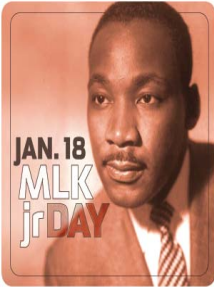


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COVID-19

Cases as of
January 12, 2021

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

424,203 POSITIVE
4,456 DEATHS
338,930 RECOVERED

TEXAS

1,993,187 POSITIVE
30,629 DEATHS
1,568,710 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

22,775,378 POSITIVE
379,444 DEATHS
--- RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

91,374,370 POSITIVE
1,956,635 DEATHS
50,537,714 RECOVERED

COVID-19 RESOURCES

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Harris County Ask a Nurse
713-634-1110
Harris County Pre-Screening
832-927-7575 or
readyharris.org
Harris County Mobile Tests
713-439-6000
MD Medical 1-888-776-5252
Methodist Hospital
Download mymethodist app.

Westlake Chaparrals end Mustangs playoff run 24-21

By Allan Jamail

Katy, TX. - Saturday, January 9, 2021 at Katy's Legacy Stadium the North Shore Mustangs (Eastside Boys) were eliminated in the Class 6A Division 1 State Semifinal football game by Austin Westlake Chaparrals 24-21.

The Chaparrals took the game's opening kickoff and after getting stopped on the 41 yard line they kicked a 41 yard field goal for the game's first score to take the lead 3 - 0.

The Mustangs took the ensuing kickoff and in their opening drive Mus-



North Shore's junior running back #32 Xavier Owens stretches the ball across the goal with a 9 yard go-ahead 4th quarter TD. (Allan Jamail Photo)

tangs junior running back Xavier Owens fumbled the ball giving it back to Westlake on the Mustangs 14 yard line. With



#8 Mustang's sophomore wide receiver David Amador catches a 2nd quarter 55 yard TD pass from quarterback Demetrius Davis for their first score. (Allan Jamail Photo)

only 5 minutes into the game Chaparrals quarterback Cade Klubnik threw a touchdown (TD) pass giving them a 10 - 0 lead.

North Shore's Demetrius Davis completed a 55 yard pass to David Amador for a TD bringing the score within 3. Chaparrals 10, Mustangs 7. Later the Mustangs passed up a field goal attempt on fourth down while trying to pick up a first down, instead giving up the ball on loss of downs. Before halftime Westlake extended their lead 17 - 7 on a 47 yard pass for a TD. To close the first half Davis had his pass intercepted.

The Mustangs took the

See **MUSTANGS FALL TO WESTLAKE**, page 6

North Shore Scarlets Dance Team performs

By Allan Jamail

January 12, 2021 – “Once a Scarlet, Always a Scarlet” is the motto of the Scarlets. The GPISD Scarlets is a dance team that perform at functions like varsity football and basketball games, pep rallies, community events and contest in the state. The Scarlets are composed of students from the 10th, 11th, and 12 grades of North Shore Senior High, with a junior varsity dance team called the Reserves, which is composed of the 9th graders.

The Scarlets have a Booster Club which supporters, fans and citizens can join for \$8 a year. As a member of the booster club, you'll receive information on upcoming Scarlet events and be invited to vote on fundraisers which is how they earn money to

*Continued. See
SCARLETS, page 8*



The 2020-2021 North Shore Senior High School Scarlets Dance Team. Director Mrs. Audra E. Taylor & Assistant Director Ms. Angela Upshaw. (Allan Jamail Photo)

Military Officers: Captain Olivia Riojas-Bellini, Co-Captain Jade Johnson, Sr. Lieutenant Nuves Cordero-Ramsden, Jr. Lieutenants Trinitee Armstrong, Benet Matteer & Bria Murphy.

Social Officers: President Abigail Tellez, Vice President Linda Hermida, Secretary Ameyha Young, Historian Allayra Jenkins & Social Chairpersons Jakayla Griffin & Tyteonna Pullins.

Line Dancers: Hailey Allard, Susan Ascencio, Judith Cardona, Alexa Coomer, Jessica De La Cruz, Priscilla Diaz, Isabell Esparza, Raquel Fultz, Melissa Garcia, Elizabeth Gonzales, Emily Guerrero, Jordyn Hadnot, Malenna Hamlin, Emily Herrera, Deivion Houston, Aniyah Jackson
Jasmin Jimenez, Isabella Jimenez, Sofia Lenart, Jennifer Martinez, Reina Martinez, Angelica Molina, Montserrat Molina, Alexa Moya, Emily Najar, Angela Ornelas, Natalie Parra, Brigit Pineda, Rebecca Portillo, Marisol Ramirez, Nyla Ramirez, Savanna Ramirez, Armani Rebolgar, Jazmine Rodriguez, Ayriel Rucker, Crista Salazar, Victoria Stuart, Syrena Tijerina, Ashley Trejo, Delanie Vega, Ashley Walter, Sierra Ward, Serenity Wilkins & Kennedy Wiltz.

87th Texas Legislature convenes this week

New House speaker lays out challenges

The 87th session of the Texas Legislature opened Tuesday with COVID-19 encompassing every aspect of what the lawmakers do, according to new House Speaker Dade Phelan.

“COVID, obviously, it will be a blanket over the entire session,” Phelan told his hometown TV station, KFDM Channel 6, in Beaumont. “We will deal with it in every aspect of policy. It will be a huge determining factor in the budget.”

Before the pandemic hit, Phelan said, legislators “were supposed to come into this budget cycle with a surplus, and now we’re coming into it with a deficit ...” Money will be even tighter for the next two-year budget lawmakers write during the session, he said.

“The No. 1 goal is to get the economy back on track,” Phelan said

For opening day, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and State Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth and chair of the administration com-



TEXAS STATE CAPITOL, AUSTIN

mittee, laid out safety protocols for lawmakers and visitors to follow at the Capitol, which recently reopened after closing in March because of the pandemic. The opening ceremony was scheduled to be shorter than usual to reduce time spent gathering.

“It’s always been difficult to be speaker. It’s never been easy, but going into this session, the 87th, given the budget deficit, redistricting, and the fact that we have the first pandemic in 102 years in which to operate, I’m exceptionally proud they’ve given me this honor,” Phelan said of the bipartisan coalition of lawmakers that voted for him to be the new speak-

er.

Phelan, a Republican, stressed the bipartisan spirit of Texas and cited how well former Gov. George W. Bush worked with Democratic Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock during their time serving together at the Capitol.

“That is the Texas model. We’ve always worked that way,” Phelan said. “If you’re sitting at the speaker’s dais and you’re looking at all the chairs in the House chamber, there is no left side or right side, red, blue, like there is in Washington, D.C. We all sit amongst each other.”

Lawmakers are scheduled to be in session until May 31.

County libraries provide service in spite of Pandemic

By Jada Mier

Harris County Branch Libraries Celebrates 100 years of Service and Continue modified services during the Pandemic.

This year HCPL celebrates the library’s first one hundred years and its commitment to remain a vital and vibrant asset for the people of Harris County. Edward Melton, HCPL’s Executive Director says, “The growth, progress and innovation you see in the library’s story over its first one hundred years mirrors that of Harris County.” In preparation for their Centennial, HCPL librarians, for the first time, began systematically collecting and digitizing materials to document the library’s history. Their efforts resulted in the HCPL Digital Archive, an ongoing collection of photos, articles, scrapbooks, and videos of HCPL since 1921. Each month in 2021, the Archive will present digital exhibits to tell a specific story – bookmobiles, important people at HCPL, hurricanes and other disasters. It will also feature each of HCPL’s 26 branches throughout 2021, with detailed timelines that trace the library’s cen-



JACINTO CITY HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY

tury long commitment to serve Harris County residents.

Although Harris County Branch Libraries have been closed to the public since the end of March 2020. The libraries have had alternatively a strong online presence by posting virtual programs to Facebook and Instagram pages. Since people can no longer walk into library buildings to browse books or utilize the rows of computers, the new curbside services have made it possible for citizens to still obtain materials and print needed documents.

Stratford, North channel, Jacinto City, Galena Park, High Meadows, and

Aldine are only six of the twenty-six Harris County Branches that have adapted their services to meet their community’s needs. Two of their most successful system wide programs include Book Buddies and their Career Online High School scholarships. In the Career Online High School scholarship the students Earn an accredited high school diploma while gaining real-world career training through a flexible, supportive, online education program. Book Buddies switched from a branch run program to a county wide program,

See **LIBRARIES**, page 3

Crosby man welcomes centenarian birthday



Alvin Stasney, 100, lives in Crosby where he was born on January 2, 1921 and stayed to raise his family. Stasney turned 100 years old on January 2 while recuperating in the hospital from partial hip replacement surgery. He is pictured on this great day with his wife, Virginia and three children, Rebecca, Laura and Mark. He can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 379, Crosby, Texas 77532. Alvin Stasney is the last living crew member of the Mairzy Doats, a World War II bomber crew. The Mairzy Doats name was taken from the title of a nonsense song by the Pied Pipers that was just fun to sing and popularized during the war by Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. The song made the pop charts several times, with a version by the Merry Macs reaching No. 1 in March 1944.

During the early months of 1944, Alvin Stasney, served as navigator on a B-24 Liberator 4-engine bomber. At that time of the air war over Europe the loss rate for airmen was so high that it appeared statistically impossible to complete their required 25 missions to be sent home, "mission accomplished." For example, upon joining the 392 Bomb Group based in Wendling England, my Dad's first mission was to bomb a Messerschmitt facility (Nazi airplane manufacturing facility) near Gotha, Germany. On that day, 20% of the Liberators in his group were lost, and half of the planes that survived received battle damage. The crew was alone over Berlin unaware the mission was scrubbed.

According to the Mighty Eighth War Diary by Roger Freeman, on March 3, 1944 the entire 8th Air Force was dispatched to the Berlin area with approximately 750

heavy bombers and 730 fighter aircraft. The weather conditions faced that day turned out to be among the worst ever experienced, with heavy clouds up to 30,000 feet and temperatures reaching below minus 60° F.

With zero visibility in any direction, Alvin Stasney's B-24, named the "Mairzy Doats" crossed through another B-24's propwash. Their plane went into a stall and partial tailspin, diving perilously toward the sea below. Pilot Joe Darnell struggled and eventually he pulled their Liberator out of its dive towards the frigid North Sea below.

The Mairzy Doats resumed course. Weather deteriorated, the temperature dropping below their gauge dial limit of minus 60° F. The aircraft radio stopped working, their wrist watches froze. With visibility still at zero, their plane became separated from the rest of the formation. However they continued on to the

war industrial target just north of Berlin, with Stasney navigating by instrument.

Nearing their target, Pilot Darnell found some visibility but no other aircraft was present. The entire force had been recalled due to the horrific weather conditions. Darnell's crew didn't receive the message due to distraction from their near crash and their radio malfunction.

Upon landing, Navigator Alvin Stasney and Bombardier Frank Richardson were immediately transported to the hospital by ambulance.

No debriefing of Alvin was done, so nothing was ever entered into the 392nd Bomb Group official records regarding this first American B-24 over Berlin - albeit unofficial.

Both Stasney and Richardson flew the next two Berlin missions on March 6th and 8th. Richardson, was killed in action on March 18.

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OBITUARIES

ERNEST TODD ROSS

Ernest Todd Ross passed away in Pasadena, Texas on January 3rd, 2021. Ernest Todd Ross is preceded in death by his Mother Theresa Flo Ross in February of 2020.

Ernest Todd Ross is survived by his Sons Ernest Paul Ross of Houston, Texas, Ernest Todd Ross of Bessemer, Alabama, and Joshua Walker of Wheeling, West Virginia; Sister Tara Erna Neal and husband Mark; Grandson Cristian and Grand Daughters Calie and Amelia.

Ernest Todd Ross was born in Steubenville, Ohio



in June of 1962. He graduated from C.E. King High School in Houston in 1978.

Mr. Ross had a varied working career in the Oil Field Services, as a Painter, a Carpenter, Blinds Installer and Telemarketing. He will be missed deeply by his Family.

Future remembrance services are pending.


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Highlands Rotary modifies Feb. 6 Chili Feast

Raffle ON, Chili OUT, Location NEW

HIGHLANDS – The raffle associated with the Annual Highlands Rotary Chili Feast will be held at The Highlands United Methodist Church, 107 W Houston St., Highlands, on Saturday, February 6th. Due to the pandemic, there will not be a Chili dinner, auction or any other type of events that is usually associated with the Chili Feast. Just the raffle. There will be nothing held at St. Jude's Catholic church this year.

Rotarians will be at the Methodist Church from 9 am till 12 noon on Feb 6th to sell tickets and people are encouraged to come there to buy tickets if they have not bought tickets yet. Cut off for ticket sales will be 12 noon on the 6th.

There will be a live internet feed, Facebook, Clubrunner or other location. The drawing will be held in the same manner as before - all ticket stubs will be placed in the hopper and all ticket stubs will be drawn and all tickets drawn will be recorded as usual.

Prizes will be available that day at the Methodist Church and if the winner can not pick them up that day they will be taken to Weston Cotten's Law Office on the corner of Wallisville and Thompson in Highlands.

This is the Rotary Club's ONLY fundraiser for all of the projects they do in and around Highlands, including Scholarships, Partners in Education, Bay Area

Homeless Shelter, the book mobile for Highlands Library (in progress), Baytown Youth Fair, Crosby Youth Fair, Bra's for the Cause and many more, and we are asking the community to please continue their support by buying these tickets. Tickets are available in the community at the office of Larry White, DDS - 281 426 3558, Charlie's Ice House - 281 426 3632 and Jeremy Rosenkranz State Farm - 281 426 3512 and Weston Cotten Law Firm - 281 421 4050.

Our sponsors will be recognized on that day through our live feed and we want you to please say thank you to all of them for their support in this difficult year.

Harris County Libraries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

opening the program for Little Buddies all over Harris County. Book Buddies at Home is a free program that brings children in K-3rd grade (Little Buddies) and HCPL staff (Big Buddies) together to share the joy of reading in a safe online environment. For 10 weeks, the buddies met once a week for 30 minutes of one-on-one shared reading on Teams.

The first thing to change across the board was how patrons were able to get their physical items. Employees of branch libraries are doing phone-in reference and checkout work. Through Harris County Public Library's online catalogue patrons are able to browse books, movies and CD's and call the branch directly to have items checked out. After the patron calls the branch of their choice all that is left to do is to drive to the location and pick up the requested items.

Printing services work almost exactly the same way, it's an all online process. At each Branch there is a poster explaining in detail how to print out documents directly from any device. Once a patron has uploaded their document and necessary funds through PayPal the only thing left to do is call the branch and provide them with their library card number so that an HCPL employee can take their documents to them.

Book and movie bundles are also a service offered by each branch, patrons can request a customized assortment of books through Harris County's website Hcpl.net and pick them up once they receive a conformation email or phone call. The libraries mission has always been to service the community, the pandemic has not stopped their mission it's simply changed how they complete it

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Jacinto City: 832-927-5520
Address: 921 Akron St, Houston, TX 77029

Galena Park: 832-927-5470
Address: 1500 Keene St, Galena Park, TX 77547

Aldine HIGH MEADOWS: 821-590-1456
Address: 4500 Aldine Mail Rte Rd, Houston, TX 77039

Aldine ALDINE: 832-927-5410
Address: 11331 Airline Dr, Houston, TX 77037



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46th Annual
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808 S. Main Street, Highlands
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OPINION

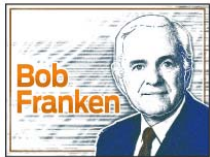
The Trump legacy of Phoniness – One last con

The Trump Legacy of Phoniness —One last con: President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump skipped out on their New Year's gala at Mar-a-Lago, where fans with too much money paid a thousand or so bucks singly because the Trumps were advertised to attend.

But suddenly, the first scammers bailed and returned to the White House, leaving family members and other second fiddles to diddle those willing to be defrauded by the right-wing star-hucksters. While the Trumps are world champion charlatans, there's no shortage of Bunco artists in Washington.

Only too happy to join the Trumpster in his elaborate last-minute swindle to hold on to office by hook or crook was Ted Cruz. In a biopic, there's no obvious actor who would be cast as Trump. But Cruz would definitely be played by Snidely Whiplash of Rocky and Bullwinkle fame. Never mind that Whiplash is a star of animation. He IS Ted Cruz. It's not that Sen. Cruz actually cares whether President Trump is successful. If The Donald falters, Cruz would like to lay claim to his 74 million voters. And Donald Trump has four years to falter. Could he have badly blundered with his hour-long intimidation call threatening Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger?

He threatened Raffensperger with "criminal" prosecution unless he suddenly were to "find" nearly 12,000 Trump votes in Georgia, which would



reverse the state's election. By the way, Brad Raffensperger, the loyal Republican, cast his ballot for Trump before he decided to steadfastly follow all the rules in counting the votes. Including now, when he politely turned down the president and his henchpersons. The question, among others, is how could they not know the call was being recorded?

And Trump's four years out of office and being subject to criminal action hasn't even begun. Four years is a long enough time for all the memories of the Trump years to evaporate: the coronavirus, the racism, the misogyny, the cruel xenophobia, the facile demagoguery. This is to say nothing of the fact that President Joe Biden will have time to create his own messes.

What the Trumpster base has not forgotten is why the millions favored Trump in the first place: the unfairness of the elite and their so-called experts (they lump all the real experts in with the phonies). They despised the intellectuals, many of whom talked a good game but little else, and felt they had suffered from affirmative action and foreign competition. They also believed that their old-fashioned

cultural and religious beliefs were under attack. And along came Donald Trump. He had already shown he has the grift gift. He had been born into wealth but also inherited a ruthlessness to do whatever it took to wriggle out of his ineptitude and achieve huge wealth in the process. An old Southern expression is that The Donald is able to fall in a bucket of spit and come out smelling like a rose. Well, that's pretty close. He has an instinctual ability for public relations. He will find some way to be in the spotlight.

No matter how Joe Biden will try, Donald Trump will parlay the claim that he was cheated out of re-election into a justification to be favored next time around. He might succeed. Ted Cruz and the others can only hope he might not. The only ultimate fight in the GOP will be between one of them and a "Never Trumper" like Mitt Romney. Romney pretends his motives are pure, but that's just his con. Call him Grift Romney, running his own sting versus a Democrat. Both will still be running against Donald Trump, still the center of attention, which is all he ever wanted.

Bob Franken is an Emmy Award-winning reporter who covered Washington for more than 20 years with CNN.

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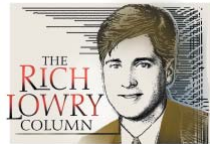
Trump's Shameful Georgia Call

Trump's Shameful Georgia Call —President Donald Trump has turned a narrow electoral defeat into a bid for infamy. His goal in the post-election interlude has been more and more explicitly to overturn the results of the election. Indeed, a couple of weeks ago he tweeted simply, "OVERTURN."

We now know, thanks to a recording of his phone conversation with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger from over the weekend, how far he's gone to pressure state officials to join him in this reprehensible goal. His hour-long lobbying of Raffensperger to declare him the winner in the state is among the worst things an American president has ever been caught saying on the record. There is now no doubt that Trump lost Georgia. Both machine and hand recounts have confirmed a Biden victory of fewer than 12,000 votes. Trump has been agitating for a signature audit, and state officials examined a statistically significant sample of 15,000 absentee ballot envelopes in Cobb County. They found 10 mismatched signatures, but the voters in question all vouchsafed for the legitimacy of the ballots when contacted by investigators.

Georgia has certified its results multiple times and appointed its electors in time to meet the "safe harbor" deadline under federal law, when they are supposed to be considered final and conclusive by the federal government.

Yet, here comes Trump with an LBJ-style bout of arm-twisting to get Raffensperger to declare all of that a grievous mistake. The power differen-



tial between a president of the United States and a state secretary of state is vast — Trump is the most powerful man on the planet whereas Raffensperger isn't even the most powerful man in Georgia. Trump put Raffensperger in the inherently awkward position of having to tell him "no" over and over — snowing him with a variety of numbers for supposed illegal votes, making him parry wild accusations, mocking him and threatening him with vague legal repercussions and, implicitly, with the end of his political career.

There is a reason that Raffensperger didn't take any of the reported prior 18 attempted calls from the White House. Still, to his great credit, he did indeed tell Trump "no" politely and firmly.

Of the two elected officials on the call, only one was calm, reasonable and cogent — and it wasn't the president. Trump was repetitive and ill-informed. He had no idea what charges had been debunked weeks ago. He didn't, or couldn't, distinguish between true and false information. He was fuzzy on the details of his own legal case. He retailed conspiracy theories about ballots being burned and voting machines being removed that would be embarrassing if your uncle shared them on Facebook. The only thing that mattered to him was getting

Raffensperger to pronounce him the winner — legal process and facts be damned.

The problem with Trump has always been his highly personal view of the presidency, wherein institutions, constitutional principles and sheer propriety take a backseat to the felt needs of his ego. At times in his presidency, this failing has been made to serve worthy ends, e.g., stoking economic growth and confirming record numbers of conservative judges as bragging points.

Since the election, though, this tendency has been particularly stark and unredeemed. His personal inability to accept the sting of defeat has led him, shamefully, to wage war on a legitimate election. If he were to somehow succeed in his goal of overturning the result, he would subvert American democracy and irreparably harm our governing institutions, while stoking a constitutional crisis of a magnitude we've only experienced rarely in our history.

And for what? To avoid admitting that he lost. Trump has gotten nowhere, except in convincing some Republican senators and members of Congress to indulge his insistence he really won. Every time the president hoped someone with authority over the election would bend his way, whether an elected official or judge, he's found someone like Raffensperger, dutiful and conscientious enough to say "no."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Chris Cobler



Texas is going big with its approach to COVID-19

Trying to speed up

Texas is going big with its approach to COVID-19 vaccinations this week.

Most of the doses available this week are going to 28 larger providers that can vaccinate at least 100,000 people, Texas Department of State Health Services officials said in a statement. Some doses also will be going to smaller providers in more rural parts of the state.

"We are working hard to improve the vaccination process for everyone," Dr. John Hellerstedt, state health commissioner, said in a statement explaining the pivot to the larger vaccination hubs.

Providers that receive the larger amounts of vaccine will vaccinate health care workers, people 65 and older, and those who have a medical condition that increases their risk of severe disease or death. They also agree to provide a registration phone number and website and to vaccinate people from surrounding areas.

The Texas Department of State Health Services surveyed vaccine providers about their capacity to operate large, community vaccination sites and on Sunday published a list of vaccine hub providers. The hubs will receive a total of 158,825 doses this week.

An additional 38,300 doses will go to 206 providers. Of Texas' 254 counties, 104 will



receive vaccine shipments this week.

State health officials stressed that people need to register in advance for the shots and should not just show up at one of the hubs. Officials also urged patience as supplies remain limited.

Model behavior

The small city of Dickinson set an example for how to handle a close election.

The race for mayor ended in a tie, but the two candidates didn't duke it out. Instead, candidates Sean Skipworth and Jennifer Lawrence followed state law, which calls for a random selection in the unlikely event of a tie.

Election officials in Dickinson, population 21,000 in Galveston County, put the candidates' names on ping-pong balls placed in a tophat. Even though her name wasn't drawn, Lawrence didn't demand a "Hunger Games"-style trial by fire.

Mayor-elect Skip-

worth described a decidedly different scene to KHOU-TV: "We get up there, one of us wins, one of us loses, and we give each other a hug or whatever, say, 'Good job' and wish you the best. Hopefully that's how it's going to be in the country in the future going forward."

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

TX Comptroller estimates \$112b available

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar released the Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) today, showing the state is projected to have \$112.5 billion in revenue available for general-purpose spending during the 2022-23 biennium.

The revenue estimate represents a 0.4 percent decrease from funds available for the 2020-21 biennium. This decline is a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused revenue collections to fall well short of what was expected when the Legislature approved the 2020-21 budget; the ending 2020-21 balance will be close to a negative \$1 billion.

"As is always the case, this estimate is based on the most recent and precise information we have available," Hegar said. "It represents our efforts to provide lawmakers with the most accurate forecast possible as they craft the budget for the 2022-23 biennium and the supplemental spending bill to address the remainder of the current biennium."

"The forecast, however, remains clouded with uncertainty. The ultimate path of the pandemic and the behavior of consumers and businesses during a resurgence are difficult to gauge. It's also unclear how they'll respond once the pandemic is fully under control. As a result, there is a wide range of possible outcomes for state revenue through the end of fiscal 2023, with the possibility of revenue falling short of this forecast but also a chance revenue could exceed it, perhaps substantially."

"In any case, the Legislature will again face some difficult choices to balance the budget. While savings from agency spending cuts and federal funding could help erase the projected shortfall for this biennium, a substantial supplemental appropriations bill could increase it, thereby reducing revenue available for the next biennium."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the unusual events in Washington DC last week, we present two views on the activities of President Trump. One view is from the usually liberal Bob Franken, the other from the usually conservative Rich Lowry. Neither opinion is necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Northeast News, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to NENEWSROOM@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.

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OBITUARY

LOUISE BERAN PETTERS

Louise Beran Petters went to be with the Lord, January 6, 2021. She was born September 10, 1934, at home, to Morise and Katie Beran in Eastgate, Texas.

After she graduated from Dayton High School in 1951, she left the farm in Eastgate and moved to the big city of Houston, Texas to begin her life long career in the mortgage industry. Her career began at John S. Dunn, as a file clerk. John S. Dunn later became Mortgage & Trust and then sold to Mellon Mortgage, where she retired as Vice President after 40 years of service with the same company.

In 1957, she married William (Billy) Petters at Sacred Heart Church in Crosby, TX where they remain members

for over 60 years. While living and working in Houston, she gave birth to twins, Melinda and Michael. She only had 3 weeks maternity leave, so she left the babies with her Mother during the week while she and Bill worked. They returned to the farm on the weekends to care and nurture their babies.

Louise was known as a hardworking soul by everyone she knew. While working in Houston, she would return to the farm on her vacation and help the family pick cotton. Once her children were older, she was involved in many school activities and she served on the Sacred Heart School board for many years.

Upon her retirement, Louise continued to stay busy by volunteering at the Crosby



schools her grandchildren attended. She would help teachers with anything from cutting out pictures to popping popcorn on Fridays. During the last few years of her volunteering, you could find her in the library at Barrett Primary. Her volunteer service did not go unnoticed, as she was awarded Volunteer of the Year and the 2000-2001

Barrett Primary Yearbook was dedicated in her honor.

In addition to her volunteering with the school, she also volunteered at Churches United in Caring and Crosby Community Center where she was recognized many times for her outstanding service as a volunteer.

Louise loved her family; she was a devoted Nanaw to all her grandchildren. She never missed any of their activities whether it be sports, plays, award ceremonies or book fairs. In the summer, her and Papaw would load up ALL the family and they took many memorable trips with their children and grandchildren. Louise loved to read. After her retirement, she loved watching the Astros and the Rockets. She began scrapbooking and spent many hours making all her children and grandchildren their own book. Louise also enjoyed go-

ing to the casino with family, friends and grandchildren. Louise was a spunky white-haired lady before suffering a stroke 5 years ago which prevented her from continuing her volunteer service. Louise was preceded in death by her son Jason Paul Petters, son-in-law Michael Davenport., her parents and her baby sister Betty Jane Beran. She is survived by her loving husband of 63 years, William (Billy) Petters, son Michael Petters, daughter and son-in-law Melinda and Les Arwine, daughter and son-in-law Lisa and Ronnie Ellender, all of Crosby, Texas. Grandchildren Rhonda Barrett, Bob Ellender, Lindy Ellender Trahan, Amy Ellender, Matthew Petters, Damian Petters, Taylor Arwine and McKayla Petters. Great Grandchildren Ryker Petters, Riley and Tori Barrett, William and Aurora Arwine, Blaine Ellender and

Trevor Trahan. She is also survived by her three younger sisters Kay Bray, Margaret Gallagher and MaryAnn Merritt and many more extended family and friends.

She will be truly missed by the Crosby community she dearly loved.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Sacred Heart Church 915 Runnenburg Rd. Crosby, Texas or Churches United in Caring PO BOX 690 Crosby, Texas.

Honoring the Family as Pallbearers are Bob Ellender, Matthew Petters, Taylor Arwine, Damian Petters, Jared Barrett, and Joey Trahan.

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Houston legislators safe after Capitol Riot

Trump blamed; SJLee, AGreen seek impeachment

WASHINGTON, DC – Congress was in joint session last Wednesday, meeting to certify the Electoral College votes from state electors for the president and vice-president. Shortly after the session started, a large crowd of about 8000 persons left a rally near the White House where president Trump was speaking, and assembled at the Capitol, breaking through barriers and storming into the building.

What followed was a deadly riot, where Congress members had to be taken to safe locations away from the destruction and assault of the mob of demonstrators. Our legislators including Sheila Jackson Lee, Sylvia Garcia, and Al Green were just some of the local representatives that were led to safety.

These supporters of President Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol in a protest aimed at thwarting the vote on certification of the electors and their votes, with the aim of stopping the peaceful transfer of power to the new administration.

At the nearby rally, President Trump had told the demonstrators to march to the Capitol and “fight like hell” against a “stolen” election. As a result, hundreds of the mob members entered the building, fighting with Capitol police as they went. They broke windows, doors, signs, and furniture, and stole items throughout the building.

In the ensuing fight with authorities, there were five deaths and hundreds injured. One demonstrator was fatally shot in the neck as she attempted to enter through a broken window, and the other deaths were medical emergencies from the fighting. One Capitol policemen died from the struggle, the others were members of the mob.

Later in the afternoon police were reinforced



Rioters broke into the Capitol building while a joint session of Congress was taking place, to certify Joe Biden as president elect. Congresspersons and others in the room took shelter behind the seats, before they were evacuated to a safe room away from the intruders. ABOVE, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee crouches behind the seats, until she can make her way to safety.



Houston Congresspersons Al Green and Sheila Jackson Lee are among the Representatives in Congress that are leading the move to impeach the President for his part in inciting the riots last week.

by members of the National Guard, who had been called by the White House after some delay, blamed on the President. In a statement during the insurrection, Trump issued a recorded message urging the mob to leave the building and return to their homes, but he added “we love you.” The message also repeated the complaint that he lost the election fraudulently.

After order was restored in the Capitol building, the members of the House and Senate returned to their seats, and continued to vote on acceptance of the electors from each state. Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia reported in a media interview that they finally adjourned at about

3:30 in the morning, having to debate the credentials from two states, Arizona and Pennsylvania which were finally approved as submitted.

Members of Congress, including Democrats and Republicans, immediately called for demonstrators to be arrested and held accountable for their lawlessness.

Continued Below.

Legislators safe after riot,

CONTINUED



Thousands of demonstrators formed a mob that broke through barriers, fought with police, and entered the Capitol building. They broke into offices and the House and Senate chambers, breaking windows, doors, signs, furniture, and stealing many office items. Besides carrying weapons, police later found two pipe bombs and many Molotov cocktail bombs in the possession of some of the mob. The mob included members of QAnon, Proud Boys, militia groups, elected officials, and organized ordinary protestors, according to authorities.

In addition, Congress and much of the nation blamed President Trump for his rhetoric, and for inciting the march on the Capitol with his speech just prior to the insurrection.

Many members of Congress, including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and members of our local delegation, called for removal of Trump from office, either by impeachment of through the provisions of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, which calls for the removal of the President if he is unfit to conduct the duties of his office.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, and Congressman Al Green were especially vocal in their criticism of Trump. They also criticized some of their fellow Congressmen, including Senators Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley, for opposing the certification of the Electoral College votes and asking that they be thrown out.

Jackson Lee described the incursion as follows:

But we were engaged in the constitutional process



Texas Senator Ted Cruz was singled out as one of the instigators of the insurrection, with his anti-election rhetoric.

and the chambers were attacked,” Jackson Lee said.

She added that initially, some members began to flee while others, who couldn’t, waited until they were told to do so.

“The doors were locked. The doors were stamped. The doors were jammed with furniture. Guns were drawn, shots were fired and we were on the ground. In the essence of the United States Capitol, the symbol of democracy, right before our very eyes, was not only attacked but it was an attempt to de-

stroy. Glass breaking. Going into windows. This is a symbol of the United States of America. Putting flags of Donald Trump on historic statues. This was a horrible scene, because America represents, to the world, the greatest democracy ever. So frankly, what happened, plain and simple - attack. I think the other thing that was so distressing was that a young woman was shot right outside of the chambers. That young woman is dead. Blood lays at the feet of Donald J. Trump,” she said.

As a result of her experiences in the riot, Congresswoman Jackson Lee last Thursday introduced Articles of Impeachment against President Donald Trump.

“At this moment in our history, our Constitutional forefathers are crying out for us to use the tools provided in this ageless document. Yesterday, we saw domestic enemies incite violence and invade the people’s house with the intent to harm. Enough is enough! The president has completely lost whatever

moral authority he had and is unfit as Commander in Chief,” Jackson Lee said in a release.

In her Impeachment Articles, Jackson Lee claims Trump has continued to undermine the essential institutions and foundations of a democratic system of government in the United States. She also lists he has engaged in a long train of abuses and usurpations to make himself an authoritarian ruler unaccountable to, and independent of, the people of the United States.

Her charges include:

Refusing to acknowledge Russian interference in the internal affairs of the United States, and then opposing responses by Congress and the Executive Branch to protect the national security and interests of the United States against future Russian interference and aggression.

Refusing continuously to acknowledge to the American people that he would accept and be bound by the verdict rendered in the 2020 Presidential election, instead claiming that any outcome in which he was not declared the winner was fraudulent, rigged, and illegitimate.

Instituting frivolous lawsuits to overturn the results of the 2020 Presidential election, falsely alleging wide-spread voting fraud but producing no evidence in support of his spurious allegations.

Failing to take action to protect and defend Federal officers and personnel, property, buildings, and institutions on January 6, 2021, at the U.S. Capitol that was besieged by supporters of Donald John Trump, resulting in extensive damage to the property of the United States and the deaths of at least four persons.

As well as Jackson Lee, another local Congressman has been calling for Trump’s Impeachment for the last 3 Congressional sessions.

On Thursday, January 7, 2021, Congressman Al Green released the follow-



Capitol Police block doors to House Chamber with furniture, and point drawn guns at intruders. Fort Bend former sheriff Troy Nehls is in blue shirt.



Trump at Rally directed crowd to march to Capitol and be strong in opposing Electoral College certification.

ing statement, indicating his co-leadership of Rep. Ilhan Omar’s (MN-05) articles of impeachment as well as his original sponsorship of Rep. David Cicilline’s (RI-01) articles of impeachment:

“Joined by over 100 different Members of Congress overall, I presented three sets of articles of impeachment against President Donald J. Trump in 2017, 2018, and 2019 because of several well-documented instances of his impeachable conduct. These efforts laid the foundation for the successful impeachment of our 45th President of the United States on December 18, 2019,” Congressman Al Green (TX-09) stated.

“The President’s more recent rhetoric and actions have been harmful – including his request of Georgia’s Secretary of State to unlawfully overturn the 2020 presidential election results as well as

his seditious incitement of insurrection at our nation’s Capital during the Joint Session to count electoral votes.”

“Bearing all this in mind, I am proud to co-lead Rep. Omar’s articles of impeachment and co-sponsor Rep. Cicilline’s articles of impeachment, because I support impeachment for impeachable offenses.”

Congressman Green added, “For the past four years, it has been perspicuously clear that President Trump is unfit to be president and has engaged in impeachable behavior. Some may deem impeachment pointless when only 13 days remain before his term expires. Some may say the Senate will never convict him. I believe it is essential that Members of Congress go on record and indicate where they stand with this would-be dictator who employs seditious and incite rhetoric to fuel his base.”

ASK THE EXPERT

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What is the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO)?”



The Independent Jewelers Organization is an elite group of retail jewelers. Members are Master IJO Jewelers and are hand-selected for membership in the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO). IJO is an organization which only accepts jewelers with the highest ethical standards and superior professional integrity. IJO provides marketing and educational opportunities to over 1,000 members worldwide.

As a Master IJO Jeweler, members receive benefits such as expert training, allowing them to update their knowledge, skills and experience to help the consumer make a confident jewelry purchase. Group purchasing power allows Master IJO Jewelers to pass a significant savings on to their customers while maintaining the highest quality products they have come to know. And the fact that IJO Jewelers are active members of their communities means they strive to offer an unsurpassed level of service.

IJO members also offer you a host of exclusive services.

- Extensive buying opportunities, bringing the top fashions and best prices to you, the customer.
- The ability to buy diamonds to buy directly from the cutters through their offices in the famous city of Antwerp, Belgium, the diamond capital of the world.
- Master IJO Jewelers are full service jewelers with knowledgeable staff who will educate and guide you through your purchase either online or at the store.
- Master IJO Jewelers have the opportunity to attend two trade shows each year, where top-notch jewelry vendors exhibit the latest designs.

The IJO is the best resource to find your local 'Master Jeweler'. The Master IJO Jeweler designation affirms that each member company is an independent jewelry business which operates within a well defined code of business ethics. Trust, Expertise, Honesty, Confidence and Integrity are the core principals of a Master IJO Jeweler, helping to ensure that you get the “Brilliance You Deserve”® no other jeweler can provide. For more information please contact IJO at www.ijo.com.


Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the IJO for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

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


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.

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North Shore falls to Westlake,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



At the end of the 3rd quarter Mustang's #4 quarterback Demetrius Davis runs 50 yards while squeezing across the goal after getting a key block from #6 junior Jhalyn Bailey. (Allan Jamail Photo)



With 1:43 minute to go and after a gallant single-handed struggle by #7 Jayven Anderson Mustang's defensive back with Westlake Chaparral's quarterback #6 Cade Klubnik barely crossed the goal line for the final go-ahead touchdown. (Allan Jamail Photo)

opening 3rd quarter kickoff but Demetrius Davis was intercepted again ending their drive and giving the ball back to the Chaparrals. The interceptions came from Westlake's horrific pass rush that sacked Davis 5 times.

Mustangs' defense stepped up and the Mustangs offense got the ball back. Trailing 17 - 7 Demetrius Davis ran for a 55 yard TD, bringing the score within 3 points, ending the 3rd quarter 17-14.

With 12 minutes left in the game beginning the 4th quarter both teams swapped possession several times without a score.

With 4 minutes left in the game and North Shore starting a drive on the Westlake 19 yard line they moved the ball 81 yards. Capping off the drive North Shore's junior running back #32 Xavier Owens crossed the goal with a 9 yard TD giving the Mustangs their first lead of the game 21 to 17.

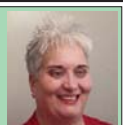
Under 4 minutes the Chaparrals took the ensuing kickoff on their 30 yard

line and moved the ball 70 yards. Faced with a fourth-and-goal from the North Shore 1-yard line with time ticking away, quarterback Cade Klubnik faked a handoff and rolled around to the left end. His touchdown with 1:43 left in the game was the decisive play in their victory. Their 1st quarter field goal ended up being the 3 point difference.

It looked like the Mustangs still had time to pull out a win. They took their final possession with 1:43 to play. On first and ten a Mustangs offensive lineman was called with a motion penalty making it first and fifteen. Faced with seconds on the clock a pass to Shadrach Banks on fourth down after the officials took a measurement it was inches short of the first down.

The victory extended Westlake's winning streak to 23 games. North Shore, the two-time defending 6A DI champion, saw its winning streak stopped at 29 games.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Get Involved in 2021

I remember hearing “Somedays you feel like the bug and somedays you feel like the windshield.” It seems that 2020 left a sour taste in many mouths. On an almost daily basis, social media as well as mainstream media is filled with negative comments. I am the first to agree that due to experiences had in the past few years many have lost the basic values of empathy, compassion, kindness and concern for others. Yet instead of complaining, let's do something.

If you think you are more qualified than the current elected leaders, start preparing to run for an elected office. This could be anything from your Civic Association Board or Homeowners' Association, or perhaps on the Municipal Utility District Board (Commonly referred to as MUD). You have the opportunities to serve on your local ISD School Board, San Jacinto College Board or the Board of one of the many non-profits in the area. If you are interested in getting involved with a political group, you can serve as an elected Precinct Chair or get involved with a local political group and take it to a new level. (I would suggest getting involved on a local level before jumping at the chance to run for a national office or even statewide office.)

Over the past two years, I have worked with others to gather a list of the most common issues and concerns in our area. There are many people working on various projects and this year, my goal is to help gather those groups together and let them exchange ideas and share the passion. (Decades ago, this is how the North Channel Assistance Ministries came to be. There were many people working on food distributions and while some people went to four or five a month, other neighbors went without food. The area churches gathered together, listened to one another, prayed and joined forces to help the community.) NCAM was formed and today, decades later, they are still distributing groceries to many of our neighbors.

These are the most common areas of concern that people shared included Affordable Housing, Animals, Childcare, Community Beautification, Community Education (GED, ESL and Citizenship classes), Criminal Justice, Domestic Violence, Food Insecurity, Homelessness, Human Trafficking, Leadership Academy, Mental Health, Overcoming Addictions, Physical Health, Public Transportation, Safety, Senior Adults, Single Parents, Sports Activities, Veterans and Voter Education. There are many more topics, yet these received an abundance of comments. Over the next few months, I am going to help you connect to those who are already active in these areas as well as those who want to get involved.

If you have a pet-peeve and want something done, get involved. If you have a passion, get involved. If you are not sure where to start, ask. There are plenty of active community members who would love to have you join them in making the community a better place.

To contact me directly, please email me at Charlotte.Jackson@yahoo.com

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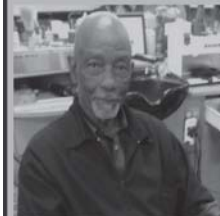
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Galena Park names Principals of the Year



Congratulations to Conrad Rivera and Shaunte Morris for being named Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) 2021 Elementary and Secondary Principal of the Year!

Mr. Rivera has been the principal of Pyburn Elementary School for 8 years, and Mrs. Morris has been the principal of Cunningham Middle School for 4 years.

GPISD would like to congratulate Mr. Rivera and Mrs. Morris, and to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

NS Scarlets Dance Team,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

help offset costs or various items throughout the school year.

Scarlet Captain Olivia Riojas-Bellini as all former Captain's of the Scarlets and officers are selected by an independent judging panel who grades each Scarlet based on their dance routine performances, school activity participation, school grades and various other categories.

Director Mrs. Audra E. Taylor and Assistant Director Ms. Angela Upshaw both dance instructors have a vast amount of dance experience. Mrs. Taylor has an extensive background in dancing and danced professionally,

she's been directing dancers for 25 years and has been with North Shore 23 years. Ms. Upshaw is also the Fine Arts Dance Teacher and has been dancing since she was 5 years old. To become a members of the varsity dance team, 9th grade reserves or the booster club call, 832-386-4151.

Olivia Riojas-Bellini, Captain of the North Shore Senior High School Scarlets Dance Team. The Scarlets perform dance routines at halftime for fans at the Mustangs football and basketball games.

(Allan Jamail Photo)



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