congressional District pursuant to Democratic party rules. The selection will be made in

Continued. See 18TH CONGRESSIONAL SEAT, Page 2

3rd Person sentenced in Medina murder at McDonald's on Uvalde

HOUSTON — The third and final defendant convicted of killing 71-year-old Martha Medina by dragging her during a daytime purse snatching outside an east Harris County McDonald's has been sentenced to 50 years in prison, District Attorney Kim Ogg announced.

"These three men schemed, watched and waited to ambush someone leaving a bank, and their



Martha Medina

greed cost this beloved mother and grandmother her life," Ogg said. "While we can't undo the horrible thing they did, we have worked to ensure that they spend decades in prison for their actions."

Lawrence Earl Thomas, 42, was convicted by a jury of the first-degree felony of engaging in organized

Continued. See 3RD PERSON SENTENCED, Page 3

TEXAS TRIBUNE EVENTS

AIR QUALITY IN THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

AUGUST 10 10 A.M. CT GALENA PARK, TX

From the disastrous 2019 chemical fire in Deer Park to ordinary pollution from industrial plants, exposure to hazardous chemicals is a common reality for people living near the Houston Ship Channel.

Air-quality data from the state in some communities, like Cloverleaf and Channelview, are often inadequate and difficult to access. Information on how to avoid exposure during a chemical emergency and the potential public health consequences of these incidents doesn't always reach affected communities.

Join us at **10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 10** at the **Galena Park Library** for a community information session featuring workshops in English and Spanish on how to monitor the air quality in your area, protect yourself during chemical events, and make your concerns heard.

Workshop speakers include:

- **Juan Flores**, Air Alliance Houston's community air monitoring program manager
- **Natalie Johnson**, environmental toxicologist at the Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- **Yvette Arellano**, founder of Fenceline Watch, an environmental watchdog organization

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION



OR VISIT TRIB.IT/AIRQUALITYHOUSTON

18th Congressional District,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mid-August. Mayor Turner also released a list of endorsements by prominent leaders, which can be found at the bottom of this release and at www.SylvesterTurner.com. Mayor Turner made the following statement: "The historic 18th Congressional District in the heart of Houston is without representation today. Upon the passing of my dear friend, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, we have a painful decision to make. We need to select who will fill her shoes, as we mourn her death.

"For more than 35 years, I've watched the Congresswoman serve our community with vigor and integrity. She followed in the footsteps of Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland, and Craig Washington with dignity and helped preserve the legacy of this historic seat.

"Only Sheila's passing at this critical moment in the election cycle could bring me out of retirement. Given all the uncertainty at the national level, I believe the 18th District needs stability and continuity in leadership.

"We must keep federal resources flowing into

the district to address challenges such as the cancer cluster in Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens, and continued funding for local organizations for health care, flood mitigation and education.

"Our next representative must also meet the high bar of compassion, caring, and humanity that was the hallmark of Sheila's leadership and public service. Comforting families who have lost loved ones, spending quality time with seniors while offering a helping hand – for me, these commitments deserve equal attention as the Washington duties of a member of Congress.

"I have worked closely with the Congresswoman, U.S. Presidents, and federal departments at the highest levels during my time as mayor and 27 years in the Texas House. I am best positioned to ensure the ball is not dropped on servicing the needs of the entire 18th Congressional District."

Endorsements:
 Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher
 State Representative Senfronia Thompson
 State Representative

- Harold Dutton State Representative
- Garnet Coleman State Representative
- Alma Allen State Representative
- Ana Hernandez State Representative
- Armando Walle State Representative
- Ann Johnson State Representative
- Jolanda Jones County Judge
- Lina Hidalgo County Attorney
- Christian Menefee Commissioner
- Rodney Ellis Controller
- Chris Hollins Council Member
- Abbie Kamin Council Member
- Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member
- Tiffany D. Thomas Texas Democratic Party Treasurer
- Odus Evbagaru Statewide Texas Coalition of Black Democrats Chair
- Dr. Candice Matthews Pastor
- Darrell Broussard Pastor
- Isaac Matthews Pastor
- Ralph West Gerald Womack
- Tanya Dubose Edna Griggs
- Maxine Seals SEIU-TX (partial list)

Sales Tax Holiday,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

preparation for the back-to-school bell," said Hegar of the sales tax holiday weekend, an annual event since 1999. "As the father of three, I know firsthand how these expenses add up over the years, and this weekend is the perfect time for folks to save some of their hard-earned cash on items they need."

The Comptroller's office estimates that shoppers will save \$143.4 million in state and local sales tax during this year's sales tax holiday.

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax free are listed on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

During the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased tax free in person or by any other means including over the internet, by telephone, or by mail. Purchases are exempt when either:

— the item is both delivered to, and paid for

by, the customer during the exemption period; or — the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

Toss it into the can. It's a neat idea.

GREAT CAREERS START HERE

Get certified, a degree, or prepare for university transfer at **HCC Northeast Campus**

Full-Time & Part-Time classes are available.

HCC Real World Education

Discover endless opportunities to cultivate your skills.

REGISTER NOW

FALL CLASSES BEGIN **AUGUST 19**

Train for in-demand careers at the HCC Northeast Campus

- Community Learning/Leisure classes
- Academic and University Transfer courses
- Biology/Pre-Nursing classes
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- High School Equivalency/GED
- Commercial Truck Driving (CDL)
- Basic Firefighter
- Criminal Justice/Police Academy
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Electronics Engineering Technology
- Petroleum Engineering Technology
- Process Technology/Process Operator
- Instrumentation & Controls Engineering Technology
- OSHA Construction & General
- NCCER Core/Scaffolding
- Water/Wastewater Operations
- Comp TIA A+ Certification
- Health, Safety, & Environmental (HSE)



Scan for steps on how to get started!



HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Northeast Campus
 555 Community College Drive
 Houston, Texas 77013

713.718.8300

hccs.edu/northeastcollege



HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and gender expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or Veteran status. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: David Cross, Director, EEO, 504, & Title IX Coordinator, 713/718.8271 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu

LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters. Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

1. WE CLEAN CLOGGED GUTTERS
2. WE SEAL + ALIGN GUTTERS
3. WE INSTALL LEAFFILTER

20% OFF + **10% OFF**
 Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION! 1-855-762-1481

*See representative for full warranty details. *One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. †Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AZ 36092923, AZ 802 344027, CA 1028750, CT 14210471320, FL 328250478, IA 4127220, ID 4025164, LA 559544, MA 176447, MD 38111235, MI 26230173, MN 26230174, MO 26230175, NE 26230176, NC 26230177, ND 26230178, NY 10731804, MT 226192, ND 47304, ME 3014522, OH 45145-23, NV 12610953900, NM 406693, NV 86960, NY 119114, HI 52229, OR 218254, PA 176643, OK 60388, RI 6041354, TN 10981, UT 107183668-6501, VA 270510446, WA, LEAFPR022JZ, WV 0506912.

BEFORE AFTER

FULL SERVICE GUTTER PROTECTION – SCHEDULE YOUR FREE INSPECTION NOW! 1-855-762-1481

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson 

Ardagh Bottle plant in JC closes,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The report noted that Ardagh is also halting production at its Seattle wine bottle manufacturing facility, possibly affecting another 244 workers. Last year, the company closed its plants in Louisiana and North Carolina.

Ardagh Group, which boasts 20,000 employees and 62 production facilities worldwide, and 10 other glass-making plants in the U.S., is based in Luxembourg. The company launched an initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange in 2017 and its worldwide revenue was approximately \$2.44 billion, as of its 2024 first quarter report.

In August 2023, Food Dive—a sister publication to Packaging Dive—reported that in Ardagh's second quarter 2023 earnings call, Ardagh Chairman Paul Coulson said the company's revenues fell 12 percent, "severely impacted by the controversy re-

lated to a major beer brand." Food Dive reported that Coulson never mentioned a specific brand in the call, but during the second quarter of 2023, conservative beer drinkers organized a boycott against Bud Light after the brand featured transgender influencer Dylan Mulvaney as part of a promotion.

For a long time, glass bottles have been the top option for beer packaging, but more and more beer drinkers over the past few decades have been preferring cans, according to Packaging Dive magazine. The Beer Institute reported in 2020 that cans accounted for nearly two-thirds of beer volume. The rise in large-format can sizes, such as 16-ounce containers and "crawlers" of 32 ounces, along with the ease in working with aluminum cans over glass bottles, are part of the reason for this switch.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "What is The Birthstone for August?"

AUGUST BIRTHSTONE



We have a birthday present for those born in August: the stunning spinel has been added to your month's birthstone lineup! August now joins June and December as the only months represented by three gems. The original birthstone for August was Sardonyx, and then peridot was added, becoming August's primary gem. Now spinel adds its multitude of color choices!

PERIDOT OVERVIEW

Though peridot is widely recognized by its brilliant lime green glow, the origin of this gem's name is unclear. Most scholars agree that the word "peridot" is derived from the Arabic *faridat* which means "gem," but some believe it's rooted in the Greek word *peridona*, meaning "giving plenty." Perhaps that's why peridot is associated with prosperity and good fortune. Rarely, peridot is also found inside meteorites.

Peridot's signature green color comes from the composition of the mineral itself—rather than from trace impurities, as with many gems. That's why this is one of few stones that only comes in one color, though shades may vary from yellowish-green to olive to brownish-green, depending how much iron is present. Most of the world's peridot supply comes from the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Other sources are China, Myanmar, Pakistan and Africa.

SARDONYX OVERVIEW

Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx—two types of the layered mineral chalcedony—to create a reddish zebra-striped stone with white bands. Sardonyx, like onyx, shows layers of parallel bands—instead of the chaotic, curved bands that compose agate, another type of chalcedony.

The finest examples of sardonyx, which display sharp contrasts between layers, are found in India. Other sources include Brazil, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Madagascar, Uruguay and the United States.

SPINEL OVERVIEW

The spinel is often assumed to be other gemstones because it tends to resemble either a ruby or sapphire. In fact, some of the most famous rubies in history have turned out to be spinel. But its distinguishing features, like its octahedral crystal structure and single refraction, are what sets it apart from other gems. Significant deposits of spinel have been found in Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It has also been found in Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Tadjikistan, Tanzania and the U.S.

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

Awareness

Many years ago, President John F. Kennedy challenged Americans with the words "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." Even though I was an infant, my parents must have had the television on, as those words have always meant so much to me. Often, I am asked why I engage in certain projects, movements, or programs. Sometimes it is because "it" is because there have been direct impacts on my life. Sometimes, it is because it has affected my family members. Sometimes, I am involved because it is something I am enthusiastic about.

I understand the pain of sexual abuse, mental illness, prejudice, and not having a voice where it can be heard, and solutions being brought forward. As I sat in church on Sunday, the message was simple. It was a quote from Jeff Brodsky, "Awareness without action is apathy." Let those words sink in.

If you notice there is something going on and you do nothing about it, you are said to be apathetic. This is so true. Look around and you will see homelessness, children being raised in a single parent home, elderly community members being forgotten, and loose animals being neglected. You see the effects of guns, drugs, and sexually oriented businesses. You will too often notice pay day loan establishments which charge outrageous interest, smoke shops and gang symbols. Ask around and you will be told where there are game rooms as well as trap houses.

I had one landlord tell me that they were aware that several tenants were running game rooms which pay out the winnings in cash. Their attitude was that yes, that was illegal, but all they did was rent the space, they were not responsible for what the tenants did there. I asked the question would they rent out an office space to someone who was performing a medical procedure that was illegal in Texas. They quickly told me they do not manage medical facilities. I am concerned that when people see something and look the other way, before you know it, it becomes accepted. Do we really want our neighborhood streets to be compared to those in southwest Houston like Bissonnet, which is known for prostitutes walking up to cars trying to sell sex? Do we want our children to see these things and think it is normal?

I remember over thirty years ago, there were several churches wanting to set up a crisis pregnancy center off of Uvalde Road. Neighbors protested and it was located in another part of Harris County. Why did neighbors object to this, yet there were several other businesses on the same street? Even more alarming was that there were at least three "gentlemen's clubs" and two adult bookstores in a five mile radius. Nobody seemed to object to those places.

How did apathy affect our community? Many young girls ended up as erotic dancers with multiple children from different men, who were diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases as well as addictions to drugs and alcohol, not to mention those who were physically, emotionally and financially abused by these men.

We often complain about these issues, but if we are not doing anything constructive to end the issues, we are simply being apathetic. I challenge everyone reading this to be sure your voter registration is up to date, to research the candidates on the ballot, to volunteer with a project you are passionate about and to learn that when you give, you are more blessed than ever.

3rd Person sentenced for Medina Murder,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

criminal activity during a four-day trial last week. Afterward, a judge sentenced him to 50 years in prison. He must serve at least half of the sentence before he will be eligible for parole.

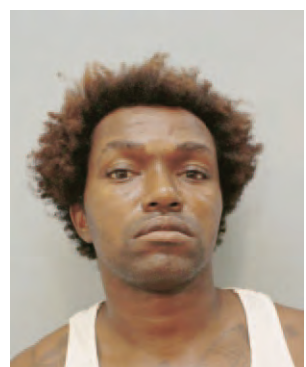
Thomas and two other men, Andrew Williams aka John Williams and Felton Ford, both 41, worked together to commit a purse snatching that led to the death of Medina on Sept. 23, 2021.

It was about 10 a.m. when the three men parked outside an area bank, apparently looking for someone to rob. They watched Medina leave the bank and followed her to a McDonald's restaurant in the 400 block of Uvalde in Cloverleaf. Thomas was riding with Williams, and Ford was in a different car acting as a lookout.

Medina went into the restaurant to get breakfast, and when she came out, Thomas grabbed her purse, knocking Medina to the ground, and got back into the car that Williams was driving.

Williams backed over Medina as he reversed out of his parking space and then ran over her as they sped away. She was taken to an area hospital where she died of her injuries.

Williams, who was free on bond at the time of the



Lawrence Earl Thomas, 42

slaying for a different capital murder, was sentenced to life without parole in April 2023.

Felton pleaded guilty to engaging in organized criminal activity in exchange for a sentence of 30 years in prison in September 2023. He must also serve at least half of the sentence before he will be eligible for parole.

Assistant District Attorney Sean Kozar-King, who is assigned to the DA's trial bureau, prosecuted the three men with ADA Cameron Calligan, division chief in the DA's Organized Crime Division.

"Engaging in organized crime was the appropriate charge for this defendant, and because of his criminal history he was facing 25 years to life in prison for the first-degree felony," Kozar-King said. "The most important thing is that he spends decades behind bars for what he did to Martha Medina."

DENTAL Insurance
Great coverage for retirees.

Get your **FREE** Information Kit

It's easy! Call today **1-866-603-1174**
Dental50Plus.com/Starcourier

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

inogen

PORTABLE OXYGEN FOR YOUR ON-THE-GO LIFESTYLE

Call us toll-free at **1-855-944-6046**

CLAIM YOUR **14-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!**

Jaeuzzi BATH REMODEL

YOUR BATHROOM. YOUR WAY. IN AS LITTLE AS **ONE DAY**

CALL NOW **844.265.7098**

SPECIAL OFFER 50% OFF Installation WITH No Interest No Payments for 1 Year PLUS FREE Safety Upgrade*

*Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 3/31/2024.

Diamonds know how to say all the right things

PineforestJewelry.com

1141 Uvalde • Houston, Texas 77015
713.451.1321

OPINION PAGE

OPINION
 HC Pct. 2 Commissioner
Adrian Garcia



Raid of Bail Bond fraud; A Watershed Moment for Public Safety

Massive raid of bail bond bad actors nabs dozens; advocacy from Precinct 2 Commissioner shined light on issues with industry that harm public safety

Harris County, TX — The recent multi-jurisdictional raid and indictment alleging massive fraud exposed “an illicit revolving door within the bond system” according to FBI investigators.

Long before the “24 month long” investigation began, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia led efforts to start holding the bail industry accountable for their practices that were hurting public safety. In February of 2022 (28 months ago), Garcia proposed a Resolution at Commissioners Court to call for the Bail Bond Board to require 10% down payment for bonds of people accused of certain violent crimes.

Reacting to the news that a bail industry alleged bad actor is being held accountable by the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District, Commissioner Adrian Garcia has issued the following statement:

“This is a watershed moment for public safety in Harris County. While many use the issue of a defendant’s constitutional right to pretrial release to score political points, my office focuses on action. Make no mistake, had it not been for my office’s work to expose unethical, and what turns out to be potentially illegal, activity by Bail Bond Companies, Wednesday’s arrests don’t happen. Over 2 years ago, after learning of what some of these companies were doing, I proposed a resolution to Harris County Commissioners Court to call for 10% minimum down payment for bonds for people accused of violent crime. The U.S. attorney and FBI say their investigation began 24 months ago. Do the math. I am grateful to all the law enforcement agencies and the US Attorney’s Office for the Southern District for their work to put a stop to this public safety threat.”

Commissioner Garcia first became aware of possible issues within the bond industry after meeting with Paul Castro, whose son was murdered in a road rage incident following an Astros game. While awaiting trial, the perpetrator was able to secure release with bail offered by local bonding company AABLE Bonds, the same company who had bonded out a man accused of ambushing and killing an HPD officer while out on bond (also the same company that was raided on Wednesday). Once that connection was made, Garcia began working on finding ways to hold Bail Bond companies accountable. That included his advocacy for the Harris County Bail Bond Board to begin requiring 10% down for suspects accused of certain violent crimes.

In response to the news from Wednesday’s raid, Paul Castro issued the following statement of appreciation for Commissioner Garcia’s involvement in this latest action.

“I want to thank Commissioner Garcia for being the first local official to lead the charge for bail reform in Harris County. Not long after my son was killed, Commissioner Garcia asked what he could do to support me. When I shared with him what I learned about the inner working of the bail system in Harris County and how discount bail was being used for high-risk violent offenders, he was angry. He got to work to put a rule in front of the Bail Bond Board that would tighten regulations for violent offenders, then championed it from the floor. Though we lost the first round, through his work and the work of Representative Ann Johnson and then-State Senator John Whitmire, the measure passed. Our county is safer for this effort and I thank Commissioner Garcia for his leadership in making it happen.”



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
 By Gary Borders



Expanded Passenger Rail Again on the Table

A huge pot of federal rail funding and chronic highway congestion are prompting some Texas officials to again consider expanding passenger rail in Texas, according to The Texas Standard.

Congress set aside \$66 billion three years ago in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for rail projects across the country, sparking some interest in increasing passenger rail service between the state’s major cities.

“It’s like the perfect storm forming, because 20 years ago if we talked about passenger rail in Texas, it would fall on deaf ears,” said Peter LeCody of the Texas Rail Advocates.

The state’s population is projected to increase from 30 million now to 47 million by 2050, sparking concerns of increased dependence on cars and more road congestion.

A plan to build a high-speed rail between Dallas and Houston with speeds of more than 200 miles per hour is back on the drawing board after Amtrak shelved it due to difficulty acquiring land and leadership issues, The Tribune reported.

The Texas Central route has acquired about 30% of the land needed to build the Dallas-Houston line, which is expected to require more than \$30 billion in financing from governmental and private sources. A number of private landowners remain steadfastly opposed to giving up their land for the proposed line.

UVALDE SCHOOL OFFICER PLEADS NOT GUILTY

A former Uvalde school police officer pleaded not guilty last week to charges of failing to protect children killed and wounded in the 2022 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde.

Adrian Gonzales is one of two officers who have been indicted after the slow response to the shooter by nearly 400 law enforcement personnel, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Gonzales and former Uvalde schools police Chief Pete Arredondo were indicted by a Uvalde grand jury in June. Arredondo pleaded not guilty on July 10.

“Mr. Gonzales’ position is he



did not violate school district policy or state law,” said Nico LaHood, the former district attorney for Bexar County. LaHood is representing Gonzales. The May 22, 2022, attack was one of the worst school shootings in U.S. history. Gonzales, one of the first officers to arrive, was indicted on 29 charges of not confronting the shooter, even after hearing gunshots while standing in a school hallway.

INMATE PHONE FEES TO BE SLASHED ACROSS STATE

Fees that Texas inmates pay to make phone calls will be cut drastically under new federal regulations to take place next year, The Tribune reported.

The Federal Communications Commission voted last week to cap the price of inmate phone calls and video calls as low as 5 cents per minute. Right now, rates across Texas prisons and jails average 23 cents a minute.

Most of the revenue from these calls — 60% — goes to the contractor, with the rest going to the state.

“The FCC’s order is a massive victory for incarcerated people, their families, and their allies who have spent decades fighting the exploitative prison telecom industry,” the Prison Policy Initiative wrote in a statement.

CENTERPOINT CEO APOLOGIZES FOR BERYL OUTAGES

The head of CenterPoint Energy publicly apologized for failing to quickly respond to massive outages caused by Hurricane Beryl, The News reported.

Jason Wells told the Public

Utility Commission last week that he took “personal accountability” for the outages, which affected hundreds of thousands of customers throughout the coastal region.

At least 36 people died because of the hurricane. Many of the deaths were attributed to heat.

“While we cannot erase the frustrations or difficulties so many of our customers endured, I, and my entire leadership team, will not make excuses,” Wells added. “We will improve and act with a sense of urgency.”

At its peak, about 2.26 million CenterPoint customers were without power. Damage from the storm is estimated at \$4.6 billion. The company is seeking permission to harden its wire system, with the costs to be passed along to its ratepayers.

\$95 MILLION IN HOUSING CREDITS ANNOUNCED

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs has awarded more than \$95 million in housing tax credits to help finance the development or rehabilitation of more than 60 rental properties across the state. The awards will help developers build or repair more than 4,400 units offering affordable rents to qualified families.

“The Housing Tax Credit Program serves as a crucial factor in making affordable housing available to hard working families, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities,” said TDHCA Executive Director Bobby Wilkinson.

A list of application awards can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/4jztsjp3>.

NATIVE BIGHORN SHEEP BEING RELEASED IN WEST TEXAS

Desert bighorn sheep are being reintroduced in Franklin Mountains State Park this fall by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in hopes of restoring a population that was once extinct in Texas. The Austin American-Statesman reported repopulation of the herd at the park will begin in October.

Currently, there are 11 free-ranging herds with approximately 1,500 desert bighorn sheep across Far West Texas, from Big Bend to El Paso. Over-hunting and disease led to the sheep’s decline in the 1960s. Competition from the aoudad, an African species introduced in Texas in the 1950s by private ranchers, also contributed to the bighorn sheep’s decimation.

TEXAS STILL LEADS NATION IN JOB CREATION

Texas continues to outpace the nation and lead all states for jobs added over the past 12 months, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The state’s civilian workforce reached a new high of 15.311 million in June.

“Our civilian labor force of 15.3 million people in Texas continues to prosper and break records each month,” said TWC Commissioner Alberto Treviño III.

Construction jobs grew by 4.4% last year, far outpacing the national growth rate and leading the state’s job growth.

**THE
 POSTSCRIPT**
 By
Carrie Classon

Stone Soup



One of my favorite stories as a child was “Stone Soup.”

I don’t know if you know it or not. It’s an old European folktale, and there are a lot of variations, but in most of them two soldiers come into a town during a war. They ask for food, and everyone tells them they have nothing to eat. So the soldiers build a fire, and they ask an old woman if they can borrow a pot because they are going to make stone soup.

“Soup from a stone?” the old woman asks.

“Yes,” they say. “We are going to make stone soup!”

So the old woman loans them a pot, and they fill it with water, and they start cooking a stone. “Soup from a stone!” the old woman exclaims. “Imagine that!”

Pretty soon, a small crowd gathers. No one had ever heard of making soup from a stone.

“Stone soup is wonderful,” one soldier casually mentions. “But it’s even better with a little onion.”

“Oh! I have an onion,” someone offers, and throws it in the pot.

“Carrots are also nice,” the soldier adds. And, a few minutes later, someone throws some carrots in the pot.

Soon, a little beef is put in, and a few other ingredients are added as the crowd grows. Before long, there is a large pot of soup, and everyone in the village is fed, including the two soldiers. A village where everyone said they had no food eats a meal together—a meal that would not have existed if it were not for a stone.

I told my friend, Wally, this was a favorite story of mine.

“I see men coercing others to get what they couldn’t get themselves!” Wally said. This astonished me.

“But everyone ate!” I told him. “No one even knew they had soup—and they didn’t—without first believing it was possible.”

Wally is not convinced that any good comes from telling a lie. But I never saw it as a lie. Because I believe in stone soup.

A couple of months ago, I went to a beautiful little theater in Mexico, in the town where I spend the winter, and I met with a producer there. Suddenly, I saw the possibility of doing a show in this space. The whole thing was completely real in my imagination before I’d written a word. So I planned all the costumes and the music and everything needed for the show. The show became as real on the page as it was in my mind.

Yesterday, I learned it wouldn’t be possible to do my show in the theater as planned. I was very disappointed—for about 12 hours. And then I realized I had a pot of stone soup.

The theater and the producer had never made it a show. The show was made of all the things I’d put into that simmering pot. It was the belief that I could make a show—if I just added enough ideas, if I stirred those ideas long enough, if I kept the fire going.

The soup was never about the stone. The stone was the excuse to make the soup.

I have no idea where this show will be performed, but I am absolutely certain it will be, because this soup is filled with good things, put together in a way I believe people will enjoy. In the story, after everyone has eaten, the old woman shakes her head. “Soup from a stone,” she says. “Imagine that!”

Imagine that.

Till next time,
 Carrie

top ten

MOST FOLLOWED X (TWITTER) ACCOUNTS

1. Elon Musk: 177.5M
2. Barack Obama: 132M
3. Justin Bieber: 111.2M
4. Cristiano Ronaldo: 110.8M
5. Rihanna: 108M
6. Katy Perry: 106.7M
7. Narendra Modi: 96.4M
8. Taylor Swift: 95.4M
9. Donald J. Trump: 87.4M
10. Lady Gaga: 83.5M

Source: TweetBinder.Com

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star Courier
 USPS 244-500
 Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS
 NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the publishers. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER; Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS; Northeast NEWS; North Forest NEWS, North Channel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 20,000. Readership exceeds 50,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 446, Highlands, TX 77562

News and Ad Phones...713-266-3444
FAX Line...713-977-1188
email: grafikstar@aol.com
Member Texas Press Association

OBITUARIES

LEON ERROL STREET

Leon Errol Street, a cherished family man and proud veteran, passed away on July 30, 2024, in Houston, Texas at the age of 84. Lovingly known as Errol by his family and friends, he was born on October 31, 1939, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to the late Willa (Rollins) and Austin Street. Errol's journey through life was marked by his loving nature, adventurous spirit, and deep faith.



lifetime. He was a pillar of strength and support, always there to offer a helping hand or a listening ear. His family knew they could count on him for guidance, a good story, or a hearty laugh.

Errol's life was a testament to the values he held dear: love, adventure, and faith. These words not only describe him but also define the legacy he leaves behind. His presence will be profoundly missed, but his influence will continue to be felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Errol Street's life was one of purpose and joy, and he will be remembered as a man who lived fully, loved generously, and believed deeply.

The family invites you to remember Errol at his visitation on Tuesday, August 6th, 2024, at Carter-Conley Funeral Home from 9:30 A.M. until funeral services begin at 10:30 A.M. Following the funeral service, a police escorted funeral procession will depart for a 12:45 P.M. graveside service at Houston National Cemetery where he will be laid to rest with his wife. Military honors will be presented at the graveside and will be under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

lovingly survived by his children, Aaron Street and wife Kimberly, Elizabeth Marie Steele-Langhoff, and Lara Coronado and husband Stephen. He was a grandfather who left a legacy of love and wisdom for Jeremy Godoy, Robert Crook, Nicole Kitts and her husband Jay, Leah Steele, Brennen Coronado, Austin Coronado, Cameron Coronado, and Dillon Coronado. His memory will be cherished and kept alive through the stories and lessons he imparted to each of them.

Errol had a passion for life that was evident in his many interests. He was an avid golfer who enjoyed the camaraderie and challenges of the game. Fishing and camping were more than hobbies; they were his way of connecting with nature and indulging in the tranquility of the outdoors. Errol was often found with a cup of coffee in hand, pondering over the latest weather events as a dedicated "weather watcher." His love for western history was more than a pastime; it was a reflection of his adventurous spirit.

Family was the cornerstone of Errol's life. He relished spending time with his loved ones, creating memories that would last a

Errol graduated from Galena Park High School in the class of 1958, setting the stage for a life full of dedication and hard work. His commitment was evident in both his personal and professional life. He served honorably in the Navy, a period of service that left a lasting impression on him and instilled values that he carried throughout his life.

On December 17, 1960, Errol married the love of his life, Betty Marie Street. Their union was one of mutual respect and unwavering support, characterized by shared moments of joy and an enduring bond that stood the test of time. Together, they raised a family that would become Errol's greatest pride.

Errol's work ethic shone brightly during his 23 years at Armco Steel, where he retired with a legacy of respect from his colleagues. He was also a lifelong active member of South Main Baptist Church, where he lived out his faith and contributed to the community.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife, Betty; and his grandson, Jason Godoy. Errol is

CHIC hears about Carbon Capture,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tions went unanswered at the meeting, she reiterated the concern for subsidence since most of the area is under orders to use mostly surface water in combination with existing wells.

Alex Spike, Air Alliance Houston Climate Justice coordinator, has a background in air science and he studied air pollution meteorology at the University of Houston.

Spike didn't focus on the subsidence issue but presented a basic look at how CCS and hydrogen could be the world's next source of energy.

According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, "Carbon capture, use, and storage technologies can capture more than 90 percent of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from power plants and industrial facilities."

That's promising news, according to Spike, who said he believed the old LyondellBassell plant in Pasadena may be the next location for a hydrogen plant and possibly the hub for the ship channel.

Spike said captured carbon dioxide can be stored in underground geologic formation or be put to productive use in the manufacture of fuels, building materials, enhanced oil recovery and more.

The CCES reports there are 30 commercial-scale carbon capture projects that are operating around the world with 11 more under construction, and 153 in different stages of development.

Carbon capture can achieve 14 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions reductions need-

ed by 2050, according to the CCES website, and is viewed as the only practical way to achieve deep decarbonization in the industrial sector.

According to energy.gov, hydrogen is an attractive fuel option for transportation and electricity generation applications.

"Hydrogen is a clean fuel that, when consumed in a fuel cell, produces only water. Hydrogen can be produced from a variety of domestic resources, such as natural gas, nuclear power, biomass, and renewable power like solar and wind," the website said.

It can be used in cars, in houses, for portable power, and in many more applications.

Hydrogen also appears first on the periodic table of elements with an atomic number of 1.

"H2 is 'plug and play' and can step in for fossil fuels including methane gas," he told the dozen or so in attendance. "It's not energy dense compared to fossil fuels, and burning H2 produces NOx," he said.

He explained all types of H2 are power intensive and green H2 is water intensive.

There are other negatives associated with hydrogen, according to Spike.

"It could, and probably will, prolong fossil economy, is less efficient than simply electrifying many uses, and is highly flammable if under pressure, even explosive," he told the environmentalists present.

Hydrogen is lighter than air and Spike said it would require detection

and monitoring equipment which is currently nascent and costly.

"When you get down to it, carbon capture and storage is energy intensive and doesn't capture all emissions," Spike said.

"CO2 is a heavy gas and won't float away," he described it as a cloud that hovers close to the ground.

"It requires pipelines and is corrosive. CO2 injection requires more wells than often blowout," he said, "and keeps bad facilities like W. A. Parish in Richmond, Texas open longer."

HyVelocity Hub announced on Oct. 13, 2023, that they had been selected by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations to begin award negotiations for the development of the Hub. They are expecting to receive up to \$1.2 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. They are supported with industry partners such as AES Corporation, Air Liquide, Chevron, Mitsubishi Power Americas, ExxonMobil, Ørsted, and Sempra Infrastructure. HyVelocity is administered by GTI Energy and includes a wide array of organizations, including organizing participants, the University of Texas at Austin, The Center for Houston's Future, and Houston Advanced Research Center. HyVelocity also has 90-plus supporting partners from industry, community engagement and labor organizations, non-profits, academic, and state and local governments.

CARTER ★ CONLEY FUNERAL HOME
 13701 CORPUS CHRISTI STREET
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77015
 (713) 455-5100
 WWW.CARTERCONLEYFH.COM

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 40,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$18 for 20 words. A bargain!

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES

Notice for Private Nonprofit Schools with students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area.

Please be advised that Galena Park ISD will hold a Zoom meeting for administrators of all Private Nonprofit Schools that have students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area. Information on program planning, availability, and eligibility criteria of Federal funds and services (Title I, II, III, IV, and Special Education programs) will be held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 3:00 pm. For additional information about this meeting, please contact Amy Cole at 832-386-1028 or at acole@galenaparkisd.com.

MISS TWIBBETT'S PLACE
JOELLEN BALL 713/202-4285
Pet Sitting 24 Hours a Day
7 Days a Week in My Home

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Southern Storage 16955 Avenue A, Channelview, TX 77530 (281) 452-2272 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The Auction will take place online at www.StorageTreasures.com. The bidding will begin at 8AM, August 23, 2024 and will end on September 2, 2024 at 9PM. Jeff Thornton Hall Unit 43- Toys, wood, storage boxes, tools, ladder, household items; Paul Hopkins Units 3, 12, 24, 48- Tires, tools with hard cases, bikes and parts, woods, pressure washer, speakers, barrel, garden tools and lawn mowers, auto part, storage boxes; Leanne Bell Unit 54- Storage boxes, display cabinet, dryer, computer monitor, kitchen stove, household items.

In North Channel nearly everyone reads the NORTH CHANNEL STAR. Your Hometown Newspaper.

SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES

Mobile Home Title Services
 Need assistance with a Mobile, Modular or Manufactured home title, bond or appraisal?

HOUSTON AUTO APPRAISERS
 www.texasmobilehometitle.com
 281-424-6466
 Roy Theophilus Bent, Jr.

SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES

MOBILE MECHANIC+
 IMPORT or DOMESTIC CARS & TRUCKS SINCE 1981
 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK
 WE COME TO YOU

- General Repairs
- Computer Equipped Cars & Trucks
- Electrical Specialists
- Fuel Injection/Diesel • Engine Repairs
- A/C • Brakes • Tune-Ups
- Industrial Machinery & Motorized Equipment & Refrigerated Trucks
- Transmissions
- Pre-Buy Inspection for Cars - Trucks - R Vs & SUV's
- Repair of Recreational Vehicles & Big Trucks & Buses

713-465-7300
 3515 Hillcroft
 www.mobilemechanicofhouston.com
 House Calls By Professional Mechanics

Dignitaries, public attend final services for Sheila Jackson Lee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

City Council before being elected to the House. She was also co-dean of Texas's congressional delegation.

Sheila was born in Queens, New York, her father, Ezra Clyde Jackson, who was born in Brooklyn, was a comic book artist and the son of Jamaican immigrants. Her mother, Ivalita Bennett Jackson, was a nurse, and came to New York at an early age from her birthplace of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Jackson Lee graduated from Jamaica High School in Queens. She earned a scholarship for Black students at New York University before transferring to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Yale University in 1972 and a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1975. In 1987, after she had moved to Houston, she was appointed as a municipal judge for the city by Kathy Whitmire. In 1989, Jackson Lee was elected to the Houston City Council. She served in the office until 1994 when she began a campaign for a seat in the U.S. Congress. In the Democratic primary, she defeated incumbent Craig Washington and went on to easily win the general election.

Because Kamala Harris the Vice President of the United States would be attending the Secret Service required a pre-registration application in order to be vetted so they'd know whose attending and who'll be inside the building.

Attendees had to undergo being checked by SS bomb sniffing dogs and metal detection walk-thru portals plus then another SS agent performed a more sensitive full body scan to detect small metal objects on a person.

As a member of the News Media Pool photographers each of us had our entire camera bags checked and even the photo lens were taken out of their protective cases and examined to make sure they hadn't been altered into a weapon. We were then given a special identification badge, and then escorted by a SS agent to a reserved area for the media only.

The media location was about 400 feet from the podium and only photographers who had strong enough telephoto lenses could photograph the stage participants. There was over 50 media representatives, I was there representing the North Channel Star and their other news affiliates (Crosby Star Courier / North East News).

US VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS EULOGY:

Vice President Harris received a standing ovation upon entering the stage. And while delivering the eulogy, said, "She had such an impact on me and my life," Harris said. "To know Sheila, she could be tough, but, oh my goodness, she was so loving and so encouraging. She always encouraged me, so I called shortly before she passed away to thank her for that."

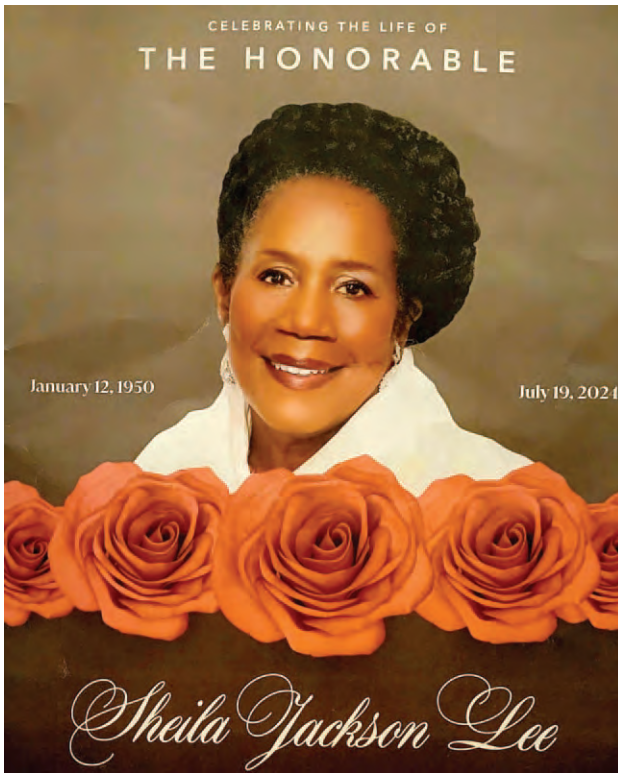
"Jackson Lee was a change maker. She worked with all her heart to lift up the people of her city, of her state, and of our nation.

Harris, who also worked with Jackson Lee while a member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), described the Texas congresswoman as a "force of nature."

She was "one of the smartest and most strategic legislators in Washington, D.C.," said Harris, the former California senator. "She was also one of the most unrelenting never yielding legislators while seeking her goals."

Harris said, to know her was to know a true champion, a fierce champion for justice," Harris said. "Sheila Jackson Lee was a woman of deep faith and deep compassion. She was a beloved member of our Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and she was a dear, dear friend to my husband Doug and me."

"When it came to crafting policy, there was no detail too minor, or point of order too obscure," Harris said. "If it needed to be understood, the congresswoman would make sure everyone understood it and understood it well, and used it to the benefit of the



Program Cover - Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, January 12, 1950 - July 19, 2024



United States Armed Forces takes Congresswoman Lee's casket to hearse for cemetery and burial services. (Allan Jamail photo)



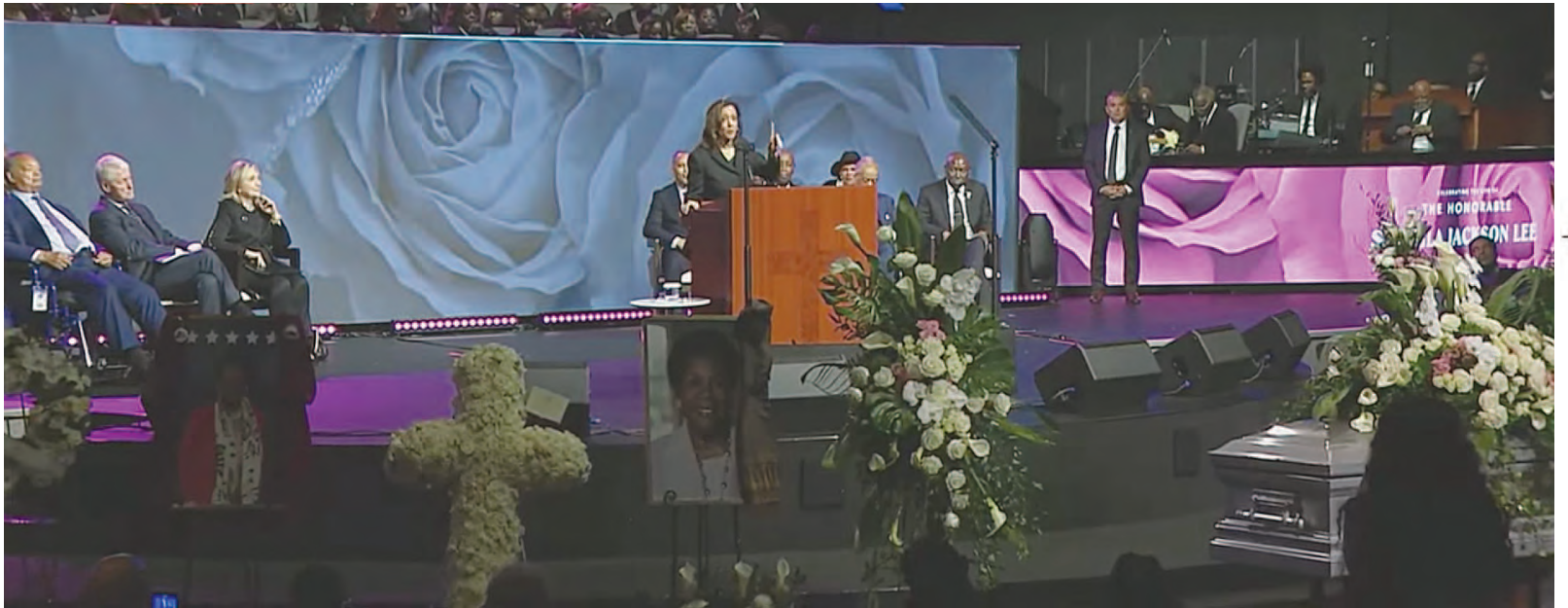
Vice President Kamala Harris delivers the Eulogy. (Contributed Photo)



Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton acknowledges the long standing ovation received and asks to help elect VP Kamala Harris as the nation's first female president. (Allan Jamail photo)



Former President Bill Clinton praises the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and thanked her husband Dr. Elwyn Lee, Erica Lee Carter, daughter and Jason Lee, son for their sharing Sheila to do her congressional duties to make a better fairer nation. (Allan Jamail photo)



Vice President Kamala Harris delivers the Eulogy for Sheila Jackson Lee, whose casket covered with flowers is at right in photo. At left, Jesse Jackson, and Former President Bill Clinton and former First Lady Hillary Clinton. (Contributed Photo).

people she served."

Harris drew laughs from the audience when she admitted "There were times ... if I saw her walking down the hall, I would almost want to hide." "Because I knew," she continued, "whatever else may be on my mind, Sheila Jackson Lee would require a very serious and specific conversation with you about what she had on her mind."

Harris said Jackson Lee wasn't afraid to do what she needed for residents in Houston.

"Sheila Jackson Lee would always find a way to help, even if she needed to get a little creative. As some of you may remember, a number of years ago, the city of Houston faced a budget shortfall, and to save money, decided to close a number of public pools," Harris said. "Well, Sheila Jackson Lee wasn't having that. And so she called around, as the story goes, to business leaders across Houston and convinced them to donate more than \$350,000. And those pools then stayed open all summer long."

FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON:

Former President Bill Clinton recalled adding Jackson Lee to his "just say yes list" during her first term in the House. The list normally was reserved for more senior members of Congress, but Jackson Lee's persistence on her priorities made her the most junior addition to the "short list," he said.

"I knew, whatever she wanted, it was good," Clinton said. "It was good for somebody; it was trying to help

somebody."

Clinton said Sheila led several presidents into doing the correct thing to make justice fairer to everyone. Emphasizing, "We are the longest lasting democracy in human history because we had enough people like Sheila Jackson Lee."

FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON:

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when going to the podium received a long standing ovation. She chose Jackson Lee to be a co-chair of her 2008 campaign for president, said the greatest way the attendees could honor her would be by organizing to help VP Kamala Harris win the presidential election in November.

"Come next January, when our first woman president takes the oath of office, I'll be thinking of Sheila, wondering what up in heaven she's wearing, what magnificent long scarf she has wrapped around herself, what hairdo she has managed to achieve for this special occasion," Clinton said. "I'll be thinking of her ... and all the generations of women who helped to make that day possible because they never stopped believing."

FORMER MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER:

Former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner recalled her many small acts of service to the city while in office, including paying for the restoration of a church in Acres Home. And her efforts just this past May distributing food and water aid while she was battling cancer.

"Sheila, I want to thank you on behalf of the local community for bringing the world to the 18th Congressional District," Turner said. Sheila is credited with bringing billions of grant dollars to Houston and Harris County to improve living conditions.

YUROBA HARRIS, CHIEF DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:

The Congresswoman was more than a boss to me. She was my mentor and a close family friend. I've known her all my life from when she worked with my mother on political and community matters.

When the opportunity arose and she asked me to join her staff she told me "we are finally together." It was a privilege and an honor to work with her to provide services to the citizens and communities of the 18th Congressional district. I thank God for the wonderful precious moments. Her legacy lives on and we will truly miss her. Forever our Champion for the people. Much love and respect to my "Madam Queen Congresswoman"

Some who are called to service to our nation must accept the responsibility of sustained excellence. This is what Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee required. The Congresswoman was not only a representative of the 18th Congressional District, she considered herself the congresswoman for all Texas.

As a member of her staff, I was required to believe that through strategic strategy and God's will, all things were

possible. What people didn't understand about her was her commitment to the people and those less fortunate. That commitment was shared by both of us. Yes, I was under pressure weekly to perform at the highest level. However, I accepted the task. Anyone on her staff who was not willing to work and put in long hours never lasted long.

Most had no idea the drive and determination Congresswoman Lee possessed. I accepted the challenge day in and day out with the complete understanding that we were making a difference in people's lives. Together, we initiated service that literally saved lives. There are too many instances where I felt overwhelmed, but at the end of it all, this past week, it really hit me, with the outpouring of love and gratitude from so many people, I know we made a difference. I am so honored and blessed to have worked for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and the citizens of our great city, a city that we both loved passionately, Houston Texas. She would say I am about the people of the United States of America and the people of Houston, Texas. I loved her as a friend and considered her family. In my heart, she is simply irreplaceable.

In closing, I will share a quote she shared with me "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas." Shirley Chisholm

SHEILA'S DAUGHTER ERICA & SON JASON COMMENTS:

Erica Lee Carter, Sheila's daughter said, who wore pieces of her mother's famed outfits to the service. "Today I wore her cape, I wore her cloth, but I will never wear her crown,"

Jason Lee "Her son said that despite her legacy as a public official, her first priority was to her family. He recalled her passing at the hospital in Houston, where he told Jackson Lee "you were a good mom" right before she died.

"Her greatness, for everything else that it was, it was in her love for her family," Lee said. "Hearing she had completed that mission, she knew she could go."

NC STAR WRITER ALLAN JAMAIL:

"As I write this article as a reporter I'd like to also say from a personal observation from working with her on several news stories that I think SJL was always burning her candle from both ends. She was like a candle in the wind, that blew out way too soon."

Many praise her as a great leader; I say no, she was a great leader of leaders.

She was so goal orientated she never took the time to take care of her own health. She cared so much about others health and well being she neglected her own. Sheila had so much life left in her before she died. She was 74 when she died on July 19 after being treated for pancreatic cancer."

There's been many times she said I wasn't a friend but I was a family member to her.



PRIMARY CARE

Personalized to You



Convenient, customized care — close to work or home.

Our Houston Methodist primary care doctors in Baytown and Mont Belvieu provide personalized care for you and your family, including physicals, immunizations and preventive health services.

Many of our practices:

- Provide in-person and virtual visits with online scheduling
- Offer same-day sick visits
- Are conveniently located close to work or home
- Accept most major insurance plans

Your health and safety are our priority. We are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe.



HOUSTON
Methodist[®]
PRIMARY CARE GROUP

houstonmethodist.org/pcg/east
281.428.2273