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Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia donates vital PPE to First Responders



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia with HFD Station 44 senior officers and first responders holding a N95 mask. The N95 mask is specially made for first responders to fit to their face tight to not allow contagious germs to enter the mouth or nose. First responders are frequently exposed to victims of the deadly and highly contagious COVID 19 virus. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – Friday, October 30, 2020 at the Houston Fire Department (HFD) - Station 44 at 675 Maxey Road, Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia donated 4,000 N95 masks to the Houston Fire Department. This is a part of her ongoing effort to make sure that frontline workers have the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to stay healthy and safe while they work to save lives during the ongoing pandemic. She has donated more than 50,000 face masks to community health centers, the police

department, the fire department, and senior centers.

Congresswoman Garcia understands that if we are to crush this virus we must all have access to the protective equipment we need to secure the well-being of our communities. That's why she also co-introduced the PPE for Safe Schools Act. This bill would provide \$8.8 Billion for PPE in schools and school buses; \$1.6 Billion for cleaning and health supplies; and \$6.6 Billion to fund additional demands on cleaning staff.

The N95 mask is a specially made mask for first

responders to fit to their face tight to not allow contagious germs to enter the mouth or nose. First responders are frequently exposed to victims of the deadly and highly contagious COVID 19 virus.

JC Market by Night Saturday, Nov. 14

Jacinto City Market by Night returns this Saturday, November 14 from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm.

The Artisan Market is held every second Saturday of the month at the Jacinto City Town Center Plaza, on Challenger 7 Drive.

This week will feature musical entertainment by Vianey Torres, and delicious eats by El Trunpo Loco #3.

North Shore HS crowns Homecoming King & Queen

On Friday night, November 6, North Shore Senior High School held their Homecoming game against Kingwood High School. The Mustangs beat the Kingwood Mustangs by a score of 63-6.

During halftime, Daisy Garcia and Colby Stuart were announced as the 2020 Homecoming Queen and King. Garcia is a drum major and a member of the flute section for the North Shore Band, and she is also a member of the National Honor Society. Upon graduation, she would like to study chemical engineering at the University of Houston or Texas A&M University. Stuart is a varsity baseball player and a Rounder. After high school, he plans to study business management.



Homecoming King Colby Stuart and Queen Daisy Garcia pose at halftime of the Homecoming game November 6.

North Shore Mustangs remain undefeated trouncing Kingwood 63-6

By Allan Jamail

Friday, November 6, 2020 at the GPISD stadium the two-time defending Class 6A Division I champion North Shore Mustangs easily defeated their district opponent the Kingwood Mustangs 63 - 6.

Mustang Head Coach Jon Kay's team is 7-0 and improving each week as it appears they may be making another run for a third consecutive championship title.

The crushing defense of North Shore only gave up 94 total yards. Their powerful defense forced 3 fumbles and an interception which led to a 78 yard run for a touchdown by Caleb Flagg.

The explosive offense has so many weapons quarterback Dematrius Davis keeps their opponent's defense confused, not knowing who he'll give the ball to or pass



Dematrius Davis #4 NS Mustang quarterback ran for games first of 9 touchdowns. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#24 NS Mustang's Brannon Davis running back runs 24 yards for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Continued, see MUSTANGS page 6

GP Yellowjackets rout the Northside Panthers 44 - 6.

By Allan Jamail

Thursday, November 5, 2020 at the GPISD stadium, Head Football Coach and Athletic Coordinator Spiro Amarantos' fighting Yellowjackets defeated Houston Northside Panthers, 44 - 6. They move into 2nd place behind undefeated Fort Bend Marshall.

The Yellowjackets swarming steel curtain defense once again ripped their district opponent's offense to shreds allowing only 4 yards rushing. The Panthers total offense was kept under 150 yards for



#4 Yellowjacket's A'marion Kelly, junior running back/quarterback outruns a Panther defender to cross the goal line for 1 of his 2 TD's in the game.



#10 Bernardo Vazquez, Jacket's wide receiver catches a pass from quarterback Raul Gonzalez and runs for a big gainer. ALL PHOTOS BY ALLAN JAMAIL

Continued, see YELLOWJACKETS, page 6

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Three Popular Themed Weekends Round Out the Texas Renaissance Festival's 2020 Season

November 9, 2020 (Todd Mission, TX) – Three of the Texas Renaissance Festival's most popular themed weekends will round out the festival's 46th season that opened October 3. Barbarian Weekend – Nov. 7 & 8, Highland Fling – Nov. 14 & 15, and Celtic Christmas - Nov. 27, 28 and 29. Daily costume and face mask contests feature participant's creativity with the winner receiving tickets to each day of the 2021 festival.

Last weekend the festival welcomed 31,313 guests for Heroes and Villains Weekend bringing the total season attendance to 167,519.

All tickets for the festival are date specific and must be purchased in advance online at www.texrenfest.com or Groupon and at H-E-B business centers. Kids 12 and under are admitted free each festival Sunday.

Art Gallery features Paintings by Mei

Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill is now featuring oil painting by Mei Hoffman. Gallery is on the main street, and open weekends and some weekdays by appointment. Call 713-703-3841.



CONGRATULATIONS To Olivia Gongora, of Aldine, who won Free Tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival. Lucky winners received three free tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival, which is ending Nov. 29. The drawing has concluded.

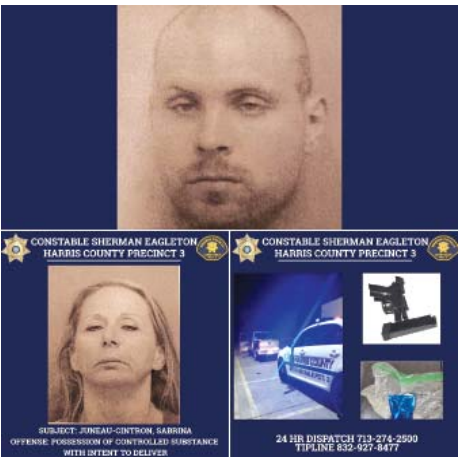


Highlands arrest nets stolen auto, gun, drugs

HIGHLANDS – Harris County Constable Pct. 3 - Constable Sherman Eagleton reports that Night Shift Patrol Deputy Trujillo observed a vehicle with defective equipment being driven in the 200 blk of N. Main in Highlands. The vehicle was then found to be stolen out of Lufkin.

Driver Billy Baggs and the female passenger Sabrina Juneau-Cintron were detained for officer safety.

Upon inventory of the vehicle a stolen a .40 caliber handgun was located within reach of the drivers seat. Baggs was charged with Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle and Felon in Possession of a Firearm.



Juneau-Cintron was found to be in possess of a total 72 grams of Crystal Meth. Juneau-Cintron was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver. Both were transported to the Harris County Jail.

Sheldon Woman fatally beaten at uncles' home



Detectives arrive at the 7500 block of RimWood Friday morning to find a grim scene.

SHELDON – A 43 year old woman was found beaten to death inside her uncle's mobile home at Rimwood Street at Ivydale last Friday.

A desperate call came in to authorities at about 7:47 a.m., according to the Harris County Sheriff's Office. Upon arrival detectives found a woman deceased and obviously bludgeoned to death.

Detectives describe the uncle finding the woman with "obvious

signs of blunt force trauma."

Ambulance crews pronounced the woman dead at the scene not long after arrival.

Officials with the Harris County Sheriff's Office indicate there may be multiple possible witnesses as several people were in and out of the home during the night.

No individual has been named as "of interest" as detectives try to gather people that at-

tended the residence overnight.

Detectives explained that the woman was being allowed to live with her uncle at his residence but refused to answer why. They also did not release her name at this time.

Anyone with information concerning this crime should call Harris County Sheriff's Office at (713) 221-6000 or Houston Crime Stoppers at (713) 222-TIPS.



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Harris County Public Health COVID-10 Test Sites Nov. 9 thru 14

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	Christ the King Episcopal	St. Martin de Porres Church
Houston – COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are increasing in our community. Wash your hands frequently, wear a mask and stay 6 feet from others when in public, get your flu shot and get tested for COVID-19. Testing locations are below. Most are open Monday-Saturday from 8am-3pm. Exceptions are highlighted in red. Children can also be tested at these sites. Register at www.hcphtx.org or call 832-927-7575.	Open Mon – Fri Closed Tuesday, Nov. 10 15325 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, TX 77083	Open Mon & Fri, Nov 9 & 13 12606 Crosby Lynchburg Rd, Crosby, TX 77532
	New Hope Presbyterian Church Open Saturday, Nov. 14 1350 N Mason Rd Katy, TX 77449	Bear Creek Islamic Center Closed Saturday, Nov. 14 17250 Coventry Park Dr, Houston, TX 77084
	Champion Forest Baptist Church Closed Friday, Nov. 13 15555 Stuebner Airline Rd Houston, TX 77069	For the Pasadena and Katy sites, register at www.donneedacovid19test.com or call 832-927-7575. People must be 13 or older to be tested at these sites.
M.O. Campbell Education Center Open Mon-Fri 12pm-7pm Open Sat., Nov. 14 10:00 am to 3:00 pm 1865 Aldine Bender, FM 525, Houston, TX 77032	Lee College Open Tues & Wed, Nov 10 & 11 200 Lee Dr Baytown, TX 77520	San Jacinto College Central Campus Open Mon-Fri 12pm-7pm Open Sun, Nov. 15, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm 8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77055
South Belt Church Closed Tuesday, Nov. 10 13100 Beamer Rd Houston, TX 77089	St. Mary Magdalene Open Thurs - Sat, Nov 12 - 14 527 S Houston Ave, Humble, TX 77338	Katy Park Open Mon-Fri 12pm-7pm Open Sat., Nov. 14, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Greater Purelight Missionary Closed Wednesday, Nov. 11	St Dominic Catholic Church Open Tues - Thurs, Nov 10 -	

Northshore Episcopal Church Plant Hosts Drive-Thru Baby Shower for 80 Expecting Mothers



Group Photo of Shower Sponsors

By Paulette E. Martin
Bilingual Communications Specialist

Over 80 expecting mothers in East Harris County were treated to a one-of-a-kind baby shower in a drive-thru event. Mothers were showered with baby clothes, fresh food, diapers, cleaning supplies and other goods to help meet their needs during the pandemic.

The collaborative effort was hosted by Church Planter Maria Bautista Vargas at Northshore Episcopal Church, Houston (a church plant within the Episcopal Diocese of Texas). Seven other non-profit organizations from the Houston metropolitan area, including United Healthcare and East Harris County Empowerment Council (EHCEC) joined forces on Friday, October 30, 2020 to help make this event a success.

"I was happily surprised by the team and support we received for this initiative," said Bautista Vargas. "It was a huge blessing how everything



Cars line up for 80-mother Baby Shower Drive Thru Event

came together." Together Northshore Episcopal, United Healthcare and EHCEC packed over 400 different outfits for the soon-to-be-born babies.

Prior to COVID-19, Connie Claros from United Healthcare explained that the healthcare organization held large baby showers in different parts of Harris County for low-income mothers enrolled in their program every quarter, but the pandemic put a halt to those events.

As Bautista Vargas and Claros started to accumulate large amounts of baby



Lady holding two bags of gifts for expectant mothers

clothes at Northshore Episcopal, Claros decided to reach out to EHCEC to see how they could best host a safe, yet enjoyable baby shower for moms in need.

Their efforts resulted in putting together a successful event with plans on hosting another baby shower drive-thru during Easter season of 2021.

"We appreciate the opportunity Northshore Episcopal Church is giving us to host this event for the moms in the area," said Claros.

Channelview ISD Students Earn Commended Recognition in National Merit Scholarship Program

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has recognized two Channelview ISD students for their academic achievement after performing highly on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Channelview High School Seniors Sammy Ijarah and Ryan Torres have earned the Commended Student Recognition by being among the top 50,000 students who took the PSAT.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2021 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who ended the 2021 competition by taking the 2019 PSAT/NMSQT.

"This is a prestigious academic honor for these students who dedicate themselves to their studies," said Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis. "I am proud of their achievements and of our educators who are passionate about helping our students succeed."

Both students are currently high school seniors and among the top 10 students in their graduating class. Torres is an active member of the North Channel Rotary Interact Club. The club organizes community service projects and student members are mentored by Rotary Club representatives to help them develop leadership skills. Ijarah is a member of the National Honor Society and of the high school band.



Sammy Ijarah



Ryan Torres

"In order to score high enough on the PSAT my junior year to earn National Merit Commended Student, I had to maintain a practice schedule with balancing other obligations and interests," said Ijarah. "It was great to see that my

work leading up to the test paid off."

A Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented to these scholastically talented seniors.



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North Channel Chamber Office, I-10 in Woodforest Bank Bldg
Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd
Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi St.
San Jacinto College North, Student Center & Library
Fonteno Court House, Wallisville Rd
Sellers Brothers Market, Uvalde Rd
YMCA, Wallisville Rd.
Kroger's, Woodforest @ Beltway 8
Sen. Sylvia Garcia office, in Woodforest Bank Bldg
North Channel Library, Wallisville Rd
Water District # 21, Sheldon Rd

CHANNELVIEW

Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd
Post Office, Sheldon Rd
Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd
Channelview Admin Bldg, Sheldon Rd
Holiday Inn, I-10 E
Martin Luther King Community Ctr., Lorenzo St.
Water District #47, Woodforest Blvd
Chevron, Woodforest & Uvalde
Bonfire Wings, Woodforest Blvd
Serena Donuts, Woodforest Blvd
Pine Trails Community, Woodbend Dr

SHELDON

Sheldon ISD Admin Bldg.
Kroger's, Normandy at Woodforest
Sheldon ISD Transportation
HCA Houston 24/7, Beltway 8

CLOVERLEAF

HC WCID #36, Hollywood St
Grayson Community Center, Corpus Christi St
Galena Park Admin Building, Beltway 8 at Woodforest
CommunityBank of Texas, I-10 E @ Freeport
North Channel Assistance Ministries, Bonham @ Freeport
Chevron, I-10 West

JACINTO CITY

City Hall, Main Street
Community Center/Senior Center, Oates Rd
Capital Bank, I-10 E
Jacinto City Branch Library, Akron St
State Rep Ana Hernandez office, Mercury Drive
Sellers Brothers Market, Market St
Market Street Feed Store, Market St
Mr. Mercury Gas Station, Mercury Dr
Jacinto City Parks & Recreation, Mercury Dr
Chevron, Market St

GALENA PARK

Baggett Community Center, Keene St
Galena Park City Hall, Clinton Drive
Galena Park Library, Keene St
United Comm. Credit Union, 16th St
Galena Park Community Crt, Keene St
Middleton Super Market, Clinton Dr
Exxon King Fuel, Clinton Dr
Galena Park Medical Clinic, Clinton Dr

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COVID-19

Cases as of
November 10, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

19 COUNTIES

251,550 POSITIVE
3,530 DEATHS
209,267 RECOVERED

TEXAS

1,009,031 POSITIVE
19,334 DEATHS
826,116 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

10,241,488 POSITIVE
239,618 DEATHS
3,961,873 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

51,375,050 POSITIVE
1,270,167 DEATHS
33,488,189 RECOVERED

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OPINION

By BILL KING



Moderates still charting the Country's Course

In the wake of the election results this week, there have been dozens of articles, like this one in the New York Times, claiming the results show America is more politically divided than ever. Not at all. What the election results show is that moderates continue to referee between two minority parties over the direction of the country.

In the lead up to the election, the media consensus was that Trump's controversial administration was going to be resoundingly rejected with a blue wave that would usher in a more progressive agenda for the country. But while it appears that a slim majority of the country has rejected Trump's brand of leadership, the blue wave never made it ashore.

First and most significantly, it appears that the U.S. Senate will likely stay in Republican control, probably only losing one seat net, notwithstanding that nearly ten were considered potentially vulnerable. Perhaps less consequential over the next two years, but more stunning, was that Americans reduced the number of Democrats in the U.S. House. This was totally unexpected by pundits and pollsters alike. Currently it appears that about 5-10 seats will flip to the GOP.

Also, there was no blue wave at the state level. In most states, including Texas, there was little movement in control of state legislatures. That is all the more remarkable considering the massively funded campaigns to wrestle control away from Republicans in the leadup to redistricting (which will follow the release of the 2020 census results).

America is basically a center-right country and has been for some time now. But the primary process has driven the stances of each party further into the ideological edges of the political spectrum. Consequently, support for both parties has continued to gradually erode. Since 2004, Gallup has been asking Americans this question: "In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat or an independent?" While identification tends to firm up around elections the trend is clear: Americans are increasingly disillusioned with both parties. Since 2013, independents have enjoyed a plurality in every poll.

As in this election, moderates have, so far, been content to be the adult in the room and discipline whichever party that begins to float wacky ideas, like taking immigrants' children wapping the Supreme Court or defunding police departments. They are the ones that have kept complete control of the federal government out of the hands of either party for 36 of the last 50 years.

But the primary process is so broken that it will likely continue to serve up more ideologically extreme candidates, leaving moderates the increasingly odoriferous challenge of holding their noses and picking the least bad candidate.

The interesting question is, will they continue to put up with being the referee between two unruly children or decide to take matters into their own hands and demand a fundamental change in the system? I don't know the answer to that question, but I hope it is the latter.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Chris Cobler



Rural Texas struggles with Digital Divide

If broadband is a lifeline, then rural Texas is in danger of dying.

In its first report to the Texas Legislature, the Governor's Broadband Development Council called for the creation of a state broadband plan and a state broadband office. Texas is one of six states without a plan for enhancing broadband access.

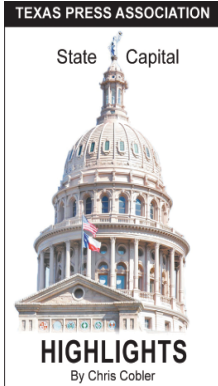
The pandemic has highlighted the need for broadband connectivity and emphasized it is a critical issue for the state's rural and unserved areas, according to the report. Almost 1 million Texans do not have access to broadband at home, and rural Texans represent about 90 percent of that number.

The report is spotlighted in a panel discussion I moderated for the Texas Tribune as part of its virtual symposium on "The Future of Rural Texas." All of the free sessions will be broadcast at noon Nov. 9-13 at texastribune.org, and recordings also will be available.

The lack of broadband access "is particularly problematic for those who need to attend school virtually, visit a doctor online or work remotely, either due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other factors," the report noted.

Panelist Annette Gutierrez, executive director of the Rio Grande Council of Governments, encouraged rural Texans to band together in their towns and regions to advocate for broadband access of at least 25 mbps speed. Public-private partnerships are critical for success, she said.

"I like to think of myself as an optimistic person, and so with COVID the silver lining in all of this is that we have to do better, we have to be bet-



ter prepared," Gutierrez said.

A member of the governor's council, Jennifer Harris, also served as a panelist. She is Texas program director for Connected Nation, a nonprofit that has been mapping broadband availability to make the need clear.

"The reason that is so important is a lot of federal funding is based off of whether you show up as your community being served or unserved," Harris said.

Panelist Charlie Cano, CEO of Etxet Telephone Cooperative near Longview, said his company has successfully pivoted to providing broadband via fiber cabling but still has about 50 percent of its market yet to connect. Federal and state incentives need to keep encouraging the rural buildout, he said.

The question is whether this can occur statewide quickly enough to help rural Texas, which has suffered from steep population declines for the past 70 years. A bipartisan group of 88 lawmakers recently wrote to Gov. Greg Abbott to urge him to act immediately to address the problem.

Cano said he moved from Austin to a small town to raise his family because "I love the emo-

tional connection you get with a small-town community." He wants the solutions to focus on small-town providers like his that are invested in their communities.

"There already are some providers that are doing a really good job ...," Cano said. "They just need some additional help."

"Broadband is a Lifeline" airs at noon Nov. 11, and I encourage you to join the conversation convened by the Tribune, a statewide nonprofit news site. Please also email ccobler@texaspress.com to let me know the state of broadband in your community.

Other topics for the "The Future of Rural Texas" sessions: rural Texas and the 87th Legislature; rural public education; rural higher education; rural health care; building a strong economy; preserving natural resources; and the view from rural Texas.

BIG VOTER TURNOUT KEEPS TEXAS RED

Texans turned out to vote in numbers not seen since 1992 and kept the state firmly red.

President Trump defeated Joe Biden in Texas by 6 percentage points, which was less than his 9-point victory over Hillary Clinton in 2016. Mitt Romney won Texas by 16 points in 2012.

Predictions of a stronger Democratic showing in the state proved to be mostly off the mark. U.S. Sen. John Cornyn easily defeated M.J. Hegar, state Republicans held on to their solid majority in both houses of the state Legislature, and GOP incumbents in Congress held all their seats.

Voter turnout topped 66 percent, the best showing in Texas since 1992's presidential race, when George H. Bush and Ross Perot attracted intense interest and brought 72 percent of registered voters to the polls.

Republican political consultant Derek Ryan pointed to President Trump's gains in support among Texas Latino voters compared to 2016. The map also showed Democrats gaining ground in Texas' biggest cities.

"This should serve as a wake-up call to both parties, but it probably won't," Ryan said of a map showing changes by county in Trump's voting results.

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texaspress.com.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Dog Celebrity"

I am a celebrity among the neighborhood dogs.

By now, I have been giving out dog treats on my daily walk for several months. If you think this has gone unnoticed among my town's dog population, you would be very much mistaken. If Gwyneth Paltrow or Brad Pitt were to walk down the street, I am quite certain the dogs in my town would be completely unimpressed. Their owners might behave foolishly and start jumping up and down and salivating but, for the dogs, it would be a non-event.

With me, it's another story.

There is an old black lab I see occasionally on my hike. She is always glad to see me and her owner and I exchange pleasantries. But then several weeks will go by before I see her again. I saw them not too long ago.

"I have to tell you what you have done to my dog," the woman said.

Oh no, I thought.

"You walk by our house on your hike every day."

I have no idea where this woman lives, but I walk a few blocks along the sidewalk before I pick up the trail so I figure she must live on that stretch of road.

"Every day she sees you walk by, she goes crazy. She barks and jumps up and down in front of the picture window when you pass."

I had no idea.

There is another dog I see, named Cinder. Cinder is very small and sometimes small dogs can have a little attitude. But Cinder's diminutive frame consists of nothing but love and fur. When she sees me, she appears to lose her tiny mind.

"Cinder!" I yell (not making things easier for her owners). Cinder throws herself on the ground in front of me, belly in the air, tail wagging frantically. I imagine this happens to Brad Pitt with his fans all the time, but it is new to me.

Another time, I saw a dog off-leash, many yards in the distance. The dog saw me and came running—barreling toward me—stopped at my feet and stared at me. I did not recognize her. I could not remember ever seeing her before.

"Where is your owner?" I inquired.

"Who cares?" she replied. She kept staring at me adoringly until I gave her a treat. Eventually, her owner arrived.

"She said you wouldn't mind if she had a treat," I told him.

"She's right," he told me.

The same thing happened with a pair of dogs I had only seen once, a long time earlier. "You're like the ice cream truck, their owner said. 'They hear your hiking poles in the distance and come running!'"

I'm betting Gwyneth Paltrow has never been compared to an ice cream truck. I was deeply flattered.

Just like the ice cream truck driver, I know how many treats I'll need on my route. Seven dogs is a good day. Two is a little disappointing. Four to five dogs is about average. Occasionally, I give out half treats if the dog is the size of Cinder and it looks as if a treat would comprise a full meal.

When I get home, my husband, Peter, always asks me, "How was your hike?"

I could tell him about the beautiful blue bird I saw, or how the sun made the pine needles shimmer, or that my legs ached by the time I climbed the final hill. But Peter doesn't care about any of that.

"It was a good hike," I tell him. And then I tell him all about my fans.

Till next time,

Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.



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OBITUARIES

Edwin Wayne Flinn

Edwin Wayne Flinn, 91, passed away November 6, 2020 at his home in Houston, Texas. Edwin was born on May 26, 1929 in Jamestown, Kansas to parents Raymond and Eunice (Man) Flinn. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Edwin married Mabel (Henderson) on May 8, 1970, and they enjoyed 47 wonderful years together until her death in 2016.

He was a farmer for many years and enjoyed sharing his values of hard-work and commitment that it takes to do so with his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Mabel Flinn; step-daughter, Dorothy Upton; granddaughter, Heather Brand; sisters and brother, Ava Flinn, Twila Flinn, Randall Flinn. Left to cherish his memory are his children, Linda Lake and husband Kent, Janice Edwards and husband Cliff, Jennifer Ramsey and husband Richard, Jeff Flinn and wife Sandy, Jody Sappington, Jackie Eyers, Jennie Martin and husband Doug; step-children, Sheila Wilk and husband



Harold, James Mouser and wife Sue, Mabel Ann Jess; grandchildren, Christy Mouser, Shara Beck, Nicole Jess, C.J. Jess, Bradley Jess, Rachel Lake, Donald Upton, Nina Upton, Sherri and Thomas Boxburger, Kimberly and Thomas Day, Nicole and David Grittman, Rob and Jen Ramsey, Timothy Flinn, Stacey and James Watson, Katie and James Stewart, Mark and Tari LeDuc, Michael and Janece LeDuc, Brandy and Gregory Quick, Alice and Marty Millian, Paul and Tiffany Croteau, Barbie Croteau; great-grandchildren, Landon Beck, Cory Joseph Aguirre, Evan Rodrigues, Elyse and Gretchen Boxburger, Kendall Day, Kayla and Luke Hood, Justin Ramsey, Jacob Watson, Rebekah and Thomas Watson, Dustin and Rustin Stewart, Kennedy and

Bennett LeDuc, Payton LeDuc, Gavin and Madison LeDuc, Sully Smith, Sommer and Bailey Briggs, Caylah and Bordy Millian, Paul IV Croteau, Alijah and Sebastian Croteau, Eric and Klohe Smith; brother, Keith Flinn; sister, Theresa Tieman and husband Glen; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends are welcome to join the family for visitation on Thursday, November 12th from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM Friday, November 13, 2020 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Graveside services will immediately follow at 2:30 PM at San Jacinto Memorial Park where Mr. Flinn will be laid to rest with his wife under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – I Need Guidance on Social Security and Medicare

Dear Rusty: I am turning 67 in October and as of today am still employed full time. I really do not plan on retiring unless I am forced to. But how do I arrange my Social Security and Medical care stuff. It seems this subject is like a color, and everyone has a different color they like. Is there any way for me to figure this out with help or on my own? I could really use some guidance. Signed: Perplexed

Dear Perplexed: Okay, let's look at your Social Security and your Medicare separately, because they're two totally independent programs.

anything about Social Security until you are ready to start collecting your benefits. Since you have already reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66, you are now earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month. That means that your benefit in October, if you were to claim it then, would be 8% more than it would have been at age 66. If you continue to delay applying for SS benefits, you will continue to earn those DRCs up to age 70, when your benefit amount would be 32% more than it would have been at your FRA. The choice of when to claim your Social Security is yours to make, considering

your need for the money, your health, and your expected longevity. The longer you wait (up to 70) the more your benefit will be, and if you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your current age) then you'll get both a higher benefit amount and more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting to claim your Social Security.

As for Medicare, if you are now covered by your employer's "creditable" healthcare plan, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your current employer coverage ends (when you stop working). "Creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants. If you now have "creditable" employer healthcare coverage (including drug coverage) you won't be liable for a Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare (or a drug plan) later. If you are still working and know your creditable employer coverage will end soon, you can enroll for Medicare benefits to start coincident with the end of your employer coverage. Or, after you stop working, you can enroll in Medicare during a "Special Enrollment Pe

Continued. See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 6

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Colts, Titans battle for first place in AFC South:
Alabama looks to extract revenge against LSU

For the second straight week, Thursday Night Football should be worth watching. After the Packers played at San Francisco last Thursday, this week the Indianapolis Colts will take on the Tennessee Titans with the winner taking over first place in the AFC South.

Two weeks ago, the Colts eased by Detroit 41-21, while the Titans were upset by the lowly Cincinnati Bengals, 31-20.

While those two go at it in Nashville, the Houston Texans head to Cleveland to face the Browns. Thankfully, the Dallas Cowboys are off so we don't have to watch that train wreck of a team this weekend.

Other interesting matchups have the 49ers visiting the Saints, Tampa Bay has a tough one in Carolina and on Sunday Night Football, the Baltimore Ravens visit the struggling New England Patriots.

In college action, No. 2-ranked Alabama will head to Baton Rouge to take on the defending national champion LSU Tigers. A year ago, LSU handed Nick Saban's team a 46-41 loss in Tuscaloosa and you had better believe that the Crimson Tide will be out for revenge on Saturday night in Death Valley. Jimbo Fisher's No. 7-ranked Texas A&M Aggies head to Knoxville to take on Tennessee in a game the Aggies can't afford to look past. The Vols have struggled this year, but they have enough talent to give the Aggies a game if they aren't focused.

Before we take a look at those games and a handful of others, let's review last week's record. An 11-1 week (best of the season) upped the season record to 53-28 (64%). Now, onto this weekend's games.



KEENEY'S KORNER
BY
MIKE KEENEY

NCAA
Wisconsin at Michigan: A good one in the Big 10 pits the Badgers against the Wolverines in Michigan Stadium. Wisconsin opened the season with a 45-7 thumping of Illinois as quarterback Graham Mertz had an outstanding debut by throwing for 248 yards and five touchdowns. Wisconsin's game against Nebraska was canceled two weeks ago because of a COVID 19 outbreak among players and staff members. While the Badgers were idle two weeks ago, the Wolverines lost to arch rival Michigan State 27-24 at home. Jim Harbaugh's team opened the season with an impressive win at Minnesota. He is hoping quarterback Joe Milton (525 yards, 1 TD) and running back Hassan Haskins (138 yards, 3 TDs) get back on track on Saturday. My pick, Michigan 30, Wisconsin 27

Texas A&M at Tennessee: The Aggies hit the road for the second straight week when they visit Knoxville to take on a Tennessee team that lost three of its first five games. The Aggies will once again rely on senior quarterback Kellen Mond (1,244 yards, 12 TDs) and running back Isaiah Spiller (512 yards, 5 TDs) to get things done against the Vols. Two weeks ago in their 42-24 win over Arkansas, Mond broke Johnny Manziel's career yardage record and will look to add to those numbers against a suspect

Tennessee defense. Tennessee quarterback Jarrett Guaratano (914 yards, 6 TDs) has struggled this year. Look for the A&M defense to bring the heat to force a turnover or two from the Vol QB. My pick, Texas A&M 31, Tennessee 23

Alabama at LSU: It's payback time for the Crimson Tide. As mentioned earlier, LSU put up 46 points on the 'Bama defense a year ago and I'm sure Saban has reminded his defense of that all week long as the Tide has prepared for this game. The Tigers have struggled this year as evidenced by the 48-11 pounding they took at Auburn two weeks ago. I expect Alabama quarterback Mac Jones (2,196 yards, 16 TDs) to attack the LSU defense from the get go. Running back Najee Harris (714 yards, 14 TDs) and wide receiver Devonta Smith (56 receptions, 759 yards, 8 TDs) should have big days against a young LSU defense. Look for the Crimson Tide to continue rolling against the Tigers. My pick, Alabama 38, LSU 20

NFL
Indianapolis at Tennessee: A big one in the AFC South pits the Colts against the Titans on Thursday Night Football. Indy QB Phillip Rivers (1,860 yards, 10 TDs) is beginning to look like his old self and that's good news for Colt fans. Rookie running back Jonathan Taylor (389, 3 TDs) has

given Indy a solid running game, but he will be tested by a solid Titans defense that will be in a nasty mood after allowing the Bengals to score 31 points against them two weeks ago. The Titans offense will have its hands full against one of the league's best defenses. Look for running back Derrick Henry (775 yards, 8 TDs) to be featured early to set up quarterback Ryan Tannehill (1,823 yards, 17 TDs) and the play action passing game. Tennessee wide receiver Corey Davis (29 receptions, 369 yards, 3 TDs) has been coming on lately and look for him to hook up with Tannehill with a deep strike or two against the Colts. The Titans are tough to beat at home. My pick, Tennessee 24, Indianapolis 20

Houston at Cleveland: The Texans hit the road for the second straight week and head to Cleveland to take on the Browns. Two weeks ago, the Browns dropped a 16-6 decision as Baker Mayfield (1,514 yards, 15 TDs) had a rough day, but he should rebound nicely against the putrid Houston defense. Texans QB Deshaun Watson (2,095 yards, 15 TDs) will need to use his legs in this one because Cleveland has one of the league's top pass rushers in former Aggie Myles Garrett. Look for Garrett to wreak havoc on the Houston line. I think the Texans hang around in this one, but look for Mayfield to outduel Watson in the Dawg Pound. My pick, Cleveland 30, Houston 23

Tampa Bay at Carolina: Tom Brady and the Bucs travel to Carolina to take on Teddy Bridgewater (2,006 yards, 9 TDs) and the Panthers. Bridgewater might have All-Pro running back Christian McCaffrey back for this game

and that would be a huge boost to the Panther offense. McCaffrey sustained a high ankle sprain in Week 2 and has been inactive since that game. If he returns, he will face one of the fastest and best defenses in the NFL. Look for Brady to have another big day and look for him to bring wide receiver Antonio Brown into the fold. Tampa Bay is loaded on offense and Brown, the former standout wide receiver with the Steelers, give Brady one more weapon to play with. My pick, Tampa Bay 32, Carolina 24

San Francisco at New Orleans: It might be getting to desperation time for the defending NFC champions, who can ill afford many more losses if they hope to defend their conference title in 2020. Two weeks ago, the 49ers dropped a 37-27 decision at Seattle, which was their fourth loss of the season. They are currently in last place in the NFC West. While the 49ers were losing on the road, the Saints picked up a 26-23 overtime win at Chicago. The Saints will once again be led by quarterback Drew Brees (1,898 yards, 13 TDs) and running back Alvin Kamara (431 rushing yards, 4 TDs/55 receptions, 556 yards, 3 TDs). A year ago, these two teams played a thriller in the Superdome, with the 49ers pulling at a 48-46 victory. New Orleans extracts revenge this time around. My pick, New Orleans 33, San Francisco 28

Baltimore at New England: When the schedule came out in the spring, this looked like a marquee matchup, but that's not the case now. Bill Belichick's Patriots are having one of their worst seasons in decades. After they dropped a 24-21 decision at Buffalo

two weeks ago, the six-time Super Bowl champions dropped to 2-5 on the season. Quarterback Cam Newton (1,143 passing yards, 2 TDs, 7 interceptions/298 rushing yards, 6 TDs) has struggled and very well could be replaced. The Ravens dropped a 28-24 decision at home to the Steelers two weeks ago and fell two games behind Pittsburgh in the AFC North race. Quarterback Lamar Jackson (1,343 passing yards, 12 TDs/ 411 rushing yards, 2 TDs) will look to make plays down field to speedy wide receiver Marquise Brown (27 receptions, 379 yards, 2 TDs) and over the middle to dependable tight end Mark Andrews (23 receptions, 5 TDs). Look for Baltimore to take care of business on Sunday Night Football as the misery continues in New England. My pick, Baltimore 26, New England 20

Minnesota at Chicago: A so-so one for Monday Night Football has the Vikings visiting the Bears in Soldier Field. Two weeks ago, Viking running back Dalvin Cook ran roughshod over the Green Bay defense, amassing 226 total yards from scrimmage along with four touchdowns (3 rushing, 1 receiving). Cook will face a much better defense this week when he faces the Bears, but it's the Chicago offense that is the problem in the Windy City. Quarterback Nick Foles (1,411 yards, 8 TDs) continues to struggle and head coach Matt Nagy may have to go back to former starter Mitchel Trubisky, which isn't much of an improvement. Look for the Chicago defense to be the difference maker in this one as the Bears remain in the hunt in the NFC North.

ASK THE EXPERT

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “Are Yellow & Orange color diamonds genuine diamonds?”

Natural yellow gem diamonds are the most common of the fancy-color diamonds, while orange diamonds are among the rarest when they have unmodified hues. Both categories owe their coloration to atomic-level lattice defects associated with nitrogen impurities in the diamond structure.

Among fancy-color diamonds, those with saturated blue, green, and red colors are the rarest and generally the most highly valued. Over the last decade, however, diamonds with pure hues in these colors have made up less than one-tenth of one percent of all diamonds examined at GIA (Gemological Institute of America), making them virtually unattainable in the marketplace.

Yellow and orange diamonds owe their color primarily to nitrogen impurities that are incorporated in the diamond lattice during growth deep in the earth. Nitrogen is the most common impurity in natural diamond due to the very similar atomic radii of nitrogen and carbon atoms, as well as the relative abundance of nitrogen in the growth environment. If nitrogen is present when diamond grows, it will inevitably be incorporated.

During the last decade, GIA has examined several hundred thousand naturally colored diamonds with yellow or orange hue components, more than two-thirds of which had pure, unmodified yellow hues. In stark contrast to yellow diamonds, which are by far the most common fancy color, less than one-tenth of a percent of the stones examined over the same period had pure, unmodified orange hues.

Many very large and famous yellow and orange diamonds have been unearthed and sold for strong prices at auction (figure 9). One of the largest yellow diamonds is the 407.48 ct Fancy Deep brownish yellow (and Internally Flawless) Incomparable diamond, discovered in the Congo.

The largest is The Orange, a Fancy Vivid orange diamond of unknown origin weighing 14.82 ct that sold at auction in 2013 for US\$2.4 million per carat, a record price at the time. Another well-known orange diamond is the Pumpkin, a 5.54 ct Fancy Vivid orange stone from the Central African Republic purchased the day before Halloween in 1997 for US\$1.3 million.

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

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com. J

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North Shore Mustangs remain undefeated trouncing Kingwood 63–6

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to from one play to the next. Davis the state's number one ranked quarterback is always a threat too; his run-pass option has proven effective most anytime he calls his own number.

The offense made 500 yards, 169 passing yards and 331 rushing yards, yielding 8 touchdowns.

Touchdowns were made by, Dematrus Davis, Shadrach Banks, Brannon Davis, Caleb Flagg, Charles King, Daveon Ford, Caleb Rawls and Davion Wilson. Carlos Dominguez kicked the extra points.

The Mustangs still have a penalty problem with 6 penalties, costing



#11 Caleb Flagg makes a 78 yard touchdown run after his pass interception from Kingwood's quarterback. Kingwood defenders lay scattered on the turf after the herd of Mustangs clear Flagg's way into the end zone. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

them 60 yards.

North Shore has an away conference game with Summer Creek (Humble, TX) at Turner Stadium on Friday, November 13 at 7pm.



#2 Shadrach Banks Mustang's wide receiver scores on a pass from Dematrus Davis. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#14 Charles King Mustang's wide receiver crosses the goal from a pass catch from Dematrus Davis. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

GP Yellowjackets rout the Northside Panthers 44 – 6.



Defensive stop on #5 Panther quarterback Ronald Holmes by the swarming steel curtain Yellowjackets, Raymond Quintanilla, Brice Hernandez, Luis Sanchez and Alexander Buentello. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#81 Yellowjacket junior kicker Fernando Mendoza kicking a 25 yard field goal, he kicked the games extra points. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

4 quarters. The pass defense sacked the quarterback numerous times and caused 5 Panther fumbles, allowing only

one TD late in the fourth quarter.

Jacket's offense garnered 396 yards with 6 touchdowns and a field goal. Touchdowns were made by: A'Marion

Kelly (2 TD's), Arturo Garcia (2 TD's), Oziel Trevino (1 TD), Jose Barrientos (1 TD) and Fernando Mendoza kicked the extra points and a 25 yard field goal.

Yellowjackets have a district game with Houston's Waltrip Rams on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at Houston Delmar Stadium.

Social Security,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

riod” (or “SEP” for those transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare coverage). Your SEP for Medicare will last for 8 months after you stop working, but you only have 63 days after the end of your employer drug coverage to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan.

The bottom line is this – you don't need to enroll in Medicare until your creditable employer

healthcare coverage ends. And you don't need to apply for Social Security until you wish to start receiving benefits (just don't wait beyond 70).

One final point because you were born in 1953: if you are now married and your wife is already collecting her SS, you can file a “restricted application for spouse benefits only” and collect only a spouse benefit from your wife, while

still allowing your own benefit to continue to grow until you are 70. But this option is only available to you because you were born before January 2, 1954.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by

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