

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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## COVID-19 RESOURCES

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## COVID-19 Cases as of January 1, 2021

### HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

378,150 POSITIVE  
4,266 DEATHS  
308,860 RECOVERED

### TEXAS

1,779,595 POSITIVE  
28,253 DEATHS  
1,435,164 RECOVERED

### UNITED STATES

20,108,375 POSITIVE  
347,577 DEATHS  
--- RECOVERED

### WORLDWIDE

83,924,941 POSITIVE  
1,826,176 DEATHS  
47,261,824 RECOVERED

## Mustangs win back-to-back Playoff Games

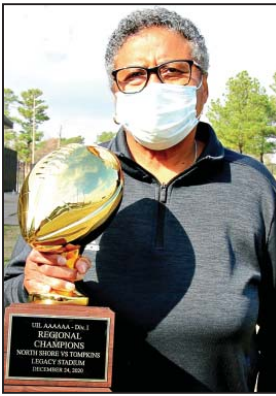
Team wins Regional & Quarterfinal Titles, advance to SemiFinal

By Allan Jamail

Katy, TX. - Houston, TX - Thursday, December 24, 2020 at Katy's Legacy Stadium and January 1, 2021 and at the GPISD stadium the North Shore Mustangs (Eastside Boys) gave their fans two holiday gifts. They eliminated two play-off challengers, defeating the Katy Tompkins Falcons 47 - 22 and the Fort Bend Ridge Point Panthers 56 - 14.

In the Regional Final game with Katy the Mustang offense made 7 touchdowns (TD's) rushing for 301 yards and passing for 302 yards. Touchdowns

See MUSTANGS WIN,  
Page 8



Vivian Dancy, Galena Park Athletic Director with Regional Final Trophy. She began as a coach 36 years ago with GPISD.



#14 Charles King fights off a Katy Falcon as he stretches the ball across the goal for a Mustang score after catching a 41 yard pass from quarterback Demetrius Davis.



#27 Rashaad Johnson outruns a Ridge Point Panther to cap off a 35 yard TD run.

All Photos by Allan Jamail for the North Channel Star

## Rotary distributes 250 Christmas baskets

North Shore Rotarians gathered on Thursday, Dec. 17 at the Rotary Pavilion behind the Courthouse on Wallisville, to continue their annual distribution of food baskets to needy families in the North Shore

area.

The Rotary Club has held this community event every Christmas Holiday for many years, according to club president Lowell Everitt. All 75 members of the club help in the effort.

BELOW, Rotarians at left pack food baskets with Christmas meals, as a large number of baskets at right wait to be filled.



ABOVE, North Shore Rotarians gathered at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville, to pack, load and distribute these 250 food baskets to needy families for Christmas. At left is Rotary president Lowell Everitt, with members of the club, volunteers and others.

## County bus service hits 1 million riders



HARRIS COUNTY - December 2020 brought a milestone achievement for Harris County Transit's (HCT) Fixed Route bus service. They achieved their 1,000,000-passenger boarding milestone! The passenger boarding count commenced with the start-up on July 28, 2008 through December 16, 2020. Service began with a two-route system in Baytown and has grown into a twelve-route system serving 185 route miles in east Harris County, with

3,685,428 total miles driven since 2008. During the COVID-19 shut down, HCT has maintained the same level of service, and ridership has only decreased by seven percent. Nationwide, other transit agencies have had to shut down or reduce services and many have seen as much as a 50%-60% drop in ridership. All of the Harris County Transit services are following the Regional SITSAFE program to ensure maximum safety for passengers and drivers.

## Newspaper journalist experiences vaccination shot for COVID-19

HOUSTON - January 4, 2021 - Many Harris County and Houston area hospitals and clinics have begun giving the Covid-19 vaccine shots to qualifying participants.

Currently the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has approved both the Pfizer (BioN-Tech) and Moderna vaccines to be used to prevent the deadly virus. These two vaccines have about a 95 percent effectiveness rate in clinical trials. You must receive two separate doses for it to be most effective against the virus.

NC Star writer and former Jacinto City Mayor Allan Jamail was given his first dose of the Pfizer vaccine and will receive his second dose three weeks later. He strongly encourages people to get vaccinated from the virus to keep them and their loved ones safe.



CUTLINE: At Baytown Methodist Hospital nurse Starlet gives Allan Jamail, former Jacinto City Mayor & NC Star writer the Covid-19 virus vaccine. Photo by: Methodist Hospital staffer Alexis.

As of January 4, 2021 Harris County has had 243,059 cases and 3,431 deaths. Texas has 1,795,577 active virus cases and 27,903 deaths. Every 7 days there's an average of 204 deaths in Texas.

According to the CDC the risk for severe illness with COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at highest risk. Certain medical conditions can also increase risk for severe illness. People at

increased risk, and those who live or visit with them, need to take precautions to protect themselves from getting COVID-19 by getting vaccinated.

Jamail, 76 years old said he contacted his medical doctor and asked to be placed on the waiting list for the vaccine. Within a week he received an emailed questionnaire for information about his age, medical conditions, allergies, allergic history

and more. Within a few days he was given his appointment for the vaccine.

While some vaccinated have experienced non life-threatening side effects, Jamail said he's noticed nothing unusual after the shot.

Who's getting the vaccine now? If you are a front-line healthcare worker or resident of a long-term care facility, you are eligible now to receive the vaccine, this group is considered Phase 1A.

If you are in Phase 1B, you are also eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine depending on availability of the provider near you.

To determine if you are in Phase 1A or 1B, visit the website. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>,

To check for the vaccine availability and providers near you click on the TEXAS COVID-19 VACCINE PROVIDER LOCATIONS MAP.



## Judge Lucia Bates holds Truancy Workshop

BAYTOWN, TEXAS- The Honorable Lucia Bates recently held a Virtual Truancy Workshop with administrators and staff from 10 local school districts in the surrounding area. There were over 147 participants. The Harris County District Attorney's Office along with the County TRIAD Program Specialists were on hand to answer questions and gave helpful advice to the attendees. Due to the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, a dialogue was necessary to address the challenges that school districts are facing. "Truancy has always been a challenge for all school districts but it is more so now, when we are all navigating uncharted waters due



JUDGE LUCIA BATES

to the unprecedented situation that we are living," said Judge Bates. The Virtual Truancy Workshop helped to answer many questions that lingered.

Judge Lucia Bates is serving her first term as Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 2. Her fellow peers recently elected her to be their representative on the Juvenile Board.

## One dead, one seriously injured in Christmas wreck

Deputies with the Harris County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a report of a fatal crash in the 21,200 block of FM 2100 on at about 2:50 a.m. Christmas day.

According to Deputy D. Dunn, accident investigator, a blue BMW was traveling northbound in the 21,200 block of FM 2100, operated by Joshua Rene Newkirk.

Traveling southbound in the 21,200 block of FM 2100 was a black Chevrolet driven by Lamarcus Donahue.

Measurements determined Newkirk failed to drive in a single lane and may have been speeding. Evidence indicates

that Newkirk struck the left front of Donahue's Chevrolet with the left front of his BMW.

Donahue was transported from the scene by Life Flight helicopters following attendance by ambulance crews to Hermann Memorial Hospital with serious bodily injuries.

Newkirk sustained life threatening injuries, and died at the scene. This case remains under investigation by the Harris County Sheriff's Office Vehicular Crimes Division.

Witnesses are asked to contact the Harris County Sheriff's Office at (713) 221-6000.

## Woman accused in death of 4-yr-old

HUFFMAN – Houston Police Dept. Patrolmen took a woman into custody in connection with a deceased 4 year old last Saturday.

On November 29 a child was discovered dead at about 2:00 p.m. in the Lake Wood Townhomes on FM 1960 in Huffman.

Originally, a report indicated that the child had died of cardiac arrest but now, thanks to forensic science authorities indicated it died of blunt force trauma. Police allege that Melynda Davis, 41, abused the child and tried to hide evidence of the crimes.

The judge hearing the case indicated that several lacerations and bruises on the body of the child and that the child had been dead longer than the couple in custody of it were willing to admit.

Someone allegedly removed bloodstained clothing from the child's body, perhaps to hide abuse.

An ambulance had taken the child to HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood Hospital that Sunday. It was pronounced dead while at the hospital.

Police say evidence was found



MELYNDA DAVIS

consistent with abuse and hiding evidence from police of that abuse. The autopsy has yet to be concluded and charges may be even more serious.

She will be brought to court on Wednesday for arraignment. The father of the child and others were brought in for questioning on November 29.

The incident remains under investigation and anyone with additional information is asked to contact HPD Homicide at (713) 308-3600 or Crime Stoppers (713) 222-TIPS.

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Two Mustangs sign Letters of Intent to leading colleges



On December 16, Shadrach Banks and Dematrius Davis signed a letter of intent to their respective colleges. The entire North Shore football team supported their teammates, and sat on the football field as Banks signed his letter of intent to play at Texas A&M University and Davis signed to play at Auburn University. Both Banks and Davis are four-year varsity players and two-time state champions. Davis is also a two-time championship offensive most valuable player (MVP). Galena Park ISD congratulates Shadrach and Dematrius on this milestone in their lives and wishes them the best of luck at Texas A&M and Auburn!

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY: Family ties to Alabama keep Davis solid with Auburn

HOUSTON – Growing up in Mobile, Alabama, which is roughly three and a half hours from both Auburn and Tuscaloosa – the homes to Auburn University and the University of Alabama – Dematrius Davis Sr. grew up a fan of really both teams. His favorite player for the Crimson Tide was Bobby Humphrey. His favorite for the Tigers was Bo Jackson. But now, he has a new favorite player amongst his home state teams – his son, Dematrius Davis Jr. The North Shore quarterback and two-time state champion made it official with Auburn on Wednesday morning signing with the Tigers. “Our family is die-hard War Eagle or Roll Tide fans,” Davis Sr. said. “So, either school was good.” In a household that cheered “Roll Tide” and “War Eagle” for all these years, it is special



LOCAL TELEVISION INTERVIEWS DAVIS' FAMILY.

that the Davis family will now have a player in the heralded Iron Bowl game. “Iron Bowl is going to be big,” Davis Sr. said. Another member of the Davis family that was on-hand for his signing was Davis Jr’s grandmother Josephine Simpson-Smith, who graduated from William High School in Mobile, Alabama. She is especially excited and is ready to make the road trip for all of his games. “I’ve already planned my trips and my travels,” Simpson-Smith said. “I’ll be there when he doesn’t play and I’ll be there when he does play. I’m his biggest cheerleader. I’ll be there.” The family ties to the State of Alabama makes it no surprise that Davis Jr. stuck with his verbal commitment to the Tigers despite the school parting ways with coach Gus Malzahn on Sunday, just days prior to the first National Signing Day of the year. “It meant a lot being that we have family out there,” “We have family at the school. There was a little bit more of a reason that we were going. It wasn’t all on Coach Malzahn, so it meant a little bit more to the family.” The idea of playing college football first came into Davis Jr’s focus in the eighth grade when he received his first offer. Then, the success came. Davis has started at quarterback for North Shore for four years now, leading the Mustangs to four-straight playoff appearances. The past two years, Davis has helped the program win its third and fourth state championships. He was named the State Championship Game Offensive MVP both years. “I did think he was going to win one state championship, now two that came out of nowhere,” Tiffany Davis, Dematrius Davis Jr’s mother said. “I definitely saw him winning

one.” With the success came the national attention – having his top plays featured on MaxPreps and other national sites. The awards and the college offers followed. All of it though, including inking his National Letter of Intent with Auburn on Wednesday didn’t come without hard work. “I think a lot of it is a manifestation of hard work,” Davis Sr. said. “We didn’t know we were going to win two titles and all this stuff but we put in a lot of work. I don’t think people really understand how much work he has put in. How many weekdays, weekends and holidays. “It’s a lot of sacrifices that go along with this.” Tiffany added: “We’ve been on one vacation in 20 years, all our vacations have been to college camps or training. If you’re not sacrificing nothing, they are not going to sacrifice for you.” Now that Davis Jr. is signed the senior signal-caller is excited about the next chapter, whenever he is officially done with his high school career, which he hopes won’t be until mid-January. “I feel like my parents really love this decision, they’re rolling with me all the way,” Davis Jr. said. (Article courtesy of VUE)

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OPINION

By BILL KING



# My COVID Vaccine Trial Experience

As some of you may have seen in the media, I am participating in the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine trial and just received my second injection on Tuesday (December 22). The AstraZeneca vaccine is one of four vaccines that are in late-stage development. Two of the others, Pfizer and Moderna, have already been authorized by the FDA for distribution. The final test results and approvals of the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines will likely come in January.

In these late-stage trials, some of the participants are given the vaccine and some are given a placebo, i.e., a harmless but ineffective substance. In my trial the placebo is saline. The researchers then track the participants over a two-year period to see how many in each group (called “arms”) come down with the virus and if there are any side effects. The trials are referred to as “double-blind” because neither the participant nor the person administering the vaccine knows whether the injection given is the vaccine or the placebo.

Typically, the participant will not be told whether they got the vaccine or placebo until the end of the trial. However, in the case of COVID, as soon as the participant qualifies for one of the approved vaccines, they can find out which one they received so they can get the vaccine if they received the placebo.

Normally, the two groups are about equal so your chances of getting the vaccine are about 50-50. However, in my trial, two-thirds of the participants received the vaccine and one-third received the placebo. But because these vaccines are so immunologically robust, most people have some reaction to them, giving you some clue as to whether it was the vaccine or the placebo.

However, guessing whether you got the vaccine on the basis of the reaction is not foolproof. In my trial, a doctor who was a participant had no reaction at all. Since he was a frontline health-care worker he qualified for the vaccine and they unmasked his results. To his surprise he had received the vaccine and had a high level of antibodies.

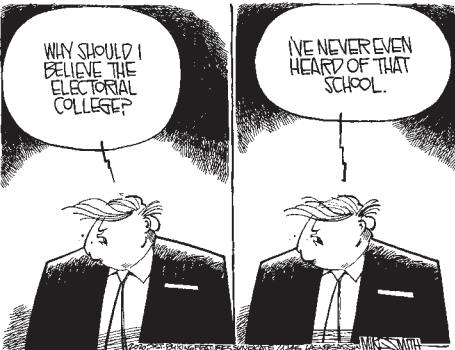
Similarly, there is a weird phenomenon known as the “placebo response” in which participants who received the placebo report responses consistent with receiving the active drug. This Stat article describes how this phenomenon may affect the COVID vaccine trials. The phenomenon is not well understood it is generally thought to be psychosomatic but also may just be coincidental. For example, in Pfizer trial in the 65-85 age group, the number of people reporting more body aches was only slightly higher in the vaccine arm than in the placebo arm. I can tell you from being in that age bracket I do not find that surprising!

I had a fairly strong reaction to both injections. I felt fatigued and lethargic on both occasions. On the second day after the first injection, I slept for five hours during the day which is highly unusual for me. I also had very noticeable body aches after each injection, with those following the second injection being worse than the first. I had a mild headache and chills both times but never recorded any fever. All of my reactions cleared within about 48-60 hours of receiving the injections.

I did not take anything to ameliorate the reactions because I wanted to be able to report exactly what I was feeling to the investigators. However, I would recommend that any of you who receive one of the vaccines take something like acetaminophen to ease the reactions.

That being said, the reactions are a good thing. They are a sign that your body’s immune system is ramping up to fight what it thinks is an invasion by the COVID virus and in doing so, is prepping itself for when and if the real thing comes along.

I will keep you up to date as the trial progresses. Once I am eligible for one of the vaccines, I will ask the investigators to unmask my information and let you know if I got the vaccine or the placebo. However, based on my reaction, and assuming I am not psychosomatic – a debatable proposition to be sure – I think it is likely I got the vaccine. If so, my immunity should be at full strength about 10 days after the second injection, which would ironically be January 1. Not a bad way to start New Year, especially considering that millions of other Americans are not far behind.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Chris Cobler



# New year can't yet shake focus from COVID-19

It's a new year, but the news out of the capital continues to focus on COVID-19.

Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted last week that “a significant portion of vaccines distributed across Texas might be sitting on hospital shelves as opposed to being given to vulnerable Texans. The state urges vaccine providers to quickly provide all shots. We get plenty more each week.”

Many health providers and county health department officials responded that they were working as quickly as they could to give shots to front-line health care workers and lacked the doses necessary to move to what Texas calls phase 1B recipients. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, phase 1B recipients include those 65 and older and those 16 and older with medical conditions that would put them at greater risk from COVID-19.

Various state news outlets reported Texans in phase 1B could not find any vaccine available to them yet. The state health department encouraged the public to check its website weekly for updates on vaccine availability.

In the meantime, people should continue wearing a face mask when in public and follow all social distancing guidelines, health officials said.

## AG BLOCKS AUSTIN

The city of Austin and Travis County tried to impose New Year's weekend restrictions on restaurants, but Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Gov. Abbott won the final round of a legal battle.

The local officials' order limited restaurants to drive-thru, curbside pickup, takeout and delivery services between 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m.



from Dec. 31 to Jan. 3. Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Travis County Judge Andy Brown imposed the three-day restriction to limit social gatherings over the holiday weekend after the state reported a record number of hospitalizations and new cases.

“Mayor Adler and Judge Brown do not have the authority to flout Gov. Abbott's executive orders by shutting down businesses in Travis County and our state's capital city,” Attorney General Paxton said in a statement.

District Judge Amy Clark Meachum denied Paxton's motion, saying the state had not shown “imminent and irreparable harm.” The AG immediately asked the 3rd Court of Appeals to block the order, but that court rejected his appeal. Paxton then went to the Texas Supreme Court for an emergency stay of the order. The high court granted the injunction late Jan. 1 without comment.

## FOOD BENEFITS INCREASED

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will provide \$204 million in emergency SNAP food benefits during January as the state continues its response to the pandemic. Recipients of the

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program also will see an additional 15 percent in their total benefits in January because of recently passed federal legislation.

“As we continue through the new year, these benefits offer nutritious food to those who need it most, especially in these trying times” Wayne Salter, of HHS, said in a statement.

The state received federal approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to extend the maximum allowable amount of SNAP benefits to recipients based on family size. The emergency January allotments are in addition to the almost \$2 billion in benefits previously provided to Texans between April and December.

Beginning in January, recipients will receive a 15 percent increase in their total benefits, which will continue monthly until June 2021. The additional 15 percent increase and the emergency allotment amount should appear in recipients' accounts by Jan. 23. Administered by the state agency, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to 1.7 million eligible low-income families and individuals in Texas.

Texans in need may apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid, at [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com).

## 'I KNOW CHUCK'

The new year brought another California company's headquarters to Texas.

Financial services firm Charles Schwab recently announced a \$26 billion merger with TD Ameritrade. As part of the merger, the combined company's headquarters officially moved Jan. 1 from San Francisco to Schwab's \$100 million campus in Denton County.

In a press release, Schwab said the Westlake location and facility in Denton were chosen and designed as a more centrally located hub for Schwab's nationwide operations. Before the merger, Schwab had more than 2,500 employees at its Westlake campus, and about 2,000 employees worked at TD Ameritrade's location in Southlake.

Gov. Abbott welcomed Charles Schwab in a tweet last week and reassured Texans that the influx of California companies wouldn't change the Lone Star state.

“I've talked to Chuck, I know Chuck,” Abbott tweeted. “He wants to keep Texas, Texas.”

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at [cobler@texaspress.com](mailto:cobler@texaspress.com).

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

# “Swedish Surprise”

My 2021 calendar is hanging from the closet door.

Every year I've lived in this house, I've gotten a cloth calendar, hung from a dowel. My mother's mother always had a cloth calendar hanging in the farmhouse kitchen. As soon as the year was over, the calendar would be conscripted into use, usually to cover cinnamon rolls as they rose, to keep them moist until they were large enough to put into the oven.

Arriving at the farmhouse and seeing “1963” covering a pile of soon-to-be-baked sweet rolls was a wonderful sight and I will forever associate those cloth calendars with the anticipation of sweet things. I guess that's why I have one now. It's good to anticipate sweet things in the coming year.

My 2021 calendar is from Sweden. This means all the months are written in Swedish, surrounded by wildflowers identified in Swedish. My grandmother was a Swede, so I thought this was appropriate. But the real reason I ordered the calendar was that it was the only one I could find with legible dates.

Cloth calendars have apparently come into vogue and I had more choices than in past years, many in jazzy and colorful patterns. Unfortunately, the graphic designers responsible for these works of art did not seem to expect that a person might use the calendar for actual reference. I use the calendar to find the date—an apparently antiquated idea.

All the calendars I found would require a strenuous search to locate the month of April amidst all the artwork and no easy way to tell how many weeks there were from April until a date in May. And so, while they were attractive, the calendars wouldn't be very useful until they were used to cover sweet rolls.

But the Swedes have a reputation for being a practical bunch and this calendar looked more legible in Swedish than any I found in English, so I ordered it.

It wasn't until it arrived that the problem became apparent.

Instead of seven columns for the seven days of the week, there were eight, with an additional column on the left for half the months and on the right for the rest. Someone finally explained that this column told me what week of the year it was. Saturday is in red, so it is possible to get one's bearings—but not without considerable effort.

But even before the calendar arrived, the year seemed filled with more uncertainty than any I can remember.

There is a careless confidence that comes with the making of plans. In the past, I have looked at my calendar on the wall and imagined I had some idea of what would happen in the weeks to come. Because the dates were neatly lined up, I couldn't imagine life becoming disordered.

This year, that whole idea seems a little preposterous.

Because I never really knew what would happen in the coming week—that was the lesson learned in 2020. This year, I won't be nearly so confident as *Januari* turns to *Februari* and then *Mars*.

Of course, I am optimistic, as I always am. I am hoping this new year will bring sweet things. But now I'm thinking having my weeks laid out oddly—with the months written in a foreign language, surrounded by flowers I can't identify—may be an appropriate way to look at the coming year.

This year may require some translation. It may require a little study. This whole year is a big Swedish surprise, waiting to happen.

And maybe that's not such a bad thing.

Till next time,  
Carrie  
Carrie Classon's memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).



OBITUARIES

HUGH LEE BAKER, JR.

Hugh Lee Baker Jr., 87, of Crosby, Texas, passed away on Thursday, December 15, 2020. He was born August 3, 1933, in Crosby, Texas, to the late Hugh Lee Baker Sr. and Nannah Strawbridge Baker. He graduated from Crosby High School and received his B.A. Business Degree with a minor in English Literature from the University of Texas at Austin in 1955. He was a proud member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity.

Hugh was a successful multi-business owner and a man who pursued many interests. He loved worldwide travel, snow skiing, ice skating, sailing and playing the piano. His love of flying began as a pilot for the U.S. Air Force and he later flew his own plane as a hobby.

He was a compassionate and giving man. Hugh's passion in life was caring for others, especially his extended family. He loved his nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews.

Hugh was a loving son, brother, uncle, great-uncle, great-great uncle, friend and



source of wisdom to many who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister Nannah Casey, his brother-in-law Lawrence Casey; and his niece Jannabeth Casey.

He leaves behind to cherish his loving memory his brothers and sister; a sister in law & brother in law, cousins, nieces and nephews; great-nieces and nephews; great-great-nieces and nephews and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

There is no memorial service. To honor his memory the family request we all do something kind and unexpected for someone else

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MARY ELIZABETH CORNELISON

Mary Elizabeth Cornelison, 88, passed away January 1, 2021 in Houston, Texas. Mary was born in Houston on October 12, 1932. She married her true love, Glen Austin Cornelison on March 5, 1948 and they enjoyed many wonderful years together raising their children, before his passing. Mary was a faithful member of Memorial Baptist Church in Channelview for many years. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents, Morris Beck and Betty (Bond) Dresch; husband, Glen Austin Cornelison; and son, Curtis Lee Cornelison. She is lovingly survived by her children, Cynthia Louise Cornelison, Clark Leslie Cornelison, Craig Lindsey Cornelison, Clay Lindel Cornelison and wife Marsha; grandchildren, Clark Leslie Cornelison II and wife Katie Lynn, Christopher Ryan Cornelison and wife Gabriela, Blake Randall Powers, Ashley Nicole Cornelison, great-grandchildren,



Kaydence Lynn Cornelison, Christopher Ryan Cornelison II, Clark Leslie Cornelison III, Carson Reed Cornelison; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends are welcome to join the family for services on Saturday, January 9, 2021, beginning with visitation at 11:00 A.M. and a celebration of her life officiated by Rev. Ken Durham is to follow at 12:00 P.M. noon in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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JOHN DENNIS COTHARN

John Dennis Cotharn, 93, went to be with the Lord on December 28, 2020. He was born on November 3, 1927 to parents John Wicks and Lula (Amazon) Cotharn in Washington on the Brazos, Texas. John proudly served his country in the United States Army. Once he finished his service to our country, John worked for Champion Paper Mill as a shift supervisor for 39 dedicated years. John married the love of his life, Rita, in July of 1950 and spent 64 loving years together before her passing in 2014.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Rita Cotharn; and sister, Velma Mae Knox. He is lovingly survived by his brother-in-law, Leland Knox; as well as nieces, nephews, other extended family members, and friends.

The family invites you to join them for a visitation at South Drive Baptist Church on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. with funeral services to immediately follow at



10:00 A.M. John will privately be laid to rest next to his wife at Wheat Cemetery in Millican, Texas under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made in memory of John to the Houston SPCA (7007 Old Katy Road, Houston TX 77024-2109) or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (PO Box 50, Memphis TN 38101-9929).

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JAMIE MECHELLE  
MCDONALD-FININIS

Jamie Mechelle McDonald-Fininis, 42, of Crosby, Texas, passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. She was born October 23, 1978, in Houston, Texas to James Edward McDonald and Marilyn Rae McDonald. From the time she was 17, she worked at Southwest Oilfield Products, sweeping floors and cleaning. Over the years, she worked her way up to logistics manager and ended her career after roughly 20 years. She spent most of her time taking care of those she loved and attending meetings at Baytown's NA group KIC. Her pride and joy was her sweet grandbaby, who she adored dearly. She was proud of her family, friends, and will be dearly missed.

She is preceded in death by her sister Callie Rae Carlton-Soffes, Grandmother Rachel Lou Greer, Grandfather, Travis Wayne Greer, loving Uncle Alley Strokos, Cousin Randy Strokos, Grandmother Brucie McDonald, Grandfather John McDonald, Aunt Polly, and Uncle Marvin Fryman, Uncle Raymond McDonald, Uncle John McDonald Jr. In the year 2020, she lost Uncle Stanley Buckler to COVID-19, Aunt Debbie McCarty, Uncle Ray Buckler, and Uncle Paul Blankenship.

She is survived by her mother and father, James and Marilyn McDonald, brother, Jerry McDonald Harris, daughter, Rylee Rae McDonald



Fininis, son, William "Alex" Alexander Fininis III, ex-husband, William Alexander Fininis III, granddaughter, Jasmine RaeAnn Robins, nieces, Chelsea Karwowski, and husband Dave Karwowski, Taylor Beidekapp, Kori Harris. Nephews, Ty Harris, and wife, Hailey Harris, Cameron Soffes, and wife Stephanie Soffes. Great nieces and Nephews, Laikynn Karwowski, Bradley Soffes, Jackson Soffes, and Rilynn Karwowski. Along with many many distant family and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Tuesday, December 29, 2020, from 10:00am until 12:00pm with funeral services following right after. Internment is in Sterling White Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Sterling White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562. To offer condolences to the family, please visit www.sterlingwhite.com

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KENNETH R. MCVAY

Kenneth R. McVay was born on October 7, 1963 in Baytown, Texas. He passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 19, 2020. His parents were W. Lloyd McVay and Nelda McVay. He was the first of two children. Kenneth attended the University of Houston, earned his Bachelors in Math and Civil Engineering, and went on to obtain his Masters of Physical Science (Geology). After graduation, he began a career as a structural engineer and high school and middle school math teacher.

He was a member of the Chi Epsilon of Civil Engineering, was a Coach, member and teacher of the George H. Gentry Mustang Family.

Among his hobbies were target shooting, lock picking, painting pastels, leather working, classical and folk guitar, coaching and problem solving. He also enjoyed listening to country and folk/ Irish music.

Kenneth is preceded in death by his mother Nelda McVay. He is survived by his wife of 35 years Robin Creed



McVay; Father, W. Lloyd McVay; brother, Randall McVay and wife Juanita Blue McVay and nephew Philip Blue, and a host of many friends.

Per Mr. McVay's wishes, no services are scheduled at this time. Mr. McVay's friends and family are encouraged to leave a loving tribute to share a favorite memory for Mr. McVay's family below in the "Memories" section.

The staff of Earthman Baytown are honored to be entrusted with the care of Mr. McVay. If our staff can be of any assistance, please contact us at 281-422-8181.

EARTHMAN BAYTOWN  
Funeral Home & Memory  
Gardens Cemetery

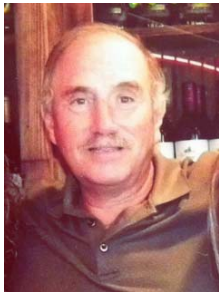
281-422-8181  
earthmanbaytown.com

FRANKIE HARRIS REYES, SR.

Frankie Harris Reyes Sr., 74 years old, passed away on Monday, 12/21/2020. He was the husband of Maria De La Luz Gonzalez Reyes and shared 40 wonderful years of marriage. Born in Houston, Texas, he was the son of Jose Camarillo Reyes and Mary Irene Harris. He attended Furr High School and worked with his wife at Gulf States Toyota in Spring, Texas before retiring in August of 2012.

He was a member of St. Philip of Jesus Catholic Church and the Cursillo organization. Frankie embraced the world and all it had to offer. He enjoyed traveling, history, sports and practicing his faith by teaching catechism on Sunday's for the past 40 years. He will be remembered for his witty jokes, kindness, and giving heart.

Frankie is survived by his wife, Maria; siblings Jimmie Joan Longoria, Linda Martinez, Arthur Reyes; children Elisabeth Hayden and husband Jerome Hayden, Frankie Reyes



Jr. and wife Laura Reyes, Melquisedec Reyes and wife Denise Reyes, Mireya Garcia and husband Tito Garcia, and his eleven wonderful grandchildren. He is predeceased by his late brother Joe Reyes, and lives on by a host of relatives and friends who will cherish his loving memories forever.

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ASK THE EXPERT

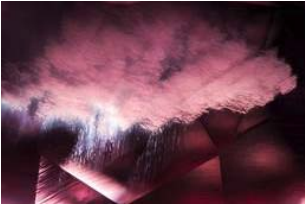
ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What is an ‘inclusion’ found in gemstones?”

Inclusions or imperfections occur in nearly every type of gemstone. Natural diamonds, for example, are the result of carbon exposed to tremendous heat and pressure deep in the earth. This process can result in a variety of internal characteristics called ‘inclusions’ and external characteristics called ‘blemishes.’ Evaluating diamond clarity involves determining the number, size, relief, nature, and position of these characteristics, as well as how these affect the overall appearance of the stone. While no diamond is perfectly pure, the closer it comes, the higher its value.

The same principals hold true for all gemstones including ruby, emerald, sapphire, and more. But, does a gem with an internal inclusion always diminish its value? No, not always. In rare instances, the inclusion might be so unique that it could add to the gem’s value if a prospective buyer agrees. I remember reading an article that contained a picture of a diamond with a small heart-shaped internal inclusion which, interestingly enough, was red in color. Once this was seen by a couple looking for an engagement ring, they wanted no other diamond, period.

Alexandrite is long considered a “good luck” stone by the people of Russia. This gemstone changes color from violet, to blue, to green, and to red, depending on the type and intensity of the light the stone is viewed under.



An example of nature imitating nature was seen in a 0.73 carat faceted alexandrite showcasing an inclusion reminiscent of a rain cloud (see above). The “cloud” was composed of white particles oriented as parallel bands that displayed a cloud-like silhouette when viewed at an angle. The “rain” was composed of fine oriented reflective needles commonly referred to as silk. Fiber-optic lighting allowed for a concentration of white light to be seen under the cloud, creating an appearance of lightning. The inclusion scene observed in this gem is an interesting novelty that any gemologist can appreciate and perhaps even a willing buyer. This group of inclusions are truly unique but, do they add to or lessen the stone’s price? Remember, “beauty is in the eye of the beholder”, and so too is the value.

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](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com). J

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

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CRIME WATCH

Fatal shooting at 9101 Clinton Drive

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man at 9101 Clinton Drive about 3:20 p.m. on Thursday (December 17).

The identity of the victim, 28, is pending notification to family members by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives P. Pak and C. Flora reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting at the above address and met with Houston Fire Department paramedics and possible witnesses. Officers learned the victim had been transported to an

area hospital with at least one gunshot wound and was pronounced deceased.

A preliminary investigation and additional evidence indicated the victim was shot at an unknown location while driving. He then drove himself to the gas station parking lot at the above address to get help for his wounds.

At this time, there is no known motive or suspect(s).

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Suspect arrested in fatal shooting at 660 Maxey

Houston police have arrested a suspect charged in the fatal shooting of a man found at 660 Maxey Road about 8:30 a.m. on December 15.

Orellana Wilmer (H/m, 35) is charged with murder in the 208th State District Court. A booking photo of Wilmer is included in this news release. He is accused in the shooting death of Julio Reyes, 21.

HPD Homicide Division Detective C. Sharp reported:

Mr. Reyes was found with an apparent gunshot wound in the living room of the residence at the above address. Witnesses reported Reyes was last seen drinking with an unidentified Hispanic male on the night of December 14. The next morning, witnesses found Reyes deceased and the Hispanic male missing.



ORELLANA WILMER

Further investigation identified the suspect as Wilmer and, on December 27, he was charged with murder. Wilmer was already in custody in the Harris County Jail for an unrelated charge.

Anyone with additional information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Man found deceased at 11999 East Freeway

Houston police are awaiting autopsy results in the death of a man found at 11999 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) service road about 10:35 a.m. today (December 21).

The victim, Michael Clem, 32, was pronounced dead at the scene.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant M. Holbrook and Detective J. Roscoe reported:

Mr. Clem was staying at a motel at the above address with his girlfriend

when he collapsed on the floor and became unresponsive. Paramedics pronounced Clem deceased. Responding officers found a substance believed to be illegal narcotics in the room.

The investigation is pending Clem’s manner and cause of death.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600.

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CHARLOTTE’S WEB



Welcome to 2021

As we welcome in a new year, I am a part of a group of friends who are challenging each other to stay positive, get involved and make a difference in the lives of others. During the past year, there were plenty of occurrences that opened the door to be negative. And just because we have moved into a new year, does not mean there will not be times that we get upset, but having an accountability partner or two will hopefully motivate us to think before we grumble.

On January 1, I met with Diane to work on a project for those in the North Channel Area who want to offer a “Hand Up” to our neighbors who are currently homeless. We want to work with others who are already doing things to assist this group of individuals. We are aware of Roy’s Safe Haven who ministers at least twice a month to provide food and other items. We are aware of GROW Ministry who goes out weekly to feed the hungry. We are aware of a larger group that is comprised of law enforcement, churches, individuals and various agencies who are working with elected officials to build a facility in the area to serve many of the needs of these neighbors.

One common desire of all of those who work with the homeless is to provide resources that will help these individuals to understand that we want to see them succeed. We have no desire to shame them as it is just by the grace of God that it is not us living out in the streets. Many of us will admit that we do not have two months’ worth of salary sitting in a savings account just in case we fall on hard times. None of us have the right to judge anyone. We do not know how these individuals ended up on the streets but if we take the time to listen perhaps, we can be better neighbors. As I have grown older, I have realized that most people have remarkably simple, yet common desires. We want to be loved and accepted. We want to help others. We want to leave other better than how we met them.

In the months ahead, please be looking for information about how to get involved. We want to start by encouraging those that are out on the streets. Instead of grumbling about them, perhaps give them a box of 30 large trash bags so that they can clean up the area where they are at. When you stop at an intersection, look them in the face. Speak to them if you feel comfortable. Remember, that they are someone’s child. Perhaps they are someone’s parent. At the very least, pray for them. My prayer is that 2021 will be the year they find a place to live.

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Fergie’s Baytown Bar & Grill has filed for a Change of Location to open a restaurant/bar at 3615 FM-1942. Owned by H.M. Beverage, Inc., the company’s President Martin Ferguson, Vice-President Christopher Westra and Secretary Michael Davis hold a TABC Mixed Beverage Permit.

LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF JACINTO CITY

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED TWO VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATIONS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. 10302 MUNN – MS. ROSITA HERNANDEZ IS WANTING TO BUILD A STRUCTURE IN THE BACK OF THE LOT FACING MERCURY TO OPEN A DAY SPA BUSINESS.

2. 1106 DACUS – MR. JOSE TAMEZ IS WANTING TO HAVE A BUSINESS ON THE MERCURY SIDE AND A RESIDENCE ON THE DACUS SIDE.

THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.

NOTICE OF STREET ADDRESS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

The street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 is 13410 Holly Park Dr., Houston, Texas 77015.

NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 (“District”)

The District’s administrative office is located at 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, Texas 77530.

NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE


Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 (“District”)

The District’s administrative office is located at 911 Hollywood Street, Houston, Texas 77015.

NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5 is 5915 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas 77532.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. WQ0010831001

**APPLICATION.** City of Galena Park, P.O. Box 46, Galena Park, Texas 77547, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to amend Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010831001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0057185) to authorize altering the metals limits. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 1107 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Galena Park, in Harris County, Texas 77547. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to the Panther Creek portion of the Houston Ship Channel (Buffalo Bayou Tidal). TCEQ received this application on September 28, 2020. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Galena Park City Hall, 2000 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility’s general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application.  
<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afb-c468bbdd360f8168250f&marker=-95.231111%2C29.735833&level=12>

The application is subject to the goals and policies of the Texas Coastal Management Program and must be consistent with the applicable Coastal Management Program goals and policies

**ADDITIONAL NOTICE.** TCEQ’s Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director’s decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director’s decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

**TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST:** your name, address, phone number; applicant’s name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement “[I/we] request a contested case hearing.” If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group’s representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member’s location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group’s purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

**MAILING LIST.** If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director’s decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners’ Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency’s public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Galena Park at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Mark Havran, P.E., LJA Engineering, Inc., at 713-657-6014.

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# Mustangs win back-to-back Playoff Games,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were made by: Quarterback Demetrius Davis (4), Shadrach Banks (2) and Charles King (1). Davis passed for 302 yards and 3 TD's completing 78 percent of his passes. Extra point kicks were made by Carlos Dominguez and Stephen Guzman.

The tough Mustang defense allowed only 192 yards and kept the Falcons quarterback Jalen Milroe pressured the entire game, sacking him numerous times.

In the Quarterfinal game against Ridge Point the Eastside Boys took the title. Under head coach Jon Kay these two wins gave them a 28 consecutive win-streak, winning 44 of their last 45 games. If they win the upcoming semi-final they'll get to play for their 3rd consecutive state title. If they win it, they'll make Texas 6A football history, no 6A team has ever accomplish this.

After the 6A Division I Region III final game Kay said, "Any time you get an opportunity to represent the city of Houston, especially in the Division I bracket, you've got to appreciate it. It's a big accomplishment for the team, kids, and this community, everybody in the Mustang Nation is a part of it."

The Mustang defense allowed the Panthers only 2 TD's, giving up 259 total yards. Causing 2 fumbles and a pass interception. They sacked the Panthers Quarterback Bert Emanuel Jr. 4 times in the first half. On the last play of the 2nd quarter Emanuel got injured and never returned to finish the game.

North Shore's offense made 545 yards both passing and rushing. With 8 TD's, quarterback Demetrius Davis, an Auburn



Mustang #57 Aaron Brown sacks the Katy Falcon quarterback. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#32 Xavier Owens, Mustang outruns Ridge Point Panthers for a 54 yard TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

signee passed for 156 yards completing 70 percent of his passes and 2 TD's and he ran for 3 TD's. His first passing TD of the game went to his favorite receiver Shadrach Banks, a Texas A&M signee who caught a over-the-middle pass on their own 9 yard line and ran 91 yards for the score.

Touchdowns were made by: Demetrius Davis (3),

Shadrach Banks (1), Rashaad Johnson (1), Xavier Owens (1), Charles King (1) and Josh Garrett (1).

Next Game: will be the 6A Div 1 Region 3 Semifinals - NS (14-0 Overall, 6-0 District) vs Austin Westlake Chaparrals (12-0 Overall, 6-0 District). Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021 at 2:00 PM at Katy ISD Legacy Stadium.

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