NORTH CHANNEL & STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

First Dig at Waste Pits



A Payloader with broken concrete is the first material removed from the South Impound site of the Waste Pits.

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City VOLUME 10, NO. 48 (#448)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

WWW.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Annual Channelview FD Christmas Parade Saturday Dec. 17

Traditional Christmas
Parade with Channelview
Fire Department starts at
6:00pm, with Pictures with
Santa after the parade. At
the fire station on Dell
Dale, starting at 7:00pm.

NCA Chamber Open House Tuesday Dec. 13

North Channel Chamber invites you to their Annual Holiday Open House, Tuesday Dec. 13 from 12pm to 3pm. Holiday cheer, Yummy hot food, drinks.

13301 East Freeway. RSVP 713-450-3600.

Mustangs 39, Atascocita 7; Advance to Semi-Finals

Friday, December 2, 2022 the Mustangs easily took down the Eagles to advance to the semi-finals against Austin Westlake. The game will be at Houston's Rice Stadium, Saturday, December 10th at 3pm. The winner will advance to the 6A UIL State Championship in Dallas on December 17th.



Mustang receiver #89 Kaleb Thomas catches a David Amador pass at the goal line for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

EPA reports first excavation at Waste Pits

Southern site on schedule for remediation; North under review

HIGHLANDS – Neither a gas smell, or mosquitos could keep the EPA from making their report to the community on progress at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site. The meeting last Monday night had to be moved outside the Highlands community building, due to concerns about a gas odor detected by the EPA.

The public was pleased



EPA Project Manager Lauren Poulos explains slides and reports progress on the South Impound, to an audience that had to be move outdoors due to a Gas Odor in the Highlands Community Center.

to hear that after over 5 years of waiting for some remediation activity, equipment is now on the Southern Impound site and some excavation has started.

EPA Project managers Lauren Poulos and Ashley Howard made a detailed slide presentation, reviewing both the history of the Waste Pits, and the current status of negotiations and remediation.

An audience of about 40, including residents and public officials listened to the most encouraging report in years on the plan *Continued on Page 2*

Jacinto City Christmas Parade Photo Album

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, Texas -Saturday, December 3, 2022 thousands of citizens lined up on Market Street Road eager to see the return of the City's Christmas parade and kids scrambling to get the tossed candy from the floats. City Secretary Joyce Raines and Kathy Greiner, Assistant City Manager rode a four wheeler along the parade route keeping it moving promptly.

Ana Diaz, Jacinto City's mayor said, "I was so thrilled to see so many adults with their kids come out to the parade route. And then for so many people to go to the city's Town Center to witness the annual Christmas tree lighting." She said, "Our annual parade wasn't able to be done the last two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic virus." "The city has a long tradition dating back so many years of having this parade and it's something we'll continue to do God willing. The community deserves it.

Diaz thanked all the city's personnel for work

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Town Center Christmas Tree with the Jacketeers (contributed photo)



Galena Park High School Varsity football team. Centered, Jacinto City's Friendly Grinch and Chaperone Justine Balderas.



Galena Park High School Jr. ROTC: L-R: Ashley Martinez, Hermes Alarcon, Jovanny Salazar, Eli Salinas, Seth Lopez, Diego Aguilar, Katherine Ruiz, Isaac Vilegas, Jonathan Reyes, Jesus Ramos, Moises Ramos & Commander Anthony Hernandez.



Elected Officials trailer:

center to right: Mayor Ana Diaz, Councilmen Mario Gonzales, Greg Robinson. Back Row red shirts L:R: Josue Rodriguez, Adriana Aguirre & Linda Jamail. Present but not in photo, Council members Carmela Garcia & Allen Lee.

All Photos by Allan Jamail except as noted.



Furr High School Marching Band

All Photos by Allan Jamail except as noted.

Lawsuit filed in JC student death

Houston (November 16, 2022) —Houston attorney Brant J. Stogner, and attorney Jen Stogner have filed a wrongful death lawsuit on behalf of Jessica Quintanilla, Individually and as Representative of the Estate of I.V., a Minor, Deceased, Raul Villafranca, and Veronica Munoz.

The following is an account of the lawsuit in aN edited press release from the attorney's office:

On October 12, 2022, a 9-year-old child exited a stopped 3rd party van after being picked up from Jacinto City Elementary school. The child was let out on the passenger side of the van, and his home was on the opposite side of the street. While the child was walking in front of the van that just dropped him



DECEASED CHILD I.V.

off to get to his home, the driver of the van (Englantina Lopez) allegedly rapidly accelerated forward striking the child and running over his body.

The child was unable to avoid being struck by Lopez's van because of the speed used to accelerate from a stopped position.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

John Whitmire announces his run for 2023 Mayoral Race

By Allan Jamail

Houston – November 29, 2022 – State Senator John Whitmire officially announced his candidacy for Houston's mayor before a thousand of by-partisan well wishers. Whitmire a Democrat and Dean of the Texas Senate has 40 years there and 10 years in the Texas House. His legacy comes from his reputation of working across the aisle with Republicans to achieve his goals for Texans

Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock, Vice President, Energy Solutions & Business Services at CenterPoint Energy began the event by giving a brief history of her work experience with Whitmire as a staffer.

Brock introduced the



JOHN WHITMIRE AT THE POST OAK HOTEL MAYORAL RACE ANNOUNCEMENT. (Allan Jamail Photo)

Post Oak Hotel's billionaire owner, Tilman Fertitta who gave several reasons for his endorsing Whitmire's election. Fertitta said, "I'm going to do everything I can to see John Whitmire is Houston's next mayor."

Fertitta credited Whitmire for his bipartisan perspective in order to achieve results for the betterment of all citizens. "When you look in this room tonight, you see Republicans and Democrats and you see the whole city of Houston," he

said. "John looks at things the right way and isn't partisan when it comes to doing the right thing," Fertitta said.

Feritta said, "Houston has a strong mayor form of

CONTINUED. SEE PAGE 7

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon Schedules Holiday Performances

There are many opportunities to watch fine arts students enrolled in Sheldon ISD schools perform this holiday season. A listing is provided below:

Holiday Performances

Winter Concert 6:30 PM

December 1 Sheldon Early Childhood Academy Concert (KINDER) 6:30 PM

December 5 King High School Band Winter Concert @ King Middle 6:30 PM December 6 King Middle School Band Winter Concert @ King Middle 6:30 PM

December 8 Monahan Elementary Art & Music Showcase 6:00 PM

December 8 Sheldon Elementary Art

& Music Program 6:00 PM December 8 Null Middle School Band

December 8 King Middle School Choir Winter Concert @ King High School Performing Arts Conter 6:30 PM

forming Arts Center 6:30 PM December 9 Null Middle School Choir Winter Concert @ King Middle 6:30 PM

December 9-11 King High School Theatre "Little Shop of Horrors' @ King High School Performing Arts Center 7:00 PM

December 12 Sheldon Lake Elementary Holiday Program @ King High School

Performing Arts Center 6:00 PM

December 12 Null Middle School Theatre Performance 6:00 PM

December 13 Royalwood Elementary Winter Concert 5:30 PM

Winter Concert 5:30 PM
December 13 King High School Choir
Winter Concert @ King High School Per-

forming Arts Center 6:30 PM

December 13 Garret Elementary
Christmas Program 6:30 PM

Christmas Program 6:30 PM
December 13 Carroll Elementary

Christmas Program 6:30 PM
December 14 King High School/King

Middle School/Null Middle School Orchestras Winter Concert @ King High School Performing Arts Center

December 15 CECA Christmas Program 6:00 PM

December 16 Generation Park Community Christmas Celebration Open to the Public - PM TBA

December 16 Parkway Forest HOA Christmas in the Park 5:00 PM

King High School FFA to Host Winter Project Showcase

The King High School FFA organization would like to invite the public to their Exhibitor and Project Meet and Greet. The second annual Winter Project Showcase will be held Tuesday, December 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be a hot cocoa bar, food items (while supplies last), face painting by the King High School Art Club and a showcase of student projects for the January Livestock Show. The event will

be held at the Sheldon Agriculture Center (17552 Beaumont Hwy, Houston, 77049). Save the date for the 66th annual Sheldon Livestock Show on January 12-13 and the Buyer's Luncheon and Auction on January 14. Sponsors and buyers are needed. Those interested may contact robynjones@sheldonisd.com or 346-378-7099.

King High School Advances to Fourth Round of Playoffs

C.E. King High School is the winner of the Class 6A Division 2 Semifinals after a 38-21 win against Hightower High School 38 to 21. The Panthers advance to play Katy High School on Friday, December 2 at 7 p.m. at NRG Stadium.

District Recognizes Winners of Holiday Greeting Card Contest

This fall, Sheldon ISD students across the district participated in a holiday greeting card contest. Art students at all grade levels had an opportunity to design the cover of the district's holiday greeting card. Selections were narrowed to 20 and were voted on by staff members at the administration building. The following students, winner and four finalists, are being recognized in the district's first holiday greeting card contest:

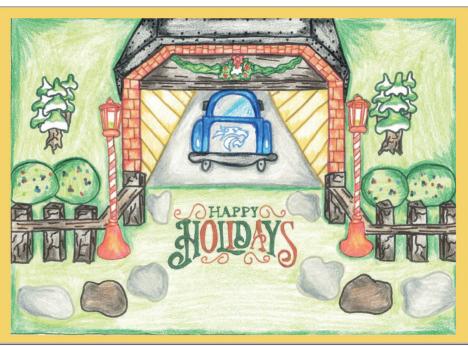
Overall Winner - Maritza Perez, KHS, 11th Grade, Ms. Little's Art Class

Overall 2nd Place - Asia Fontenot, KHS, 12th Grade, Ms. Roades's Art Class

Elementary School Winner - Ayvah Cortes, SE, Ms. Christopher's Art Class Elementary School 2nd Place - Emma Chavez, CE, 5th Grade, Mr. Perales's Art

Middle School Winner - David Juarez, KMS, 8th Grade, Ms. Rodriguez's Art Class

Their artwork will be featured on the district's Christmas card sent to community members, families, staff and business partners. The overall winner will receive a \$100 gift card and the four finalists will receive \$25 sponsored by the Sheldon ISD Education Foundation.







CHARLOTTE'S WEB By Charlotte Jackson

Obstacles

All of us have faced obstacles in our lives. When it happens, do we react to the world and become bitter, or do we look at them as opportunities and build new relationships? I would like to introduce you to an overcomer.

As a child, she not only endured her parents' separation and eventual divorce, but she lost her eyesight in one eye. As her father disappeared from her life, her maternal grandmother began battling cancer. With the demands of being a single mother, the daughter of an ailing mother, her mom did the very best that she could. Times were tough but she but one thing her daughter ever had to worry about, was if she was loved

As her grandmother passed away, her mother dealt with new obstacles including health challenges and as the young girl faced obstacles, her mother's sister stepped up. She ended up moving out of state and doing the best she could with school and life's situations

By the time she moved back home with her mother, there was a new sibling. Not just a new sibling, but one with major health issues. As her stepfather and her mother encouraged her to finish high school, she faced the teenage years with rebellion. Add in another little sister and it would be easy to understand that life was complicated. She eventually dropped out of high school and enrolled in GED classes. After a series of poor choices, she met a young man. She did not just meet him but also provided a missing piece to his life. After dating for several years, the young couple married on August 1, 2006.

Flash forward and she began a position with a local school district. It was part-time but it was an opportunity to love children with disabilities. In addition, she enrolled in San Jacinto College to earn her Associate Degree. One obstacle that she faced was that due to her disability, she had not learned to drive. Her mother had the responsibility of taking care of her younger sister. This young lady had to let go of her pride and not only ask her mother-in-law, but also her to help her with running errands, getting to work, getting to class, and taking care of doctor appointments.

In December 2007 the couple welcomed their first daughter. Being a mother added so much joy to the young mother's life. She never let motherhood slow down her desire to get that degree. In fact, the family welcomed their second daughter in 2012. In addition to working in the district that she had attended school provided an immense idea of support. Not once did the employees discourage her from getting that degree.

Eventually in addition, she started helping parttime as a caregiver to her disabled sister. As her own daughters began school, she added in being an active parent. She and her husband have made every effort to be involved in school projects, PTA Meeting, and afterschool projects. When the girls wanted to participate in sports as well as other activities, she and her husband did everything possible to make it happen. Amid the COVID Pandemic, she graduated from San Jacinto College. She had transferred from being a teacher aide, to working as a campus secretary.

Life has continued to be busy and despite it all, she has pushed forward.

Earlier this summer, her mother was hospitalized for several health issues. She was enrolled in online classes at University of Houston Downtown even as her mother unexpectedly passed away and it would have been understandable if she postponed classes, she never did.

With her village cheering her on, including family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, students and so many more, she will graduate this Saturday, December 10. Perhaps the biggest smile will be on her special guardian angel—her mother. Congratulations Kristen! We are all so proud of you.



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Lawsuit filed in JC student death,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The child sustained fatal injuries and later passed away. The child's mother (Quintanilla) and grandmother (Munoz) witnessed the entire incident and the injuries suffered by the child as a result of the defendants' negligence.

Investigating officers noted that Englantina Lopez's failure to yield and driver inattention as the only factors contributing to the incident. At the time of the incident, the van was owned by Isidro Lopez and entrusted to Englantina

Lopez. The defendants do not have a transportation company registered with the State of Texas.

The lawsuit alleges negligence, negligence per se, negligent entrustment, wrongful death, and survival claims, as well as gross negligence against the driver and the owner of the vehicle. The family of the child, including Quintanilla, Munoz, and Villafranca (father of I.V.) and the child's estate are seeking damages over \$1,000,000.00.





www.carterconleyfh.com



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

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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.



ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "How to Spot a Fake Rolex with Dial"

As the face of a watch and the first thing people notice, the dial on a Rolex timepiece is always of the utmost refinement and aesthetic quality – crafted to the highest standards, with every single detail meticulously placed and in perfect alignment. Watch experts and those who are particularly familiar with Rolex can likely pick out discrepancies at a glance. But for those less savy with the brand, we will discuss some telltale signs of questionable authenticity to look for on the dial of counterfeit Rolexes.



The renowned Rolex coronet logo is the regal five-point crown that can always be found on the dial of real Rolex watches. The crown is located at the 12 o'clock position on the majority of their classic watches, with the exception of the Day-Date – of which the crown is located right beneath the day window at 12 o'clock positioned. For the majority of Rolex's professional watches including the Submariner, Sea-Dweller, GMT-Master, Yacht-Master, Explorer, and Air-King, the crown logo is right under the large triangular dial marker at 12 o'clock, with the exception of the Yacht-Master II – of which the crown is located right under the countdown indicator on the dial. With that said, it is safe to say that if the watch in question has the crown logo in any other location than described above, it is likely not a real Rolex.

The same can be said if you don't see the crown logo anywhere on the dial, as all Rolex watches have the crown logo on their dial as described – with the only exceptions being certain extremely rare vintage models like the "No Crown" <u>Rolex Explorer</u> 5504 model. Likewise, if the crown is duplicated with any slight difference in design, it is likely a counterfeit.

Some other obvious signs for how to spot a fake Rolex by its dial include checking for spelling mistakes, crooked or misplaced text, different font style or size, misaligned hour and minute markers, and awkward spacing of features – just to name a few. As mentioned, Rolex watches are exquisitely designed and crafted, with remarkably close attention paid to every detail – big or small. So anything that appears to be aesthetically off, even slightly, is worthy of closer inspection. In the side-by-side photos below of a real Rolex (left) and a fake Rolex (right), you can notice many of these visible discrepancies on the dials:

Side by side comparison of fake and real Rolex Submariner $116610 LN \ dial$

Hour markers:

The first most obvious discrepancy about the hour markers on both watches is in the different materials used. The hour markers on the replica are visibly cheaper in quality compared to on the genuine Rolex and look like they are stickers.

The hour markers on the real Rolex are perfectly bordered so that the silver trim is even and symmetrical all the way around the marker shapes. The borders around the hour markers on the Rolex replica are uneven around the shapes on just about every hour marker. The most notable examples are the 4 o'clock, 6 o'clock, and 11 o'clock markers.

Hands:

The silver border on the hands is visibly differently on both watches. On the replica, the silver border is much thinner than the border around the real Rolex's hands. This inconsistency is particularly noticeable on the hours hands of both watches.

Another major indicator of authenticity that's difficult to depict by photos is the movement of the watch – as shown by the seconds hand. On authentic Rolex watches, the seconds hand has a smooth sweeping movement, while on this counterfeit (and many others), the seconds hand does more of a quick tick-like motion as it moves around the dial.

Lume:

Rolex uses luminescent material, or lume, on the dials of certain watches like the Submariner to increase legibility and illuminate features in low light settings – like, say, when deep diving. This is a distinguishable feature on Rolex watches, which you can clearly see applied on each hour marker, as well as on the hour, minute, and seconds hands of the real Rolex but not on the replica.

You can also tell if a watch has lume applied because it will glow in the dark – which is not the case with this particular fake Rolex, as it does not have any lume application.

Font type & size:

The wording font on the replica is different than on the real Rolex in the following ways:

The lettering on the words "ROLEX" and "OYSTER PERPETUAL DATE" are less bolded and are noticeably different. For example, the R in "ROLEX" are visibly different between both watches, especially in the upper left corner of the R.

"SUBMARINER", "1000 ft~300 m", "SUPERLATIVE CHRONOM-ETER", and "OFFICIALLY CERTIFIED" are all written in a noticeably different font on the replica as well.

Both the font and the placement of "SWISS MADE" at the very bottom of the dial are also visual discrepancies between both watches. On the real Rolex, the words are underneath the 6 o'clock hour marker, whereas on the replica they are separated by the hour marker and written in a different style font.

Cyclops glass:

The cyclops glass feature at 3 o'clock is supposed to magnify the date number by $2.5\mathrm{x}$ legibility.

The cyclops glass always protrudes above the crystal, like a bubble—it is never flat and never fitted under the crystal.

The date feature is instantaneous on Rolex watches, which means it will automatically jump to the next day at midnight (as opposed to rolling over slowly). Based on this info, another sign for how to spot a fake Rolex is if you see one with a dial that shows an in-between date (mid roll), as you now know that a real Rolex with this feature would automatically and instantly change the date – rather than slowly and gradually. Of course, this detail would only be noticeable if you had the watch for more than a day – and hopefully you will have detected that it's a counterfeit well before then

Credit to The Watch Standard for these articles.



OPINION PAGE *



Handy Andy

The Holidays are a time to enjoy family time, and give thanks for your blessings. I will be doing both this year as I spend time with one of my daughters and her family, including her "Handy" husband Andy.

When they were giving out son-in-law prizes, I think I won the lottery. Andy is not only an accommplished father, husband, executive for Proctor & Gamble, but he also likes to cook, especially big dinners for holidays. Getting to be a guest at his house is something we look forward to every year, and we anticipate that his meal will not only be tasty, but include a dish or two that he concocted from his own unique recipes.

You can see from the photograph that he can handle a huge assortment of dishes, most of which he prepared himself, and it's a matter of pride that he doesn't ask for help. Oh yes, we get to clean up afterwards, and eat leftovers for a few days (In spite of the message on his Apron), but what a feast to remember... again each year.



Thanksgiving Meal Deluxe: Turkey, Ham, brussel sprouts, cranberry, rolls, mashed potatoes, green been casserole, yams, corn, and dessert.

Actually, my story about Andy starts in 2006, when my wife and I drove our daughter Kristan to her first day at college, Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh. When we arrived at her assigned dorm, New House, we were met at the front door by the RA (Resident Assistant), a friendly and cheerful young man who was a student in the economics department. He made my daughter feel welcome, and helped get her established in her room. That was day one at college. But over the next four years, we heard more and more about Andy, for it seems that these two were destined to help each other for a long time.

Andy was writing a book, among other endeavors of this ambitious young man, and our daughter turned out to be a big help in the writing and editing, and even became one of the characters in the book. The title of the book is "New House 5" and is about "How a Dorm becomes a Home." LIke a Hollywood movie, the two of them formed a relationship that went far beyond the dormitory, and after graduation they moved together to Cincinnati, where Andy works for Proctor & Gamble. They now have two children and it all started with a friendly greeting at the front door of a dormitory.



Andy as C-3PO with the rest of the family dressed in their favorite STAR WARS costumes, all secured by.. you guessed it, Handy Andy.

Andy has turned out to be "Handy" is so many other ways. Have a party, and he will make the costumes, furnish the games, and make the snacks. Visit his house, and he will have a Welcome Basket ready for you, with gifts, toiletries, and other thoughtful tokens. Have a Halloween night out, and he will arrange to get the costumes to your theme.... Just see the photo of the Star Wars characters the family chose this year.

Pretty Handy, eh?



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Registration Forms face Shortage as Deadline Nears

Less than a week remains before the Jan. 31 deadline to register to vote in the March 1 primary. While Secretary of State John Scott publicly assured Texas voters that "every single eligible Texas voter will be able to register to vote if they have not done so already," the League of Women Voters on Friday threatened to sue his office if the nonpartisan group isn't provided with additional voter registration forms.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the league contends the state has decided to

"sharply limit" the number of voter registration forms distributed to the league and other groups, claiming that is a violation of the National Voter Registration Act.

"It is crucial that the Secretary of State's office act swiftly to provide the necessary voter registration forms for the people of Texas. The deadline to register to vote for the upcoming primary election is quickly approaching, and Texas is one of 11 states without online voter registration," said Grace Chimene, president of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Sam Taylor, assistant secretary of state for communications, told KUT.org that supply chain issues have made it harder and more expensive to get paper, which means the Secretary of State's office will be giving out fewer voter registration forms to groups ahead of elections this year.

"We are limited in what we can supply this year because of the paper shortage and the cost constraints due to the price of paper and the supply of paper," he said.

Texas is one of the few states that does not have online voter registration.

LEANDER MAN CHARGED FOR THREATENING **ELECTION OFFICIALS**

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders by federal officials in a case brought by a task force formed to combat threats against election officials. Numerous media outlets reported that Chad Christopher Stark posted

a message last January on

Craigslist, saying it was

time to kill a Georgia elec-

tions official. "Georgia Patriots it's time for us to take back our state from these Lawless treasonous traitors. It's time to invoke our Second Amendment right it's time to put a bullet in the treasonous Chinese [Official A]. Then we work our way down to [Official B] the local and federal corrupt judges," Stark wrote, according to the indict-

The three officials allegedly threatened were not named.

The Texas Tribune reported Georgia officials were especially targeted by a flood of hostile messages after they refused to back then-President Donald Trump's claims of election fraud. Election officials across the country have faced criticism and personal attacks by Trump supporters claiming the election was stolen. No widespread instances of election fraud have come to light despite dozens of investigations.

STATE AGAIN REACHES RECORD JOB LEVEL

The Texas Workforce Commission reported last week that the seasonally adjusted state unemployin December, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous month. The state added 50,000 nonagricultural jobs last month marking job gains in 19 of the last 20 months. The state set another record level of employment with more than 13 million jobs.

"Seeing a second consecutive month of record-setting employment, with more than 13 million jobs, highlights the underlying strength of the Texas economy," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "This economic strength creates an environment for Texas employers to continue to create jobs and provide opportunities for the workforce in the Lone Star State." The state has added 694,000 jobs since December 2020.

COVID-19 CASES SET RECORD HIGH

Spurred by the omicron variant, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week climbed to a record 433,584, with 971 new deaths reported as well by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Since the pandemic began in March 2020, the state has recorded 5.9 million cases and 78,055 deaths - equivalent to the entire population of Cedar Park.

Hospitalizations in Texas of lab-confirmed COV-ID-19 patients also continued to rise, up 36% from the previous week at 13,324, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. That figure is approaching the record high of 14,106 set in January 2021.

PAXTON DENIES OPEN RECORDS LAW VIOLATION

Attorney General Ken Paxton denied that he violated the state's open records law, rejecting an allegation by the Travis County district attorney that his office should release communications from the week of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack, The Dallas Morning News

reported. Five of the state's largest newspapers filed a joint complaint after Paxton denied their open records requests. The district attorney's office warned it would file suit if Paxton did not release the information. In a letter to the Travis County district attorney's public integrity unit, Paxton's office called the claims "meritless" and said there was "no violation to cure." Editors for the newspapers released a joint statement saying: "We believe these records are public and should be released. We hope the Travis County district attorney continues to hold the attorney general accountable for following our state's open records laws and continues to advocate for the public's right to know in this case.



Waiting for My Laundry

It's an odd experience watching someone fold your underwear.

I was thinking this yesterday as I was waiting for my laundry. When my husband, Peter, and I packed to go to Mexico, we knew there would be a wide range of temperatures. San Miguel de Allende is in the mountains, so the days can be quite hot, and the nights can be cold, and the weather changes a lot in November everywhere, so we had to be prepared for any-

We do not have a washing machine in the little place we rent, so I walk a few blocks to the tiny neighborhood laundry and leave my clothes

The truth is I don't need a lot of clothes. I joked during the pandemic that all I wore were pajamas at night and clothes that looked like pajamas during the day. This has not changed significantly. Ninety percent of the time, I am wearing the same uni-

Yesterday, all the variations on my uniform were dirty, so I went to the laun-

The laundry service holds two washing machines, two dryers and a constantly changing cast of one to three cheerful women who weigh the laundry, wash it, throw it in the dryer, carefully fold it on top of the two dryers and return it to my laundry bag for approximately three dol-

If I leave it in the afternoon, I have to wait until the next day to pick it up. But since I don't have that many clothes, I try to get there before noon. They will then tell me to return at three o'clock to pick it up. Three o'clock does not mean precisely three o'clock-I know this by nowso I come a little later. But even so, they were not quite finished when I arrived yesterday. So I stood on the sidewalk (There is no room for a customer in this tiny place!) and waited while my underwear was folded.

For the record, I don't usually fold my underwear. I'm not sure if that makes me a savage, but I just don't. It doesn't wrinkle, and it doesn't seem to stay folded, so I don't see the point. But the two ladies at the laundry were carefully folding my undies and there was nothing I could say to stop them. They also folded all of Peter's socks and Peter's underwear, and I stood by, helpless, not feeling I deserved-or wanted-quite this much customer service.

The laundry ladies were not in a hurry. They were chatting away, oblivious to the anxious gringo lady standing at the counter on the sidewalk, and I realized I had no reason to be anxious—in either sense of the word. I was not in a hurry and certainly, when it comes to underwear, these ladies had seen it all. So I tried to relax while I waited for my laundry.

And, as I watched them, it occurred to me how little I really need. That small pile of clothes was everything Peter and I had worn for the last two weeks, and we had everything we needed. I thought of all the clothes I have at home and wondered how they earned their keep.

That is, perhaps, one of the greatest gifts this time in Mexico gives us. It's good to be reminded that I have enough clothes and I have enough time. It's good to be reminded that, most of the time, living simply is better. And it's good to remember that it doesn't really matter if someone sees my underwear.

Till next time,

Carrie

Photos from the column and other fun stuff can be found at CarrieClasson.com.



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Jacinto City Christmas Parade,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing to make the parade a success and she gave a special shout-out to City Secretary Joyce Raines and Bookkeeper/Financial Officer Kathy Greiner. She said without them the parade would not have been possible.

Mayor Diaz and City Council members Carmela Garcia. Mario Gonzales. Allen Lee and Greg Robinson greeted citizens at the city's Town Center where a 20 foot decorated Christmas tree was lit up.

The parade floats went past the Parade Judges for them to select the best ones. Most Beautiful was awarded to the 3-4 Pre-

school, Most Original went to Don Rey Mexican Restaurant, Best Marching Group/Walking Group went to Galena Park High School Jacketeers, The Mayor's Choice went to Lori's Dance Studio and the Honorable Mentioned went to JC Gents.

There were performances at the Town Center of the GP Jacketeers under the direction of Vanessa Boyce Director & Assistant Director Alyza Vasquez, Jacinto City Elementary School Choir under the direction of music teacher Jueretta Berry and solo songs sung by Galena Park High School Choir members, Abigail Guevara, Denneshae Jones, Diego Villarreal and Victoria To-

Inside the open area of the Town Center local artists had booths selling candies, homemade arts and crafts, paintings and the Heritage Hall Director Elizabeth Flores and her daughter Cecilia Flores prepared and served free popcorn.

Saturday, December 10, at 8am the annual Santa on the fire truck will drive the throughout the city giving candy to the chil-



Galena Park High School Jacketeers. BELOW, GPHS Jacketeers performed several dance routines perfectly coordinated under the direction of Vanessa Boyce Director & Assistant Director Alyza Vasquez. (photos by Allan Jamail)



EPA reports on Waste Pits work,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to remove the dioxin and other toxic waste from the SJR Superfund site.

Included in the audience were Harris County officials County Attorney Christian Menefee, Polution Control head Latrice Babin, Pct. 3 representative Roger Bridgewater, and others.

Representing environmental groups were THEA assistant director Rachel Jordan, with consultant Lisa Gossett, CHIC Channelview director Carolyn and Bobby Stone, and Sarah Davis from the Chamber and SJR Coalition.

After introductory remarks by EPA facilitator Jeanetta Coats, the presentation of progress on the South Impoundment site was made by Lauren Poulos, She showed slides of the work areas for the first and second seasons of scheduled remediation.

(See Illustration)

Poulos said that the contractor, GHD Services, had started to amass equipment on the site, and done some preliminary clearing of areas to be excavated. The next step is to set up the water treatment system, she said, which will consist of 4 large storage tanks and filtration elquipment. Offices and exscavation machines have been moved to the site, work actually started on November 9, and will continue until completion, which is schedfuled to be Spring of 2024. Excavation work will only be done ouside the hurricane season, or November to April, she said.

There will be 3 crews working each day, with different tasks. She showed a workflow chard, with the following steps:

- --Site Prep
- --Sampling -- Excavating
- --Dewatering/solidification as needed
- --Loading and decontamination of trucks
- --Off-site Disposal

Poulos said that two disposal sites had been identified, the Republic Services near Beaumont, 70 miles away, and the Sea Breeze site near Angleton, also 70 miles away. These disposal sites take nonhazardous waste Class I

and hazardous waste Class

Ashley Howard reported on the progress of the Remedial Plan for the North site. She said a meeting had been held in June with Emergency responders to advise them of future ristks.

She said that a request from the PRP (Presumed Responsible Party) for an extension and change in remedy had been denied, pending submission of the 90% Remedial Design.

She said the PRP has been told a capping solution is not acceptable, even though they keep bringing it up.

Currently, the RD is approved for dry excavation and removal, and an alternate with a "wet column" where hydraulic heave is possible.

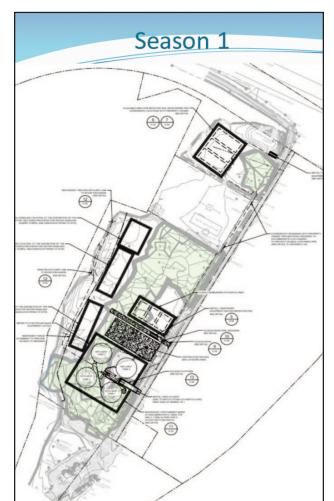
During the question period that followed this presentation, complaints about the slowness of the progress, and how to limit fish consumption were discussed. THEA objected to

the work period being limited to non-hurricane season, but Howard explained some work will continue year-round.

Rachel Jordan and others said that they thought a third party should be reviewing material to be removed for toxicity, since GHD had been known to manipulate some tests.

Bobby Stone and others pointed out that the RD design presumes floods will not exceed the 9 foot headwall, but he said that at least 3 times in the past water has been higher than that. Howard said precautions would be taken to cap the work area if that might occur. She also said that the

BMP enclosing wall would be 30 feet wide, had been adjusted further south, and that TxDOT had some concerns about the wall, and the stability of the waste pits site once the remediation is concluded. She indicated these were under further study and coordination with TxDOT.



MAP shows areas to be excavated in Green, and equipment and staging areas outlined in black. Market street is at top and right.

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 15: Texans could be in for a long day against Cowboys: Dolphins, Chargers battle in key AFC contest

Now that the college season has completed its regular season and conference championship games, we will focus on the NFL for the next few columns as the college lads prepare for their bowl games and of course, the College Football Playoffs (CFP).

The CFP Committee announced the four CFP teams on Sunday, Dec. 4. It's a safe bet that defending national champion Georgia and Michigan will land two of the four spots. Ohio State may have played its way out of the playoff due to the 45-23 thrashing the Wolverines administered to them two weeks ago in Columbus. It will be interesting to see who the other two teams will be. We will discuss that later this month.

For now, we'll focus on the NFL as the 2022 season enters the stretch run.

As a number of teams battle for playoff spots, one team that won't be in the post-season hunt are the Houston Texans. Two weeks ago, head coach Lovie Smith benched starting quarterback Davis Mills and went with backup Kyle Allen and the move had little impact on the woeful Texans as they fell behind at Miami 30-0 before producing 15 garbage points in the second half to make the final score look respectable. That was the Texans sixth straight loss and things don't get any easier this week when they head north to face instate rival Dallas.

The Cowboys are rolling on both sides of the ball, especially on defense where Micah Parsons and Co. have recorded 45 sacks in their first 11 games. It looks like whoever starts at QB for Houston on Sunday is going to be in for a bruising afternoon at AT&T Stadium.

With another lost season looming, the Texans look like they will need to draft a quarterback with their first pick, which could be first overall. After the Dallas game, Houston still has to play Kansas City, Tennessee, Jacksonville and Indianapolis. They won't be favored in any of those games, not even against the Jags, who shocked Baltimore, 28-27 two weeks ago. There's a very good chance this could be a one-win team. Yikes!

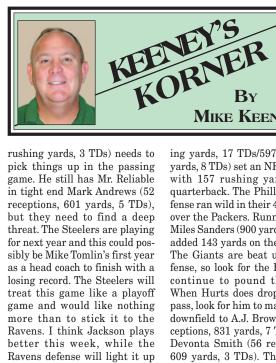
Other games of interest in Week 14 feature Baltimore taking on arch rival Pittsburg, Cleveland and new QB Deshaun Watson facing the Bengals in Cincinnati and the Jets travel ing to Buffalo to take on the Bills in an important AFC East contest. Other games of interest include Miami visiting the Los Angeles Chargers in a duel of two of the best young QBs in the league as Tua Tagovailoa and Justin Herbert square off. Tampa Bay faces a daunting task with a trip to San Francisco to face 49ers team that is rolling on defense. In their last four games before last Sunday's game against the Dolphins, the SF defense has pitched a shutout in the second half in each of those four games and two weeks ago they blanked NO 13-0.

Before we take a look at those games and a handful of others, let's review last week's record. A 9-2 week upped the season record to 102-51 (66%). Now, onto this weekend's game.

Cincinnati at Cleveland: An in-state battle in the AFC North has the Bengals visiting the Browns on Sunday. The Bengals appear to be rounding into form and should battle Baltimore for the division titledown the stretch, while the Browns are hoping Deshaun Watson's return at quarterback sparks the offense. to take over at QB in Week 11against the Texans. Look for Joe Burrow (3,160 yards, 23 TDs), running back Joe Mixon (585 yards, 6 TDs) and Tee Higgins (57 receptions, 826 yards, 5 TDs) to have a big day against a porous Browns defense. If superstar wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase returns from a hip injury, Cleveland couild be in for a long day, could be in for a long day. The Browns should get a boost with Watson now at QB and running back Nick Chubb (1,039 yards, 12 TDs) should have his usual productive day, but the Bengals are getting hot at the right time in the season. My pick, Cincinnati 30, Cleve-

Baltimore at Pittsburgh: These two bitter rivals meet in an important AFC North contest on Sunday in Pittsburgh. These two teams are heading in opposite directions. Baltimore is a definite playoff contender in the AFC and is tied with Cincinnati atop the AFC North division, but they suffered an embarrassing loss two weeks ago when they fell at Jacksonville, 28-27. Ravens QB Lamar Jackson

(2,231 passing yards, 17 TDs/755



against rookie QB Kenny Pick-

ett. My pick, Baltimore 26, Bal-

timore 13

Houston at Dallas: So, how did that change at quarterback work for you Texans fans? Kyle Allen definitely isn't the answer. He threw for 215 yards, one TD and two interceptions in the 30-15 loss at Miami two weeks ago against Miami. This week, he or Davis Mills will face a relentless Dallas pass rush that recorded 45 sacks in its first 11 games. While the defense has been solid all year long, the offense seems to be getting better week by week now that Dak Prescott (1,393 yards, 10 TDs) is back at QB. Dallas can also run the football with its two-headed attack of Tony Pollard (761 yards, 6 TDs) and a now healthy Ezekiel Elliott (577 yards, 7 TDs). Wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (64 receptions, 857 yards, 5 TDs) is making plays all over the field and Dallas' young tight ends are also getting into the act. This could turn out to be a long afternoon for Houston's professional football team. My pick, Dallas 36, Houston 13

Minnesota at Detroit: The Vikings rebounded from their blowout loss to the Cowboys on Nov. 20 with a gritty 33-26 win over New England on Thanksgiving night. This week, they travel to Detroit to face a feisty Lions team that plays hard for all four quarters. The Lions dropped a hard-fought 28-25 decision on Thanksgiving Day to the Bills. The Lions are a fun team to watch on offense as QB Jared Goff (2,682 yards, 17 TDs). running back Jaamal Williams (734 yards, 13 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (65 receptions, 716 yards, 4 TDs) have sparked the Detroit offense. The Vikings have some offensive weapons of their own in QB Kirk Cousins (2,760 yards, 17 TDs), running back Dalvin Cook (841 yards, 6 TDs) and star wide receiver Justin Jefferson (81 receptions, 1,232 yards, 5 TDs). There should be plenty of offense in this one, but look for the Vikings balanced offense to make one or two more plays down the stretch to win it for the visitors. My pick, Minnesota 34, Detroit 30

New York Jets at Buffalo: A good one in the AFC East pits the Jets against the Bills. Two weeks ago, New York benched starting QB Zach Wilson for backup Mike White, who threw for more than 300 vards and three TDs in the Jets' 31-10 route of the Bears. It would be hard for head coach Robert Saleah to go back to the ineffective Wilson after what he did two weeks ago. There is no doubt who the starting QB is in Buffalo. Josh Allen (3,183 passing yards, 23 TDs/561 rushing yards, 5 TDs). Allen is one of the top signal callers in the NFL and is having an MVP-type season. The Jets play well on defense, but they will have their hands full on Sunday with Allen and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (84 receptions, 1,110 yards, 9 TDs) and the rest of the Bills offense. NY's defense will keep the Jets in this game, but look for Allen to be the difference maker come Sunday in Buffalo. My pick, Buffalo 26, New York Jets 18

Philadelphia at New York Giants: This is an important game for the Giants who might have peaked a bit early. Heading into last Sunday's game against Washington, the Giants had lost three off their last four games, with their lone win coming against the hapless Texans. They lost at Dallas on Thanksgiving Day as QB Daniel Jones (2,165 yards, 10 TDs/451 rushing yards, 4 TDs) struggled against the Dallas defense, as did running back Saquon Barkley (992 yards, 7 TDs). Things won't get any easier for those two and the rest of the Giants' offense when they take on the Eagles on Sunday. Two weeks ago, QB Jalen Hurts (2,560 passing yards, 17 TDs/597 rushing yards, 8 TDs) set an NFL record with 157 rushing yards by a quarterback. The Philly run offense ran wild in their 40-33 win over the Packers. Running back Miles Sanders (900 yards, 8 TDs) added 143 yards on the ground. The Giants are beat up on defense, so look for the Eagles to continue to pound the rock. When Hurts does drop back to pass, look for him to make plays downfield to A.J. Brown (53 receptions, 831 yards, 7 TDs) and Devonta Smith (56 receptions, 609 yards, 3 TDs). The Giants were a nice story early in the season, but reality might be set-

ting in. My pick, Philadelphia 31,

New York Giants 23

MIKE KEENEY

Miami at Los Angeles Chargers: This will be The Game of the Week in the NFL and the league has moved it to Sunday Night Football (replacing the KC-Denver game) that will pit two high-scoring offenses and two good QBs as Tua Tagovailoa (2,564 yards, 19 TDs) and Justin Herbert (3,004 yards, 19 TDs) will fling it all over SoFi Stadium. The LA secondary will get tested by Tua and his two star receivers, Tyreek Hill (87 receptions, 1,233 yards, 4 TDs) and Jalen Waddle 56 receptions, 963 yards, 6 TDs), while the Miami defense will be tested by versatile running back Austin Ekeler (554 rushing yards, 7 TDs/80 receptions, 497 yards, 5 TDs). The LA offense got a boost with the return of wide receiver Keenan Allen, who missed a majority of the season with a hamstring injury. Allen gives Herbert a consistent target who's not afraid to go over the middle. If fellow WR Mike Williams returns from an ankle injury, the Miami defense will have one more weapon with which to deal. This should be a fun game to watch, but I'm going with the Chargers who came up with what could be a seasondefining win two weeks ago against Arizona on the road. LA scored late to pull within one point with just seconds remaining in the game. Instead of going for the tie and heading to overtime, head coach Branden Staley opted to go for the win. The Chargers made the twopoint conversion and left Arizona with a 25-24 victory. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 33, Miami

cisco: Tom Brady (3,051 yards, 14 TDs) and the Bucs will try and solve the 49ers defense when they head to Northern California on Sunday, Good luck. Tom. The 49ers defense is playing lights out and is making plays all over the field. Brady had better have his head on a swivel because SF will pressure from all angles. It doesn't help that he will be without starting tackle Tristin Wirf for this game. The Tampa Bay offense has kind of been stuck in neutral this season, and really hasn't gotten untracked. Things won't get any easier this week when they face a hot 49ers team. Brady needs to make plays downfield to wideouts Mike Evans (51 receptions, 702 yards, 3 TDs) and Chris Godwin (60 receptions, 583 yards, 2 TDs). The 49ers aren't great on offense either, but QB Jimmy Garoppolo (2,381 yards, 16 TDs) takes what the opposing defense gives him. Look for running back Christian McCaffrey (241 rushing yards, 2 TDs/25 receptions, 202 yards, 1 TD) to get untracked in this one as the 49ers keep rolling. My pick, San Francisco 26, Tampa Bay 23

Tampa Bay at San Fran-

Kansas City at Denver: The high-flying Chiefs take on the disappointing Broncos in an AFC West matchup. KC looks like the team to beat in the AFC and QB Patrick Mahomes (3,585 yards, 29 TDs) is having an MVP season. It helps to have the game's best tight end to throw to in Travis Kelce (73 receptions, 912 yards, 12 TDs) and a host of other dependable pass catchers. KC has also gotten help in the running game by rookie Isiah Pacheco (455 yards, 2 TDs). The Broncos, on the other hand, have struggled all season long as QB Russell Wilson (2,369 yards, 8 TDs/5 interceptions) has been underwhelming, and that's being kind. Denver has a very good defense, but Wilson and the offense are putrid. Look for Mahomes to carve up the Denver defense as the Chiefs look to make their usual late-season run to secure the No. 1 seed in the AFC. My pick, Kansas City 31. Denver 13





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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

City of Jacinto City

The City of Jacinto City is soliciting service providers to apply for the proposed State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

Infrastructure Grants through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Community Grant

Appropriations program(s). Accordingly, the City of Jacinto City seeks to contract with a qualified

engineer/architect/surveying (individual/firm) to prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, conduct

all necessary interim and final inspections, carry out grant contract activities, environmental review, and construction

management of STAG Infrastructure Grants eligible projects. Please electronically submit your SOQ in .pdf format via email

to joyce.raines@jacintocity-tx.gov. Statements of Qualifications must be received by the City of Jacinto City no later than

5:00 PM, December 21, 2022, to be considered. The City of Jacinto City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all

individuals or firms that submit SOQs and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3

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wbauctioncrosby.hibid.com/ auction/current to sell for cash only the contents of Unit J-11, Stephen Fisher and Unit J-29, Jamie Gamble in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is Furniture, Tools, Three Wheel Bike, Household items and etc

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS City of Jacinto City

The City of Jacinto City is planning to submit an application to the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) Infrastructure Grants through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Community Grant Appropriations program(s) and is soliciting proposals to provide administrative services for the STAG Infrastructure Grants eligible projects. Please electronically submit your proposal in .pdf format via email to joyce.raines@jacintocity-tx.gov. Proposals must be received by the City of Jacinto City no later than 5:00 PM, December 21, 2022, to be considered. The City of Jacinto City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Jacinto City is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS CHANNELVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating

Channelview ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM, December 13, 2022 in the Board Room, CISD Administration Building, 828 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX 77530

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Channelview ISD's superior rating achieved through the state financial accountability system.

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Whitmire Announcement,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

government, the mayor runs the city. All city departments are yours, just like running a huge company," Fertitta said. "When Harvey happened and the state got billions and billions of dollars, Houston didn't get any money for years. I can tell you this, if John Whitmire is our mayor, that wouldn't have happened."

After showing a video of Whitmire's accomplishments and experience Fer-



Senator John Whitmire announces for Houston Mayor (Allan Jamail photo)

Whitmire thanked all in attendance and began speaking of when he was 6 vears old and his family's house burnt down. He said neighbors helped his family survive the tragedy. "One lady gave us a can of sugar, I don't know why the sugar was in a can, but the point is she and others helped my family. I knew then someday I wanted to be able to help others so this experience put me on track to become a PUBLIC

SERVANT." "So many elected officials get wrapped up with their title and forget they're first a PUBLIC SERVANT. Not me, I've always considered myself as a PUBLIC SERVANT first, and that's what all elected's must remember.



Whitmire addresses a large crowd at the Post Oak Hotel, as photojournalist Allen Jamail covers the event. (Contributed Photo)

you're a PUBLIC SER-VANT" he stressed.

He outlined his platform



Tilman Fertitta, supporter of Whitmire's Campaign (Allan Jamail photo)

and priorities. Stressing the need to reduce crime and fixing the glitches in the Criminal Justice system. Working to reduce the backlog of criminal cases, bail bond inequities, spike in repeat offenders. He said he's against letting those charged with felony capital murder charges out on bond while awaiting trial. He said too often these defendants once turned loose continue committing felony crimes including

Currently and for most of his years in the senate he's served as Chair of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. This position is normally appointed to a Republican when they have a majority as they currently have. But because his approach to being tough on crime has made Texas the national model for criminal justice reform the Republicans yield to him being appointed Chair.

During his speech he emphasized his many vears of experience as a big difference from other likely mayoral candidates. He's always made his public service experience a center piece of his political campaigns. He rightfully emphasized that in every task we're faced with EX-PERIENCE MATTERS.

As he concluded his remarks he asked, "Who do you want in the event Houston's facing a disaster or having just went through one to make the call to the governor or president for assistance?" "You want someone with experience to make that call. I've been making calls to higher-ups in government my entire career. I know by my experience how to get the resources citizens need."

As of this date there's five publicly announced mayoral candidates joining Whitmire. Former Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins, former City Council member Amanda Edwards, Missouri City Po-Officer Robin Williams, and Attorney Lee Kaplan.



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