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## Early Voting for Primary Feb. 14 to 25

HARRIS COUNTY – Election season for 2022 kicks off with early voting for the primary races in crucial positions in Harris County starting Monday, Feb. 14. Early voting ends on Friday, Feb. 25 and Primary Election Day is Tuesday, March 1.

Among the primary races catching much of the attention are the Harris County judge race and the Pct. 2 commissioner race. Lina Hidalgo is the incumbent Harris County Judge but faces five opponents in the primary race. One of the Democratic challengers is Georgia D. Provost, a former Houston City Council candidate, and Erica Davis

Constable Alan Rosen's chief of staff. Other Democrats are Maria Garcia, Ahmad R. "Robbeto" Hassan, and Kevin Howard, according to the Texas Secretary of State Election Information page at <https://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>.

Republicans vying for Hidalgo's seat include Randy Kubosh, Houston City Council Michael Kubosh's brother, and Martina Lemond Dixon, Humble ISD board president. Other Republicans on the ballot for the county judge position are Hector Bolanos, Robert

### INCUMBENTS WITH CHALLENGERS



TX GOVERNOR  
GREG ABBOTT



HC JUDGE  
LINA HIDALGO



HC COMMISSIONER  
ADRIAN GARCIA

Dorris, Oscar Gonzales, Warren A. Howell, Vidal Martinez, Alex Mealer, and George Harry Zoos.

In the Pct. 2 Commissioner race, incumbent Adrian Garcia faces his own challengers. In 2018, Garcia defeated Republican

Jack Morman by a margin of less than 1%. In 2022, Garcia will face Democratic challengers Justice of the Peace George Risner and Gary Harrison, a retired police officer.

Morman is trying to get his old seat back,

starting in the Republican primaries. Two mayors are in the race as well. They are John Manlove, Pasadena's former mayor, and Jerry Mouton, Deer Park's mayor. Also in the Republican primary race for the Pct. 2 position is Daniel N.

Jason and Richard Vega.

In the Harris County Commissioner Pct. 4 primary race, incumbent Republican R. Jack Cagle does not have a direct primary challenger, but there are plenty of the Democratic side. The list includes Lesley Briones, Gina Calanni, Benjamin "Ben" Chou, Clarence Miller, Sandra Pelmore, Jeff Stauber, and Ann Williams.

In the Harris County District Clerk primary race, Chris Daniel, who used to hold the seat, is giving it another try and has no Republican primary challenger. Incumbent Democrat Marilyn Burgess has

one, Desiree Broadnax.

There are no primary challengers on either side for the Harris County Clerk race, but Stan Stanart, who once was the county's clerk, has signed up on the Republican side. Incumbent Democrat Teneshia Hudspeth is also seeking another term.

For the Harris County Treasurer primary race, Democrat incumbent Dylan Osborne is being challenged by Carla I. Wyatt, while two Republicans - Eric Dick and Kyle Scott - are facing each other as

*Continued. See Early Voting, p. 2*



SENIOR NIGHT, FOUR SENIOR PLAYERS, THEIR PARENTS, FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS COACHES AND TRAINERS. L-R: Head Coach Sam Benitez, Student Trainer Mariana Guillen, Miranda Dalcourt, Marcel Dalcourt, Sharhonda Jackson, Rodney Jackson, Joseph Richard, Samantha Benitez, Sabrina Thomas, Tristian Thomas, Joseph Thomas, Marie Obyrant, Student Trainer Skyler Mukes, , Kenya Perkins, Assistant Coach Anthony Stephens & Junior Varsity Coach Jonathan Dillon (Photo by Linda Jamail)

### NS VARSITY MUSTANGS SENIOR NIGHT

By Allan Jamail

Saturday, February 12, 2022 at the GPISD North Shore basketball gym the Mustangs on Seniors Night went up against a district powerhouse, the Atascocita Eagles. After 4 quarters of hard playing the Eagles won 57-22. Coach Benitez is only losing four seniors so he's going to have some good experienced players returning for next year. I expect the East Side Boys will be in the thick of things next season.

The Mustangs end their regular season on the road against the Humble Wildcats February 16th. Linda Jamail, Statistician. [allanj211@aol.com](mailto:allanj211@aol.com)

PHOTO AT LEFT: Senior Mustang #2 Tristian Thomas lays up a 2 point basket. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

### NS Lady Mustangs Crush Pasadena Mavericks 57-27

By Allan Jamail

Pasadena, Tx. February 14, 2022 entering into their first playoff game of the season the Lady Mustangs had their version of a Saint Valentine's massacre, romping on the Pasadena Mavericks at will. The scene of the whipping was at the Pasadena Phillips Field House in front of a near full house.

Coach Allison Campbell had the team hitting on all cylinders and their defense was outstanding. They took the ball away numerous times and if they can keep up this kind of CONTINUED ON PAGE 8, WITH MORE PHOTOS AND STORY

PHOTO AT RIGHT: #11 Leading scorer senior guard Makenzie Paul goes up over the defender for one of her 11 baskets. (Photo By Allan Jamail)



## Chamber Gala honors Palko for Lifetime Achievements

HOUSTON – The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce held their 45th Awards and Installation Gala, sponsored by United Community Credit Union, at the Sylvan Beach Pavilion on January 27.

A number of awards were presented, and new officers and board members were installed. The 2022 Incoming Board Chair Mike Williams and Board of Directors were installed by Judge Joe Stephens.

The speaker for the Gala was Bryan Yarbro, a retired Navy SEAL and Owner of Shadow Industries. Yarbro spent 28 years as a Navy SEAL. He retired at CISM Field on the Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, California. Master Chief Yarbro



Michael Williams was sworn in as the new Chairman of the North Channel Chamber Board of Directors. MORE PHOTOS, SEE PAGE 8

was the Naval Special Warfare Group ONE Command Master Chief at the time of his retirement in 1996. Since then he has written several books on his service, and made numerous speeches about his experiences.

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Bill Palko receives the Kermit Reneau Lifetime Achievement Award from Board Chair Allatia Harris and Chamber president Margie Buentello

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-Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, Mott, LLP  
-San Jacinto College  
-Sheldon ISD  
-TEEM Leadership  
-North Shore Rotary

And all the Silent Auction Sponsors, people in attendance, NSSH JROTC for presenting the colors, Randy Snyder and the band for providing the music and Channleview ISD for providing the photographer.



# Early Voting starts Feb. 14,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

well.

In the state primary races, Republican incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott is facing a slew of challengers. Abbott faces former Congressman Allen B. West, Don Huffines, Paul Belew, Danny Harrison, Kandy Kaye Horn, Rick Perry, and Chad Prather.

The Democrats are also battling it out to be the representative for their party in November in the governor's race. Most notable is Beto O'Rourke, who ran against Sen. Ted Cruz but lost in 2018. Also in the Democratic primary governor's race are Inocencio (Inno) Barrientez, Michael Cooper, Joy Diaz, and

Rich Wakeland.

For Lt. Governor, Republican incumbent Dan Patrick will face five other challengers in the primaries. They are Trayce Bradford, Todd M. Bullis, Daniel Miller, Aaron Sorrells, and Zach Vance. In the Democratic primary race for Lt. Governor, three candidates are vying for the position. They are Michelle Beckley, Carla Brailey, and Mike Collier.

Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton, the incumbent, is facing Texas General Land Office head George P. Bush, 1st Texas Congressional District Representative Louie Gohmert,

and Eva Guzman, who served on the Texas Supreme Court.

Democrats vying for the seat include Mike Fields, Rochelle Mercedes Garza, Joe Jaworski, Lee Merritt, and S. "TBone" Raynor.

In local State Senator races, Democratic incumbent John Whitmire is facing Molly Cook in the primaries. There is a single Republican up for the seat - George Brian Vachris.

District 6 State Senator Carol Alvarado has no Democratic primary challenger, but Republican Martha Fierro plans to face her in November.

In State Representative races, in District 128 incumbent Republican Briscoe Cain has no primary opponent, but has a Democrat challenger, Chuck Crews.

Neither District 140 State House Rep. Armando Walle, District 141 Rep. Senfronia Thompson, District 143 State House Rep. Ana Hernandez nor District 144 Rep. Mary Ann Perez have a primary challenger.

Harold V. Dutton, the Democratic incumbent representative for District 142, will face Candis Houston in the primary races. The lone Republican, Richard Varner, does not have a primary challenger.

# Girl Scout Cookie Season Kicks Off Locally on Feb. 12

HOUSTON – Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council kick off the 2022 Girl Scout Cookie Season in southeast Texas, bringing back classic favorites plus the newest addition to the lineup: Adventurefuls, an indulgent brownie-inspired cookie with caramel-flavored crème and a hint of sea salt, and an incredible taste of adventure in every bite. Adventurefuls joins iconic Girl Scout Cookie favorites like Thin Mints®, Caramel deLites®, and Peanut Butter Patties®.

"The Girl Scout Cookie Program is about so much more than just cookies. It's about the girls and supporting their leadership journey," says Mary Vitek, chief executive officer of GSSJC. "It's about knowing each girl is building skills that will stay with her well beyond her years in Girl Scouting. It's knowing that by the end of the program, in just a few short months, she will be more confident, she will have built upon her math or money management skills, she will know how to set goals and work hard to achieve them, and like millions of Girl Scouts who have gone before her, she will be better positioned for success in life. All because of Girl Scout Cookies."

Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world- girls learn five skills that will transfer over into other areas of their life, including goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics. All cookie proceeds remain local and help troops fund their activities. Support of the cookie program also makes Girl Scouting a reality for all girls, regardless of their ability to pay, by providing financial assistance and supporting the council's community outreach program, where staff bring the Girl Scout experience to girls in underserved communities- in schools, homeless shelters, and detention centers, among others.

**How to buy Girl Scout Cookies:** This year, Girl Scout cookie entrepreneurs are back with a hybrid selling model that incorporates innovative methods of online ordering and the return of in-person selling. Starting February 12, local Girl Scouts will begin approaching customers by going door-to-door or by using digital and social media to promote their online sales.

If you know a Girl Scout, tell her you're interested in buying cookies from her online, and she'll take it from there! Customers can order and pay for cookies online for direct shipment or local delivery.



Local Girl Scouts selling new brownie inspired Adventurefuls™ cookie alongside other favorites.

Starting February 18, supporters can purchase cookies at booths located outside local businesses.

Enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at [www.girlscoutcookies.org](http://www.girlscoutcookies.org) to find a booth near you.

Text "Cookies" to 59618.

Download and install the free Cookie Finder app on your OS or Android device and press "Find Cookies Now!"

**Cookies4Heroes** Want to support Girl Scout Cookie entrepreneurs without the cookies? You can purchase and donate cookies for GSSJC's Cookies4Heroes program where donated cookies are distributed to members of the military, first responders and local causes at the end of the sale.

"As we celebrate our council's 100th anniversary in 2022 we are so thankful for our volunteers and the support of our community, including our booth partners, who are making it possible for girls to achieve their goals and grow their leadership skills," says Vitek.

# NS Rotary helping Veterans at VA hospital

In honor of Veterans Day the Rotary Club of North Shore continues its annual program of delivering goody bags to our veterans in the Michael Debakey VA hospital. Along with the 75 goody bags stuffed with such needed items as throw blankets, water bottles, socks and snacks, we delivered wall calendars, books, playing cards and back scratchers. We also delivered a \$2,500.00 check to the VA Volunteer Services to assist them in their continued service to our hospitalized veterans. Due to covid we could not enter the hospital and hand deliver our bags with our personal thanks to our veterans. Hopefully we can start back doing personal visits next year. Thanks to all that donated the items that went into our bags. A special thanks to Air Force veteran Dois Sutton for being our club's liason with the VA Hospital and coordinating this effort every year since 2010.



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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



## Friendships

Are you able to make a list of ten people who have known you for at least half of your life? Can you name at lest five people who whose birthday that you know off the top of your head? Do you have at least three people who you could call at midnight if there were an emergency at you home? If you can answer yes to at least one of the above questions, you are a blessed person.

Do you remember who sat next to you at your high school graduation? Other than family, who was the first person that you shared the news that you had been accepted into the college of your choice? Or when you lost your parent, to whom was the first person you reached out?

Many things have changed in the past 20 years, but somethings never change. No matter how many times you may have moved or no matter how many jobs that you have worked out, there are people who were in the right place at the right time when you needed them. With the past few years limiting the opportunities to be around people outside of your household. This is a suitable time to take a break and make a list of the people who you would have named in my opening questions. And then find the addresses for each person. Take a few minutes to write a note to thank them for being that person that you thought of as you read the sentences. Notice, I said “write” a note? Trust me, no matter how critical you want to be about your handwriting, a hand-written note will mean more than you can imagine to the recipient.

One thing I have learned through the years is that when someone checks their mailbox, they will open the hand-written envelope first. It goes back to when they were a child and many of them received a hand-written envelope containing cash from an out of town relative. There is just something that excites people about seeing their name on mail. And then, when they see it hand-written, a smile will typically break out on their face.

Make a list. Think about those who taught you in school. Make a list of those who played on sports teams with you. Maybe there was an older couple who you met while attending church. Make a list of where you lived in the past few years. And as you make that list, think about the neighbors, the school bus drivers, the postal employees and make a list of those who were health care professionals. Take some time and close your eyes while you think about how each person impacted your life. Then open your eyes and start writing. Be sure to mention in the letter what you are doing now that you are older. Let them know if you are married or if you are a parent. Let them know that in reflecting about life, their name came to mind. Let them know that you appreciate them pouring into you as a younger person.

Next, begin to make a list of who you can pour into.

## Man wearing mask found dead in Apartment courtyard

HOUSTON – A man was found dead with multiple gunshot wounds at an apartment complex courtyard in east Harris County, deputies with Harris County Sheriff's Office said Tuesday.

Deputies responded to a shots-fired call at Havenview Apartments located in the 300 block of Uvalde Road at around 1:30 a.m.

Deputies said Woodforest area neighbors thought fire-works were shooting up in the air, which later turned out to be gunshots.

Upon arriving, deputies said they found a man — who appeared to be in his late teens to early 20s — wearing a mask and gloves. He was shot multiple times and lying on the ground. He was pronounced dead at the scene by deputies.

It was unclear if the man lived at the complex. Authorities recovered a weapon at the scene but it was unknown if the weapon belonged to the victim.

Witnesses told deputies they believe they saw a man who wore a light-colored hoodie running from the scene on foot.

Deputies are working to obtain surveillance footage from the apartment complex to further investigate the case.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS

## Two Suspects Arrested, Charged in August Shooting Incident at 13500 Market St.

Charges have been filed against two suspects arrested in a shooting incident involving an off-duty law enforcement officer at 13500 Market Street about 10 p.m. on August 14.

The suspects, Antonio Esparza (H/m, 26) and Mark Douglas Reyes (H/m, 17), are charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Esparza is also charged with tampering/fabricating physical evidence in the 228th State District Court. Reyes is charged in the 208th State District Court.

Booking photos of Esparza and Reyes are attached to this news release.

The officer, employed by the University of Houston - Downtown (UHD), was not injured.

HPD Special Investigations Unit Sergeant P. Buttitta and Officers J. Moreno, B. Bertrand and C. Walker reported:

The off-duty UHD officer was driving on Uvalde Street when he stated he was cut off by the driver of a white Chevrolet Impala. The officer tapped his horn at the vehicle and continued driving. A short time later, the suspect driver of the Impala pulled alongside the officer's vehicle at the above address and an unknown Hispanic male passenger in the Impala fired shots at the officer's vehicle. The officer returned fire and the suspects fled the scene.

Further investigation led to the identification of Reyes and Esparza as the suspects in this case. Reyes was taken into custody on Tuesday (Dec. 7). On November 30, he was arrested for his role in this incident.

As is customary when a law enforcement officer discharges a weapon in the city limits of Houston, the incident is being investigated by the HPD Special Investigations Unit.



ANTONIO ESPARZA



MARK REYES

ASK DIAMOND JIM

## Diamond Jim: “What is the History of Sterling Silver?”



### Characteristics of Sterling Silver

The whitest of all of the precious metals, sterling silver has been heralded for centuries for its highly lustrous finish and versatile applications. Although harder than gold, sterling silver is still considered one of the more pliable and supple metals. Its malleability makes silver easy to hammer and mold into various forms and shapes. Silver melts at a slightly lower temperature than gold (1760 degrees F as opposed to 1960 degrees F).

The official designation of “sterling” to a piece of silver indicates that it contains at least 92.5% of pure silver. The remaining 7.5% can be comprised of any other metal alloy, most commonly copper. Although it may seem that an even higher silver content would be desirable, that's not actually the case. Metal alloys with a silver content of more than 92.5% are too pliable to be used without suffering from dents and dings. The second alloy is required to ensure the metal's stability and resilience.

### Other Types of Silver

In addition to sterling silver, which contains 92.5% silver and 7.5% copper alloy, there are many different varieties and grades of silver in production throughout the world:

**Fine silver:** This type of silver has a silver content of 99.9% or higher. Fine silver is much too soft to be used in everyday applications, such as jewelry or tableware. This premium class of silver is used to make bullion bars for international commerce.

**Britannia silver:** A higher grade than sterling silver, Britannia has a silver content of at least 95.84%. Originating as a standard in Britain as far back as 1697, Britannia silver is denoted by a hallmark stamp of “958” to indicate its silver content, sometimes accompanied by the symbol of Britannia.

**Mexican silver:** Another premium silver, Mexican silver consists of at least 95% pure silver and 5% copper. This elite form of the metal is not currently in wide circulation in Mexico; most of the silver jewelry and accents sold in Mexican marketplaces is forged from 92.5% sterling.

**Coin silver:** Comprised of 90% silver and 10% copper, coin silver is made from melting down standard silver coins. Lower in silver content than sterling, this metal was widely used as silver tableware in the United States between 1820 and 1868, and as common currency until 1964.

**German silver:** German Silver is an alloy comprised of copper, zinc and nickel, sometimes also containing lead and tin. Contrary to popular belief, there is no silver in “German Silver”.

*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](http://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](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).*

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COUNTY MATTERS

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



## Fighting Gun Violence

Across the nation, states, counties, and cities are reporting across-the-board increases in gun-related violent crime. And here in Harris County, we are not immune from this alarming national trend. Many factors are at play, including a lack of common sense gun laws that has led to unchecked weapons of war on our streets in the hands of people who should not have access to them.

To fight gun violence in Harris County, we are investing in solutions that are both tough on crime and smart on crime. This week, we approved a new budget that invests \$1.4 billion in justice and safety alone. This is the highest amount we've ever spent on public safety in County history.

This budget ensures that we're giving law enforcement the resources they need – like a raise for our Harris County sheriff's deputies and deputy constables, more overtime for law enforcement, and higher salaries and staff for the District Attorney's Office. But the budget also makes sure we are addressing long-standing issues at the core of the crime wave, through programs like our Community Violence Interruption Program, which zeroes in on gun violence by helping those most at risk of committing crimes to escape gangs and resolve neighborhood conflicts peacefully by providing caseworkers that help with services like mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, employment services, and mediation.

Or like the Holistic Assistance Response Team (HART) program. Fewer than four percent of 911 calls are related to violent crime – HART teams of trained social workers and behavioral health and medical professionals provide support and services to residents experiencing homelessness, behavioral health issues, or social welfare concerns, freeing up police to focus on violent crime. HART begins operations with the Sheriff's Office this Spring, and we anticipate building several teams throughout the county over time.



Last week, we also kicked off the \$50 million Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods program by tearing down a decrepit building that served as a haven for drug dealers and other criminal elements in Cypress Station. The prevention and neighborhood safety program targets neighborhoods with high rates of crime to improve visibility in residential areas, address long-standing blighted and abandoned structures, and implement other improvements shown to enhance public safety.

These initiatives are not experiments. These are research-based methods that have a much greater success rate in ending cycles of violence than incarceration alone. Keeping communities safe doesn't have to be all about law enforcement, or no law enforcement at all. We don't have to choose – in Harris County, we know we must do both. We're investing in our public safety AND in strategies that build up our communities, which is the smartest and most effective way to keep our residents safe.

## Harris County urges Bail Board to Impose Minimum Bond Payment Requirements

When a bond is set for a suspect in a crime, they can approach a bail bond business to post the bond for them. However, Texas law does not require a minimum payment by the defendant before a bail bond company can post their bond and secure a defendant's release from jail.

Investigations conducted by stakeholders in the criminal justice system show that there are bail bondsmen in Harris County that do not collect the customary 10 percent to post bond. In fact, some collect as little as one percent of a bond set by a judicial officer, making it easier for dangerous and violent criminals to go free.

Last week, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioners Court approved a resolution urging the Harris County Bail Bond Board, which has regulatory authority by the State of Texas to “supervise and regulate each phase of the bonding business in the county,” to take action and require a 10% minimum bond payment by defendants.

Bondsmen accepting less than 10% of set bond for violent offenders put profits over the safety of our community. It must stop.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## Early primary voting starts on Valentine's Day

Early voting in the March 1 primary begins on Feb. 14 and runs through Feb. 25. The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Feb. 18.

There are seven statewide seats on the ballot: governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner, comptroller and one seat on the railroad commission. Winners in the Republican and Democratic primaries will face off in the Nov. 8 general election.

GOP incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott faces seven primary opponents, while five candidates are vying for the Democratic nomination, with the best-known being Beto O'Rourke, a former candidate for U.S. Senate and the presidency.

In addition, congressional and state legislative races will be on the ballot, as well as county positions. Readers can find out who is on the ballot where they are registered to vote on the Texas secretary of state's website: [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov).

**BOARD AWARDS \$26.2 MILLION IN HIGHER ED GRANTS**

A total of 60 Texas higher education institutions will share \$26.2 million in grants awarded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The grants will help Texans gain higher-paying jobs by earning postsecondary credentials to be made available through two programs: the Texas Reskilling Support Fund Grant and the Accelerating Credentials of Purpose and Value Grant Program.

The Texas Reskilling Support Fund Grant provides emergency financial support to students whose education was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as displaced workers seeking training to return to the workforce and students who dropped out of higher education pri-



or to the pandemic but are looking to return.

The Accelerating Credentials of Purpose and Value Grant Program allows institutions to create or expand short-term, industry-recognized postsecondary credentials that incorporate skills and knowledge required by high-demand careers that stem from digital skills, data analytics, and front-line healthcare programs, according to the THECB news release.

“To remain competitive, we must lead the nation at producing credentials of value that meet the needs of our fast-growing economy,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Harrison Keller. “We need to emphasize the importance of credentials that are affordable, attainable, and bring value to the lives of all Texans.

**QUAGGA MUSSELS DETECTED IN TEXAS RESERVOIR**

Invasive quagga mussels have been detected in a Texas reservoir for the first time, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The discovery was made at the International Amistad Reservoir along the Texas-Mexico border near Del Rio.

Quagga mussels are closely related to the zebra mussels that have invaded nearly three dozen Texas lakes since first being introduced in Texas in 2009 at Lake Texoma.

“This detection of invasive quagga mussels is a very unfortunate first for Texas,” said Monica McGarrity, TPWD senior scientist for aquatic invasive species. “Quagga mussels can inhabit greater depths and are also able to settle on soft substrates like mud or sand in addition to hard surfaces like rock or infrastructure—unlike zebra mussels—meaning they can colonize more of the lake.”

Quagga mussels are found in the Great Lakes region and some western states, according to TPWD. Like the zebra mussel, the quagga mussel is often unknowingly introduced by contaminated boats. Boaters are urged to clean, drain and dry their boats to prevent the spread of the mussels.

“Each boater taking the necessary actions to clean and drain their boat before leaving the lake and allowing compartments and gear to dry completely was lakes,” said Brian Van Zee, TPWD inland fisheries regional director.

Unclaimed property webinars planned

The Texas Comptroller's office is holding a series of free training webinars for holders of unclaimed property, such as general businesses, city, county and state government agencies, financial institutions, oil and gas companies and cooperatives.

Topics to be discussed include an overview of unclaimed property rules, state requirements for reporting such property, and which reports to use. The schedule of webinars, which last two hours, can be found online here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8fpdpc>.

Anyone who wants to see whether they are owed money can go to [claimtexas.org](http://claimtexas.org).

**COVID-19 CASES DROP SHARPLY**

Perhaps the peak has passed in the latest wave of COVID-19 cases in Texas, spurred by the omicron variant. The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported 198,757 new cases in the past week, down nearly 100,000 from the previous week. New deaths totaled 1,395, up 15% from the previous week. The total number of deaths in the state since the pandemic began about two years ago stands at 80,662.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 10,657 COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals, down 16.5% from the previous week. DSHS reported 16.987 million Texans have been fully vaccinated, which is 58.2% of the state's population. An addition 5.98 million Texans have received a booster dose.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

## “How Things are Done”

One reason to travel is to discover how things are done all over again. My husband, Peter, and I are in Mexico, and I was thinking this as we stood, confounded, in front of the washing machine.

It would not start. There was a dizzying array of buttons and commands. I was pleasantly surprised to realize that I actually understood what almost all the buttons meant. Unfortunately, my Spanish skills were of no use whatsoever in making the machine start.

“We need to put soap in it,” Peter advised.

“I don't think we want to put soap in it until we know we can get water in,” I replied.

We continued to poke buttons and stare at the machine, completely flummoxed.

The good news was that Alma, a cheerful housekeeper, would be by in three days. We would only have to wear dirty clothes over the weekend and then Alma would come to save us. Peter and I stared at the machine for a few more minutes, pushed a few more buttons, then declared defeat. I decided I could air out a shirt for tomorrow. I don't know what Peter decided to wear.

Of course, something like this happens to us at least three times a day when traveling.

Two days ago, we found a wonderful bakery. There were shelves of pastries and rolls and a few assorted baked goods displayed on the counter. I started telling the woman who worked there which of the rolls and pastries I would like and she began putting them in a bag.

“Oh, but I don't want all those!” I tried to tell her in Spanish. Under pressure, it's a lot harder to come up with the right words to refuse an excessive number of pastries. She gave me a look that I could not quite identify and kept piling all the pastries displayed on the counter into the bag.

Finally, she finished filling the bag and handed it to a woman standing behind me—who I had not even noticed in my eagerness to buy pastries. They were her pastries. The bakery woman handed me a tray (it looked like, and I'm pretty sure it was, a pizza pan) and pointed to the shelves loaded with baked goods, with sets of tongs conveniently located at the bottom of every shelf.

“Oh.”

After I apologized to the bakery woman (who clearly thought I was an idiot) and the woman with the bag of pastries (who had good reason to feel the same), Peter and I began to select a few rolls and pastries—but nowhere near as many as we thought we would have to buy a moment earlier.

Late that night, I started giggling in bed. “That woman thought the gringos were going to make off with her pastries!” I said to Peter. He started chuckling.

“There's a whole lot of ways of doing things we know nothing about,” he noted. Peter is right.

And that is a big reason why we like to travel as we do, living amongst people who live here all the time, embarrassing ourselves regularly while we encounter new ways—and often better ways—of doing things we do all the time without thinking.

Alma sorted out the washing in no time flat. Three buttons were all that were required to get it started. I have no idea why there were so many. They were put there to be ignored, apparently. Peter and I now have clean clothes and a nice supply of fresh bread.

It feels like a major accomplishment because, actually, it is.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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

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☆ MILESTONES PAGE ☆

# GP ISD Education Foundation Names Winners of the Beyond the Book Award

The Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Education Foundation seeks to acknowledge employees who go above and beyond their core duties to teach our students and support the delivery of education through the Beyond the Book Award. We believe those involved in the educational process should strive to support GPISD's standard of 'Excellence in All, for All, by All' in service to District stakeholders including students, fellow employees and community members.

GPISD principals are given applications to nominate a district administrator, a support staff member and an elementary or secondary teacher. Once the applications have been submitted, the nominations are given to the Education Foundation Awards committee for the final selection.

The 2021 Beyond the Book Elementary Teacher winner is Emma Carrero, Sam Houston Elementary School third grade bilingual teacher. Ms. Carrero contributes to the success of her campus by not only being an amazing educator but also taking care of the emotional well-being of her students and fellow teachers. She was also voted as Sam Houston Elementary's Teacher of the Year.

The 2021 Beyond the Book Support Staff winner is Norma Guevara, MacArthur Elementary School head custodian. Ms. Guevara just wrapped up her first year as head custodian at MacArthur and has gone above and beyond to make sure the campus has stayed clean and sanitary.

The 2021 Beyond the Book District Administration winner



is Dr. Mechelle Epps, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services. Dr. Epps has assisted in navigating GPISD through the COVID-19 pandemic. From developing a COVID-19 travel form to the COVID-19 Hotline for faculty and students, Dr. Epps has spent countless hours answering questions and providing our school community with updates throughout the school year.

Galena Park I.S.D. would like to congratulate the 2020-2021 Beyond the Book winners, who each received an engraved crystal book from the Foundation.

## THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



### He's Got Your Back

I've got a buddy named Reno. He's a great cattle dog, and I don't know where I'd be without him. He disappeared one day, and you know I started praying and got other people to pray. I needed my partner to come on home. Right, I didn't just want him; I needed him because he does his job faithfully and he's always got my back.

So does God! He's always got my back, and He's got yours too. Just as surely as He had David's back when he stood in front of Goliath, God has our backs. God didn't need David to be some metal clad, sword-slinging warrior. He just needed David to have faith that God would take what he had and make it be enough. In David's case, the "what he had" was a sling and five smooth stones. Honestly, I'm thinking he could have put pretty much anything in that sling. I'm fairly certain that if he'd had marshmallows God would have taken one of those sugar pillows and walloped Goliath just as surely. The power was in God's hand, not the rock.

And that's the key. David knew he wasn't out there in his own power. He understood that, submitted to God as he was, he was merely a well-trained tool that God could use. As he told Goliath after the giant trash talked him and cursed God, "But I come to you in the name of the Lord

of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I still strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." (1 Sam. 17:45-46) David trusted God to do it, and God did. As a result, David and Israel enjoyed a massive victory that day!

David is only one example we could look at. Over and over, throughout the Scriptures, the same principle holds true. Just read the book of Judges and you'll see what I mean! When a man has the anointing of God on him, when he has God Almighty standing at his back, there is no giant he can't kill, no army he can't defeat, no enemy he can't take down even if his weapons are as simple as stones in a sling or lamps in pitchers. (Judges 6-8). With God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26); there is no giant you can't kill. All you must do is prepare yourself, and stay prepared, so that God can use you when he needs you.

You never walk alone, my friends. He's always there.

God has got your back!  
www.myhillsidefamily.com  
@myhillsidefamily

# Harris County funds two new Environmental programs

## Lead Abatement, Nuisance Abatement

Houston – Harris County Commissioners Court made significant investments in two environmental public health programs to protect children from lead exposure and demolish unsafe building structures in County neighborhoods.

The Lead Abatement Program received \$20 million to expand its current efforts. Funding will increase the program's capacity to reduce lead exposure among Harris County children.

Separately, \$3 million was approved for the Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Program to proactively reduce nuisance properties throughout the County. These unsafe structures pose a public nuisance and are a health and safety risk to area residents, including children.

Both programs received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

"The positive community health outcomes we can achieve through these two programs will benefit families in neighborhoods who reside near unsafe buildings or in older homes with lead paint," said Harris County Public Health (HCPH) Executive Director Barbie Robinson. "Healthier people and communities promote healthier lives. In addition to improved quality of life and ensuring children can grow into healthy adults, there are other benefits such as lower health care costs, and safer neighborhoods."

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia said funding for the Neighborhood Abatement

Program would contribute to decreasing crime in vulnerable neighborhoods while improving the health of communities.

"I'm proud to take these steps today that will improve public safety and clean up nuisance properties in our neighborhoods," said Commissioner Garcia, who served for 23 years with the Houston Police Department and as Harris County Sheriff.

"When left unchecked, these abandoned and neglected properties threaten the health and safety of those around them and pose a potential danger to curious youngsters. This new program will ensure we aggressively seek out and secure or demolish these neighborhood nuisances which create opportunities to harbor gang and drug activity," said Commissioner Garcia.

## Lead Abatement and Prevention Program

Children from low-income households are more likely to live in homes that need lead remediation and less likely to be tested for blood lead levels. Lead poisoning in children can cause brain development delays, speech and language problems, damage to the nervous system and kidneys, and in rare cases, death. Lead paint was banned in 1978, but children living in homes built before then are at risk.

In Harris County, excluding the City of Houston, 122,000 homes were built before 1978 and are at risk of lead-based paint. While the existing Lead Abate-

ment and Prevention Program presently remediates an average of 60 homes per year, the proposed program will increase remediation to 200 homes per year. The expanded program increases the of families who would benefit by reducing their exposure to lead, thus improving their health and enhancing their quality of life.

HCPH recommends children age six or younger be tested for lead by a medical provider at least once. Children receiving WIC can be tested at HCPH's Antoine and Shaver WIC clinics. To make an appointment with WIC please call (713) 439-6145.

## Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Program

The \$3 million received in ARPA funding from the Court to the Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Program will increase efforts to create safer, healthier, and more sustainable neighborhoods.

This program will secure or demolish unsafe structures, secure unsafe abandoned swimming pools, and remove refuse, garbage, and high weeds/vegetation to prevent pests from infesting the building.

The increased funding will also reduce environmental health disparities and improve the quality of life in various communities by abating over 1,100 building structures that qualify as nuisances over the next four years.

For additional information on Neighborhood Nuisance, please call (713) 274-6300.

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## LEGAL NOTICE

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED A VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATION. MR. PABLO MIRANDA IS ASKING FOR VARIANCE ON THE SET BACK LINES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR A HOME ADDITION AND A CARPORT AT 1711 KERBY. THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON FEBRUARY 22, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.**

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# North Shore Rotary purchases animals in support of Sheldon FFA



**Rotary Club of North Shore**  
January 15 at 2:47 PM · 📍  
North Shore Rotary club brings home the bacon from Sheldon ISD FFA Auction. We bought the 4th and 5th place swine, as well as the Grand Champion Broilers.

## North Shore Rotary receives District Recognition

Rotary District 5890 past Governor Scott Rainey, left, presents North Shore past president Lowell Everitt with an Award Certificate for Club Excellence in the District. The North Shore Rotary Club is one of the leading clubs in the Houston District, which has over 60 clubs.

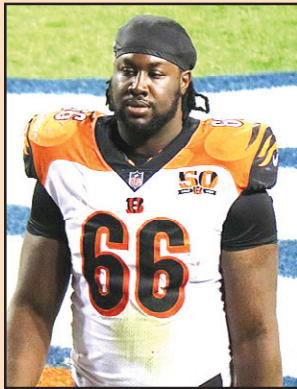


# Super Bowl players from Houston High Schools



**MICHAEL THOMAS**  
FREE SAFETY  
ALDINE NIMITZ

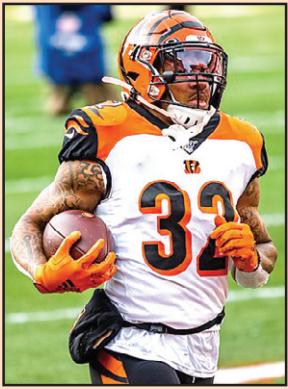
Michael Thomas (born March 17, 1990) is an American football safety for the Cincinnati Bengals of the National Football League (NFL). He played college football for Stanford. He was signed by the San Francisco 49ers as an undrafted free agent in 2012.



**TREY HOPKINS**  
CENTER  
NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL

Trey Hopkins (born July 6, 1992) is an American football center for the Cincinnati Bengals of the National Football League (NFL). He played college football at the University of Texas Austin.

Hopkins attended North Shore High School where he was an All-Area, All-State, and All-American. As well as a two-time first-team All-District performer on the offensive line. He also played in the 2010 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

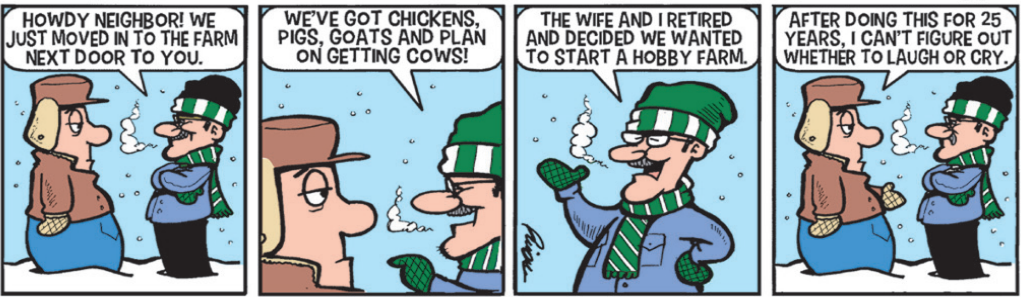


**TRAYVEON WILLIAMS**  
RUNNING BACK  
CE KING HIGH SCHOOL

Trayveon Thomas Williams (born October 18, 1997) is an American football running back for the Cincinnati Bengals of the National Football League (NFL).[1] During his junior season at Texas A&M, Williams received first team all-SEC and second-team All-America honors; he also broke the school records for single-season all-purpose yards and rushing yards.

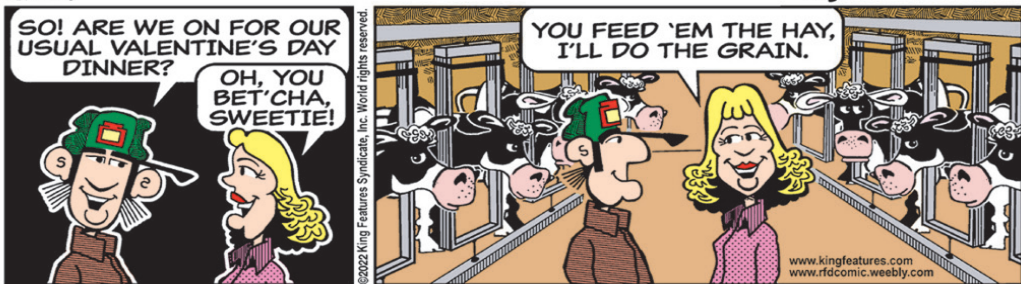
## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



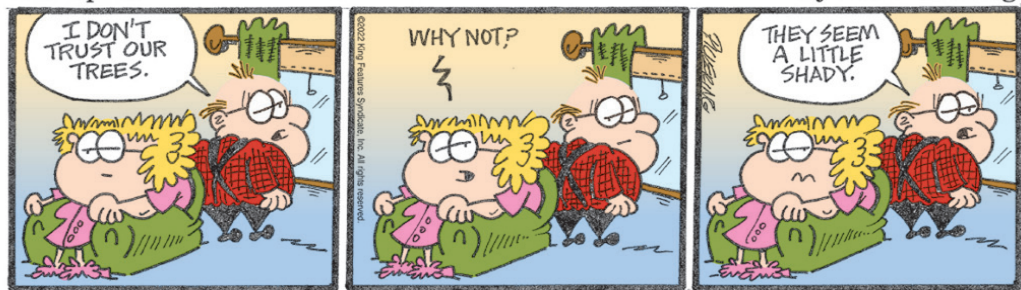
by Dave T. Phipps

### R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

### The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		2	3	7			9	
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	4			8		2		
2	6				7			8
		8	6				4	
	9			5		3		
	5				2	9		
7			5				8	3
		1		9				2

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenge  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Differences: 1. Cap is different 2. Shirt is shimmer 3. Fence board is missing 4. Arm is lowered 5. Pans are missing 6. Glove is different

### February 14, 2022 Posting Date

## King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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51				52				53		

#### ACROSS

1 Fine, to NASA  
4 "Misery" star James  
8 Garbage barge  
12 — -mo (replay speed)  
13 Taj Mahal city  
14 Ocean motion  
15 Sunbather's goal  
16 Insect organ  
17 Oklahoma city  
18 Patsy Cline song  
21 Shoe width  
22 Little rascal  
23 Brilliance  
26 6 on a phone  
27 Gaiety  
30 "Dream on!"  
31 Ginormous  
32 Flintstones' pet  
33 Abolish  
34 Curse  
35 Summoned with a beeper  
36 Frenzied  
37 Jewel  
38 Words of empathy  
45 Made into lumber  
46 Drescher or Tarkenton  
47 TV schedule abbr.  
48 Currier's

#### DOWN

1 Wine region  
2 Norwegian saint  
3 Hawaiian coast  
4 Pill variety  
5 Marble type  
6 Woody's son  
7 Taking a siesta  
8 Precipitous  
9 Title akin to POTUS  
10 "Garfield" dog  
11 Marries  
19 Piece of lettuce  
20 "As I see it," via text  
23 Hearing thing  
24 Hit CBS series  
25 Cover  
26 Blend  
27 Pear-shaped fruit  
28 French article  
29 Affirmative

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### King Crossword

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

1. 1924, Chamomix, France; 2. Fear of snakes; 3. Levi's; 4. "David Copperfield"; 5. Chipewawa Square, Savannah, Georgia; 6. Eye socket; 7. Humidity; 8. Iowa; 9. Unquestionably good; 10. Laughing gas

### Trivia Test Answers

1. HISTORY: When did the first Winter Olympics take place?  
2. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the extreme fear represented by a condition called ophidiophobia?  
3. AD SLOGANS: Which company featured this advertising campaign in the mid-1980s: "Quality never goes out of style"?  
4. LITERATURE: Which 19th-century novel begins with the line, "Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show"?  
5. MOVIES: Where were the park bench scenes from "Forrest Gump" filmed?  
6. ANATOMY: What is the common name for the orbit in human anatomy?  
7. MEASUREMENTS: What does a hygrometer measure?  
8. U.S. STATES: In which state was the movie "Children of the Corn" filmed?  
9. LANGUAGE: What does "fair dinkum" mean in Australian English?  
10. SCIENCE: What is the common name for nitrous oxide?



# Chamber Gala honors Palko for Lifetime Achievements

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Christie Gates with Sheldon ISD receives the Great Seal of the United States Award



Maria Jimenez – William C. Palko \$5000 Scholarship



Benjamin Bastar – William C. Palko \$2000 Scholarship



Phase 3 Service, LLC-Small Business of the Year Award



Port Houston-Large Business of the Year Award



Darnald Kimble Jr.-Ambassador of the Year Award



Board Member of the Year Award



Dr. Allatia Harris receives a plaque for her service as the Chair of the Chamber Board.



Bryan Yarbro Retired Navy SEAL & Owner of Shadow Industries

## NS Lady Mustangs Crush Pasadena Mavericks 57-27

(Continued from Page 1)

aggressiveness on defense they'll keep going into the playoffs.

Scorers: #11 Makenzie Paul 11 baskets, #2 Simran Williams 10 baskets, #32 Atria "Tree" Dumas 10 baskets, #1 Shalayne Morgan 4 baskets, #10 Chrishelle Washington 4 baskets, #12 Ja'Nyla Kennedy 4 baskets, #0 Ti'Ye Davis 2 baskets, #20 Trinity Johnson 2 baskets, #21 Branasia Brazelton 2 baskets.

The Eastside Lady Mustang will advance to round two, team to yet be determined. Linda Jamail, Statistician. Allanj211@aol.com

FAR LEFT: #12 Jy'Nyla Kennedy senior forward makes a 2 point jump shot. She's tough anywhere on the court and under the basket with her stout solid frame she's hard to stop. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

LEFT: Senior forward Atria "Tree" Dumas with her 6'3" height making one of her 10 baskets. She's unstoppable on rebounds and put-backs under the basket. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

RIGHT: Freshman #2 Simran Williams made 10 baskets in the game, here she's going up for a basket. She's fast and shoots back over her head and that's tough to stop under the basket. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

# SIGNS OF POSSIBLE SEX TRAFFICKING

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