



HIGHLANDS

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VOL. 68, NO. 5 - 50¢

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

THURS. FEB. 18 Crosby Chamber Luncheon

You are invited to attend our February Luncheon & Installation of Board of Directors for 2021. Thursday, February 18th at Crosby Church. The address is 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby, Texas 77532. Lunch will be catered by IN HOUSE CHEFS and will begin at 11:30am. Due to increase in food prices our luncheon price has increased to \$20.00. Judge Lucia Bates with Harris County Pct 3 will swear in our 2021 Chamber Board of Directors.

VACCINE RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON
Registration
HoustonEmergency.org/covid19
832-393-4220
HARRIS COUNTY
Registration at
readyharris.org OR
<https://vacstrac.hctx.net>
832-927-8787

COVID-19 Cases as of February 2, 2021

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

508,814 POSITIVE
5,010 DEATHS
407,640 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,400,077 POSITIVE
37,131 DEATHS
1,947,493 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

26,278,706 POSITIVE
442,710 DEATHS
--- RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

103,298,719 POSITIVE
2,234,565 DEATHS
57,232,822 RECOVERED

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 5--Angi Boudreax
Kyle McCain
Geraldine Krampota
Judy Powell
John Mouton
Feb 6--Josina Hovater
Tori Brumfield
Feb 7--Chris Browder
Feb 8--Leah Cathey
Johange C. Highfield
Jerry Hovater
James Simpson
Feb 9--Gerald D. Harris
Feb 11--Carol Kelley
Mary Mills
Michael Parson
Lanette Salter

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 11--Keith & Becky Adams
Howard & Patricia Brockinton
Feb 12--Donnie & Elonda Cravatt

Rotarians hold Chili Raffle this Saturday

HIGHLANDS – Rotarians are busy this week making final arrangements for their annual Chili Feast Raffle. As usual the community has an opportunity to win spectacular prizes, including a new vehicle from Turner Chevrolet, either a Colorado pickup or a Camaro. There are also 16 other valuable prizes. However, because of safety precautions due to the Pandemic, the location has been changed, and no chili will be served. The Rotary club thanks the community for

See *CHILI FEAST*, P. 6



Highlands Rotarians will hold their Chili Feast RAFFLE (no chili this year) on Saturday, Feb. 6. They invite you to help by purchasing a \$100 raffle ticket, and win this new 2021 Chevrolet Colorado Pickup truck, or a Camaro. Vehicles furnished by Turner Chevrolet in Crosby. Call 281-426-3558 for ticket information.

CHILI FEAST TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

See any Rotarians in person this week, before Saturday Noon.

OR purchase them from Rotary at St. Jude's Saturday from 9am to 11:30pm

OR purchase them from Rotary at Highlands United Methodist Church Friday night from 5pm to 7pm, or Saturday from 9am to 12noon.

Raffle Drawing is Saturday, at the Methodist Church, starting at 12noon.

New pipeline crosses River, Neighborhoods

LYNCHBURG - Exxon-Mobil Pipeline Company will install pipelines underneath the San Jacinto River, one at the Houston Ship Channel between here and Baytown, the other north to the IH-10 bridge using a technique called Horizontal Directional Drilling.

Some of this work will include activity on Alexander Island, an uninhabited island within the channel. This project is a part of a \$500 million energy infrastructure investment in East Harris County.

According to a press release from ExxonMobil Pipeline Company, "Throughout all phases of planning and installation, work will be conducted with an unwavering commitment to the safety of the community, the environment and our team



Digging through Lynchburg

Exxon Pipeline Company exacting the line through the neighborhood that connects the Baytown plant to Pasadena and Webster. The pipelines are done using the horizontal directional drill technique, an advanced method for pipeline and utility installations.

members. We are proud of the highly skilled team we have assembled for this project, and we encourage

you to follow our progress as the project advances at: <http://webster.exxonmobil>

pipeline.com/, where you can ask us a question about our work and hear directly from some of our

team members about how they keep safety first. Our commitment to safety and the environment Exxon-Mobil Pipeline Company is committed to the safe and responsible installation, operation and maintenance of all of its pipelines and facilities. We strive for an incident-free workplace and a culture that supports our clear and simple objective: Nobody Gets Hurt.

Before mobilization, this project required extensive permitting and consultation with federal, state and local authorities, including, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Port of Houston Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Texas Commission on Environment Quality, Harris County and the City of Baytown,

See *PIPELINE*, page 8 with MAP

Work progresses on Lynchburg Ferry re-opening

Tentative opening set for April

LYNCHBURG - Locals are excited over the Ferry opening soon as traffic now begins to get heavy at 3:00 p.m.

The Lynchburg Ferry closed Tues., Feb. 25 2020 for necessary improvements to preserve the longevity of its operations. During the closure, crews are reconstructing the approaches and transfer ramps for the Lynchburg Ferry Boats.

According to informed sources, a second contrac-



Ferry awaits pathways and ramps

Locals are hopeful of an early completion of the Lynchburg Ferry before April. However anytime tonnage meets the sea substantial engineering must be carried out. This \$6 Million project is a three way partnership between Harris County Pct. 2, HCTRA, and TXDOT.

tor is completing construction because the first encountered problems. During this closure, crews are reconstructing the approaches and transfer ramps that go onto and off of the Lynchburg Ferry boats. The \$6 million project is a joint venture between Harris County Precinct 2, HCTRA (Harris County Toll Road Authority) and the Texas Department of Transportation.

At least another month of construction is going to be necessary due to demands of engineering to construction fulfillment, according to sources. Officially, the expected com-

See *FERRY*, page 6



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Brady goes for 7th Lombardi, Mahomes second in what could be a very real ‘Super’ Bowl!

I guess that Tom Brady guy still has something left in the tank.

After spending 20 years in New England and leading the Patriots and head coach Bill Belichick to six Super Bowl titles, Brady moved south to sunny Tampa, FL and proved he's not washed up at 43 years of age.

In Kansas City, Chief fans have once again put their faith in 25-year-old Patrick Mahomes, who led their beloved team to the Lombardi Trophy last year and is making a return trip this year to go after a second straight title.

The former Texas Tech star had his ups and downs this season, but when it mattered most, the strong-armed slinger put the Chiefs on his back in the AFC title game against Buffalo to lead them to a second straight Super Bowl.

In the Chief's 38-24 conference title victory, Mahomes passed for 325 yards and three touchdowns to send his team onto Tampa.

While Mahomes was working his magic, Brady tossed three touchdown passes to lead the Buccaneers to a 31-26 win at Green Bay. Brady wasn't great, he did throw three interceptions in the NFC title game, but he did enough to send TB to its second Super Bowl in team history (Tampa Bay defeated Oakland 18 years ago for its only NFL title).

Brady not only led his team to the ultimate game, but they will play the game in their home stadium, becoming the first team to host a Super Bowl. In the 1980 game, the Los Angeles Rams played in their backyard in the Rose Bowl when they faced the mighty Steelers, but their home stadium at the time was the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The other team that came closest to hosting the big game was the San Francisco 49ers, who defeated Miami in the 1985 big game in Palo Alto, CA, a suburb of Frisco.

Brady's 10th Super Bowl (he's 6-3 in the big game) will make him the fourth NFL quarterback to lead two different teams to a Super Bowl. Tom Terrific joins Craig Morton (Dallas and Denver), Kurt Warner (St. Louis Rams and Arizona Cardinals), and Peyton Manning (Indianapolis and Denver) as the only quarterbacks in NFL history to take two different teams, and start, a Super Bowl.

The 55th version of the NFL's ultimate game could be a very special one as both teams have explosive offenses and bi-play ability.

Brady had a solid season in his first year in Tampa throwing for 4,633 yards and 40 touchdowns. He led the Bucs to three straight road playoff wins passing for 860 yards and seven TDs.



Mahomes followed up his 2019 MVP season with 4,740 passing yards in 15 games (he sat out the Chief's season finale) and 38 touchdowns. In two home playoff games he passed for another 580 yards and four touchdowns and overcame a concussion and big toe injury in the AFC Divisional game against Cleveland.

Having an extra week of rest before the Feb. 7 game should benefit Mahomes, so expect him to be ready to take on a solid TB defense on Sunday.

KC head coach Andy Reid does have a major injury concern to deal with as he prepares his team for a shot at a second straight Lombardi Trophy (it would be the franchises third overall. Kansas City defeated Minnesota in Super Bowl 4). Starting left tackle Eric Fisher, who protects Mahomes blind side, was lost for the season in the AFC title game when he sustained an Achilles injury. Chief fans are probably confident that Reid and his staff will find a suitable replacement and they had better because Tampa Bay has an aggressive and quick front seven that has produced six sacks and three fumble recoveries in three playoff games (the Bucs had four against Aaron Rodgers in the NFC title game). The secondary is also playing well and has produced five interceptions in three playoff games.

But this will be the TB's defense biggest test when they take on Mahomes and an offense that is loaded with offensive weapons. Mahomes has a host of dependable and speedy wide receivers, but the best of the bunch is Tyreek Hill (87 receptions, 1,276 yards, 15 TDs in the regular season). In two playoff games Hill has caught 22 passes for 250 yards, but has yet to score a post-season touchdown. Mahomes also has the game's best tight end in dependable Travis Kelce (105 receptions, 1,416 yards, 11 TDs). Kelce has grabbed 23 passes for 226 yards and three scores in the Chief's first two playoff games. He's going to be a matchup nightmare for the TB linebackers and when Mahomes needs a big play in a tight situation, you can bet he will be looking for big No. 87.

KC has also got some nice production from speedy wide receiver Mecole Hardman in the playoffs. He had a 50+ yard run to set up one touchdown and grabbed a scoring pass from

Hardman against the Bills.

The Chiefs are not a one-trip pony, they can also run the ball and having rookie running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire (803 rushing yards, 4 TDs) back in the fold should help keep the Bucs defense honest knowing they will need to stop the run first to slow down the Chiefs (good luck with that, Bucs). Edwards-Helaire missed the last two regular season games and the first playoff game with a high ankle sprain, but returned for the AFC title game and helped the cause with a touchdown run. Backup Darrell Williams has done a nice job as his replacement and don't forget about Le'Von Bell as well. If Bell is healthy (he missed the Buffalo game with a knee injury), I would not be surprised if Reid comes up with some gadget play to get him involved in the game.

Brady has a few weapons of his own and has two solid receivers to throw to in former Texas A&M Aggie Mike Evans (70 receptions, 1,006 yards, 13 TDs). In three playoff games, Evans has grabbed 10 passes for 107 yards and two TDs. Fellow wide out Chris Godwin (65 receptions, 840 yards, 7 TDs) has been Brady's go-to guy in the post season with 14 receptions for 223 yards and one score. Brady also has his buddy from New England to go to in Rob Gronkowski, who has only one reception in the post season. Don't be surprised if Gronk's role expands in the Super Bowl.

Tampa Bay has also gotten some nice production in the running game from Leonard Fournette, who has come up with two rushing scores and one receiving score in the playoffs. Fournette's ability to move the chains could be crucial in SB 55 because if the Bucs can control the clock and keep Mahomes off the field, their chances of winning a second Lombardi Trophy would be greatly enhanced.

This one has all the making of an offensive shootout and playing on their home field will be a huge benefit for the Bucs. This will be the fifth time Brady and Mahomes have met and both own two wins against each other, so something has to give on Sunday. Brady is the Master and Mahomes is the Student, but he's a quick learner and it's tough to bet against either one of them on the big stage.

This one might come down to who has the ball last, and something tells me the kid will outplay the legend as Mahomes outduels Brady and enters a select club of NFL quarterbacks who have won two or more Super Bowls. Enjoy the game folks; it should be a good one. **My pick, Kansas City 36, Tampa Bay 33**

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Jack Noonan B.B.A., T.R.E.B., E.A.

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VOL. 26, NO. 5— 50¢

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Dayton Chamber News

First Responders Luncheon!

Save the Date for the First Responders Luncheon!

Join us for our luncheon Tuesday, March 2, 2021, in the ballroom of the Dayton Community Center 801. S. Cleveland St.

Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm

Dayton Chamber of Commerce 20th Annual Banquet

Sponsored By: Sterling Funeral Homes

Due to the recent spike of Covid-19 cases within the county and for the safety of our members, we have decided to postpone our Annual Banquet to Saturday, February 27th from 6:00 to 10:00 pm in the Dayton Community Center Ballroom.

Mackenzie Collins of Mont Belvieu Named to President's List

CLINTON, MS (01/19/2021)— Mackenzie Collins of Mont Belvieu (77523) Named to the Fall 2020 President's List at Mississippi College

The Mississippi College Office of Academic Affairs releases the president's list after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impacting their grade point average.

Mississippi College, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is a private, co-educational, Christian university of liberal arts and sciences serving more than 4,500 students, from 40 states and more than three dozen countries. Founded in 1826, Mississippi College is the oldest institution of higher learning in Mississippi, the largest private university in the state and America's second oldest Baptist college. Mississippi College is home to 84 areas of undergraduate study, 16 graduate programs, a doctor of jurisprudence, a doctor of education leadership degree and a doctor of professional counseling degree. Mississippi College seeks to be a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

MB Patient and Nurse have Happy Reunion

BAYTOWN — (January 21, 2021) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital nurse Jessica Sutterfield, a nurse manager on the hospital's 3 West unit, noticed a unique nickname written on the whiteboard in the room of a patient admitted for surgery while making her daily rounds—a name that took her back to her days as a student at Dayton High School.

"It wasn't until I read the preferred name on his whiteboard that I realized I knew the patient," Sutterfield said. "I said to him, 'you're not going to believe this, but we know each other.'"

The patient, Mont Belvieu resident Dennis Leonard, goes by the nickname "Jabo," a name Sutterfield instantly recognized as the name of the boss of the Mont Belvieu Subway sandwich



Care Team: Dennis Leonard, right, with nurse Jessica Sutterfield and surgeon Dr. Boutros Kahla

shop she worked at during high school. They had not seen each other since Sutterfield left the job 20 years ago to attend college. "She recognized the name on the whiteboard and figured out it was me,"

Leonard, 67, said. "I didn't recognize her with her mask on."

Leonard was admitted to Houston Methodist Baytown in December 2020 for abdominal surgery under the care of Houston Meth-

odist Baytown Hospital surgeon Dr. Boutros Kahla. He recalls Jessica as being a conscientious, dedicated employee who was elevated to shift leader just a few weeks after starting the job at age 17. In fact, her work ethic led to an event that would change Jessica's life.

"She was a super employee; a go-getter as a high school kid. As a night shift leader, she left the store in perfect condition with the money and inventory always accounted for. She was a smart, reliable, driven kid and we were so impressed that we awarded her a scholarship through Dayton High School," Leonard recalls.

Sutterfield said the \$500 scholarship helped to propel her toward a career in nursing.

"Needless to say," Sutterfield said, "to an 18-year old girl who was paying for school herself, it was a big deal!"

Sutterfield used the money to help her earn a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. She would go on to earn a Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Business Administration (MBA).

"I was not surprised when I found her not only working as a nurse, but as a manager and that she is successful in her pursuit of nursing," Leonard said. "It was evident she had the

See Reunion, Page 6

Sheriff solves serial robberies with arrests

A series of robberies from Orange to Harris County have lead to a series of arrests by the Chambers County Sheriff's Office working in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies.

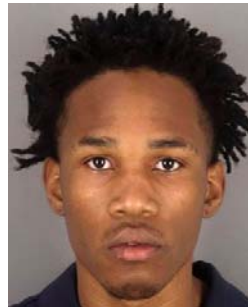
What began late January 6 with Chambers County Sheriff's Office responding to a robbery call at DJ's Grocery near Interstate 10 would amount to a series of robberies over a wide region in January.

Victims at the grocery store described multiple actors wearing masks, entering the business, brandishing a firearm and demanding money. An undisclosed amount of money was taken from the business and the actors fled the area in a vehicle that was parked nearby.

January 19 at the 8100 block of SH-146 a similar



K-Leb Diamond, 17



Eddie Thomas, 17



Moses Rhine, 20

armed robbery drew deputies to investigate. Shortly after this report, a second report of an armed robbery was reported again at DJ's Grocery. After reviewing security video footage, it became apparent to Chambers County Detectives that the same individuals were most likely responsible for all three robberies. Detectives determined

that these individuals have been responsible for numerous other armed robberies from Baytown to Orange at various gas stations over the last month. Through joint efforts from multiple law enforcement agencies along the IH-10 corridor in Southeast Texas, the robbery suspects have now been identified. On January 28, 2021,

Chambers County Sheriff's Office Detective Paul Vest obtained arrest warrants for K-Leb Diamond, 17, Eddie Thomas, 17, and Moses Rhine, 20, as well as one juvenile male for Engaging in Organized Crime (2 counts each) 1st Degree Felony. All four of the individuals reside in the Beaumont area and are currently in

custody.

The number of robberies these individuals have committed along with the violent nature of the crime have attracted ATF and Federal Prosecutors. All are reviewing all the cases that have occurred throughout multiple jurisdictions and are considering pursuing federal prosecution.

According to Sheriff Brian Hawthorne +gBy having a close working relationship with other law enforcement agencies, our Detectives with the Chambers County Sheriff's Office were able to do our part in making sure these violent offenders are off the street. We look forward to a successful prosecution of these criminals and will continue to do our part to keep Chambers County a safe place to live.

Stay On Track With Cancer Screenings

BAYTOWN — (January 21, 2021) — Postponed and canceled events have become the norm during the COVID-19 pandemic. But delaying tests or treatments may have negative consequences in the long run.

Cancer isn't stopping or slowing down in this pandemic, and that's why being vigilant about cancer prevention and screening is crucial.

"Early detection is key to identifying cancer when it's most treatable, which is why it's important to keep up with appointments and continue to follow your doctor's recommendations for cancer screening tests," said Dr. Cesar De Las Casas, medical hematologist-oncologist with the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown.

Don't Skip Screenings There are plenty of excuses for not following through with recommended cancer screenings, but ultimately your health is at stake. Here are some common excuses and ways to overcome those hurdles:

"I don't have time." When you're juggling many responsibilities and prioritizing your to-do list, scheduling a mammogram or colonoscopy may not rank high on the list. However, you should always prioritize your health, even when life is busy. You may be surprised by how quickly you can get it done and move on with the rest of your day.

"I don't want to feel uncomfortable." The fear of pain or embarrassment is a common reason why people don't get screened regularly. You might be worried about discomfort during a mammogram or the inconvenience of preparing for a colonoscopy. Finding out what to expect can help remove the unknowns and relieve those fears. Even if you do feel uncomfortable for a short time, it's a small price to pay for the peace of mind you get from knowing your results.

"I don't need a cancer screening test." You might be thinking you're too young or healthy to even worry about cancer. "If you don't have a family histo-



Dr. Cesar De Las Casas

ry of cancer, you might assume you have no risk of developing cancer yourself. However, there are many more factors that can affect your cancer risk, and that's why routine cancer screenings are recommended to detect cancer early, before you have symptoms," De Las Casas said.

"I'm worried about COVID-19." At Houston Methodist, we're taking every precaution to prevent the spread of illness and make your visit as safe as possible. Some of the ways we're protecting patients and staff include:

- Screening all patients when scheduling appoint-

ments and upon arrival, ensuring only those without COVID-19 symptoms are seen in the office

- Wearing masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Reorganizing waiting rooms and check-in lines to ensure social distancing

- Implementing additional sanitation processes for disinfecting equipment and surfaces

Don't let fear or embarrassment keep you from getting the screening tests you need. If you have concerns about your risk for cancer, talk to your doctor about a screening schedule that's right for you.

The Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown provides comprehensive cancer care in its recently renovated, state-of-the-art facility, including radiation and medical oncology, surgical procedures, breast cancer treatments, 3D mammograms, breast imaging radiologists and can-

cer-specific nurse navigators. Call 346.292.2060 or visit houstonmethodist.org/cancer-baytown to schedule an in-person or virtual appointment with a specialist.

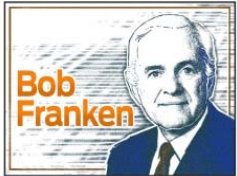
About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has provided Baytown and east Harris, Liberty and Chambers counties with quality medical care since opening its doors in 1948. The hospital has grown throughout the years with the community, providing comprehensive care at all stages of life. As a health care leader, the hospital is proud to have a fully integrated residency program focused on educating and inspiring future practitioners. Today, Houston Methodist Baytown provides some of the most advanced and innovative procedures while never wavering from its focus on compassionate and patient-centered care. Houstonmethodist.org/baytown.

★
OPINION

A Promising Start

A Promising Start —Joe Biden begins his term as the 46th president of the United States with a notable accomplishment: He has personally met every single person in the country. Or it seems like he has. The least valuable possession that anyone could have is a picture with Joe, because nearly everyone has at least one. I use his first name because it seems only natural, and it's going to be difficult to call him "Mr. President" as he stops impromptu, causing his phalanx of Secret Service agents to collide because he can't resist a conversation and a selfie. This is the man who urged American "folks" to "start afresh" after his predecessor (I've decided not to name him; we need a break) talked of "American carnage" as he described the nation in his inaugural address four years ago, turning it into a self-fulfilling prophecy. Starting afresh is easy to say, but the devil is in the details. In fact, the devil has fled the scene and absconded to his Mar-a-Lago headquarters. Now, one might think that West Palm is not your idea of Hades, with its golf courses, but the previous POTUS faces a future of meeting with his attorneys to fend off a seemingly infinite number of legal actions that are piled up with his name as defendant. And if you don't think endlessly meeting with a bunch of lawyers ain't hell, you have never received an itemized account of billable

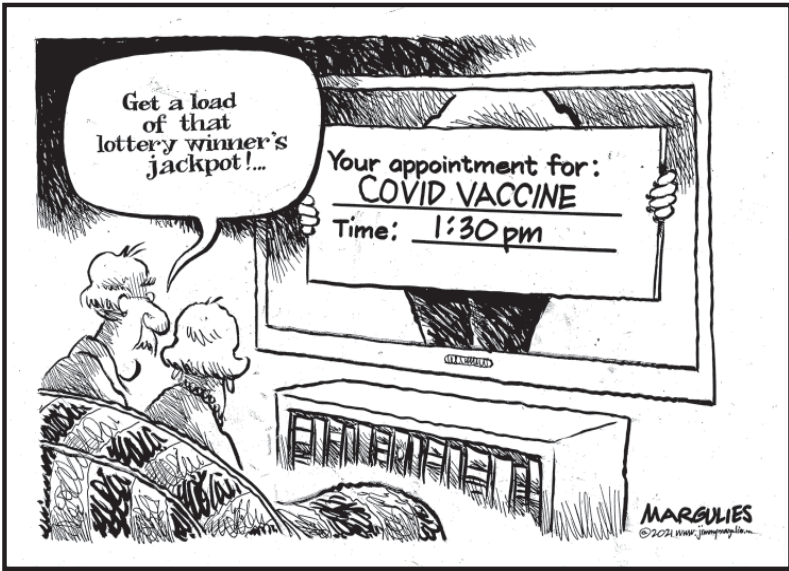


hours. Of course, the lawyers face their own anguish too, trying to collect the money that he invariably stiffs them on, along with everyone else with whom he does business. Meanwhile, back in The Swamp, protected by thousands of police and armed soldiers, Joe — excuse me, Mr. President — is guaranteed a bit of a honeymoon. He can start by just cleaning up the obvious garbage that has been left behind by you-know-who. It's a massive pile of rubbish, complete with a writer's cramp worth of executive orders that need his signature. This includes reversing policies inspired by cruel xenophobia that defined the past four years, tax breaks for the wealthy and deregulation to enrich them too. There is joining the world in fighting off calamitous climate change before the entire planet is consumed — in fact, joining the world in general — repairing alliances and rejecting tyranny. Speaking of repairing, he is going to have to pretend he likes journalists or at least can tolerate skeptical news coverage, as opposed to treating media as "the enemy of the people." That should be easy, considering

how Biden used to hang out and schmooze with reporters every chance he got. Actually, Vice President Kamala Harris did too. We'll see how long it takes for all that glad-handing to turn into a fist. And the new Biden administration has made some grandiose promises about defeating the coronavirus pandemic and its economic wreckage, beyond acknowledging them, as his prior job holder refused to do. A moving tribute to the 400,000 Americans who died is one thing, but moving on to snuffing out COVID is an imperative. Also imperative is making good on the inequities that have plagued the United States since before our beginning, when our colonists brought the first people of color here in chains. The promise made in the Declaration of Independence was a big lie: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal ..." The time for patience is over. First we need to destroy the vicious white supremacist militias, then we need to attack the vestiges of polite racism. Or Joe Biden's presidency with its pledge that "We can deliver racial justice" will be just another empty promise and our last chance to survive as a nation.

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

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★
STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



New Columnist:
Tough acts to follow.

It's an honor to take over writing "Capital Highlights" from two capable predecessors, Chris Cobler and Ed Sterling. They are tough acts to follow, but I'll do my best.

Chris has accepted another challenge, so Mike Hodges, executive director of the Texas Press Association, asked if I wanted to take on this task. I echo what Chris wrote in his first piece last July. The need for providing reliable and accurate information is greater than ever, especially as we continue to fight a pandemic that reaches into all corners of Texas and has upended our lives. If there is a Texas topic you think I should cover, please email me at gborders@texaspress.com. Capital Highlights appears in more than 100 newspapers across the state. My focus is searching through the activities of state agencies, the Legislature and elsewhere for news that affects the readers of these newspapers. Your input is welcomed and appreciated.

Vaccine pace picks up slowly

The rate of COVID-19 vaccine administration is slowly increasing in Texas as we enter the second full month of shots going into arms. The Texas Department of State Health Services last weekend reported that about 1.6 million Texans — overwhelmingly frontline health workers, people over 65 or those with chronic health conditions — have received the first dose. Just over 400,000 are fully vaccinated. The state has received 3.16 million doses so far; nearly half remain to be administered. Texas ranks near the bottom in per-capita doses administered when compared to other states, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Defense sent 80 medical military personnel last week to Abilene, Lufkin and Eagle Pass to assist in administering the vaccine in those cities. "The medical personnel deployed to our communities will provide much-needed support to our front-line healthcare workers," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a news release. The state surpassed two million COVID-19 cases with nearly 36,000 fatalities as January came to a close. A total of 11,473 COVID-19 patients are in Texas hospitals as of Jan. 31, according to TDSHS. Across the state, there are only 753 intensive-care beds available. Even as vaccines are being administered, health officials across the state are urging Texans to wear masks and follow other safety protocols that have been in place since last March.



Grants available for special needs students affected by COVID-19

Abbott and the Texas Education Agency late last week announced the rollout of a grant program for eligible families of children with "significant cognitive disabilities and complex educational needs." The \$1,500 grants can be used to purchase educational resources and services through the TEA's supplemental special education services program. A total of \$30 million was allocated,

which could provide help for up to 20,000 students. To find out if your child is eligible, email the agency at ssesinfo@tea.texas.gov or call 855-772-3839.

Texas Lyceum poll measures impact of the pandemic

The Texas Lyceum, a nonpartisan group of movers and shakers based in Austin, released its annual survey last week. It painted a fairly negative picture of the state's economy as a result of the pandemic and illustrated the widespread impact of the coronavirus on Texans. Responding to the pandemic is the most important issue facing the state, according to 37 percent of respondents. Political corruption and leadership ran a distant second at 10 percent. The 2021 poll presented the most negative views of the state's and nation's economies since the Great Recession of 2008. Additionally, four in five respondents said they knew someone who had contracted COVID-19, while half knew someone who had died from it. On the somewhat brighter side, nearly three-fourths were either "very hopeful" or "somewhat hopeful" that the nation would get the pandemic under control in the next six months. But just 45 percent of Texans say they plan to get vaccinated when it becomes available to them. The complete poll results can be found at texaslyceum.org.

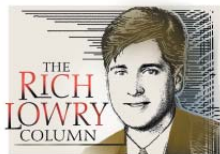
Score one for the chiropractors

In a decade-long battle between the Texas Medical Association and the group that represents the state's chiropractors, the Texas Supreme Court ruled late last week that the lawful scope of practice for chiropractors includes nerves and related testing as it pertains to the musculoskeletal system. TMA originally sued the Texas Board of Chiropractor Examiners in 2011, arguing that such diagnoses exceeded what chiropractors were licensed to do. In a split decision, the high court overturned a ruling from the Austin Court of Appeals that had sided with TMA. Matt Webb, attorney for the chiropractic board, said in an email: "Today's decision was not only legally sound but a victory for common sense and patient care. A different outcome could have drastically curtailed access to critical chiropractic care for patients across the State of Texas."

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. [Email: gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

Free Speech for Me, but Not for Thee

'Free Speech for Me, But Not for Thee' —Long a stalwart defender of the First Amendment, the American media is now having second thoughts. For decades, it was a commonplace sentiment among journalists that freedom of the press was one of the glories of our system. It helped to make the government accountable and to air diverse points of view — even unpopular ones — to be tested in the marketplace of ideas. Media organizations were at the forefront of the fight to vindicate First Amendment rights, with The New York Times involved in two landmark Supreme Court decisions (New York Times Co. v. Sullivan and the Pentagon Papers case) and tended to rise as one against any perceived threat to their prerogatives and freedoms. This advocacy has been sincere, although, if nothing else, journalists should be First Amendment purists out of a sense of self-interest. In a 2018 essay in The Atlantic representing the bygone conventional wisdom, titled "Why a Free Press Matters," the longtime newscaster Dan Rather noted, "As a working journalist, I know I have a stake in this concept." One would think so. Yet, now journalists have lurched from finding a threat to freedom to the press in every criticism of reporters and news outlets by former President Donald Trump to themselves calling for unwelcome media organizations to be shut down. They've become the thing they profess to hate — closed-minded censors who



want to stifle free expression, First Amendment be damned. Perversely, the TV program and email newsletter of the top media analyst at CNN, Brian Stelter, has been a clearinghouse for such advocacy, whether it is demands to get right-wingers removed from social media or — more astonishingly — to keep conservative cable networks off the airwaves. Stelter's colleague, media reporter Oliver Darcy, tweeted about his effort to get cable companies to answer why they carry pro-Trump channels like Newsmax and One America News Network. "Do they have any second thoughts about distributing these channels given their election denialism content?" he asked on Twitter. "They won't say." In the same vein, Washington Post columnist Max Boot drew a direct line between how we deal with foreign terror groups and how we should treat right-wing media organizations. "We need," he wrote, "to shut down the influencers who radicalize people and set them on the path toward violence and sedition." Boot noted, approvingly, that the U.K. doesn't have the equivalent of Fox News because regulators won't allow it. The U.K. also doesn't have a First Amendment, a small detail that might be worth considering if the point is to protect our freedoms rather

than destroy them in a fit of ideological vengeance. A writer at the progressive publication Mother Jones argued for an advertiser boycott instead of regulatory action in a post called, charmingly, "It's Time to Crush Fox News." A boycott wouldn't violate the First Amendment like a direct crackdown on Fox and others. Still, it would be private action undertaken in the service of a profoundly illiberal goal, running counter to the country's culture of free speech. All of this would be bad enough if it weren't people who write and comment on TV for a living advocating it. But journalists have been moving in this direction for a while now, as Armin Rosen catalogues in a disturbing report for Tablet magazine. The author, Steve Coll, who is no less than the dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, said last December, "Those of us in journalism have to come to terms with the fact that free speech, a principle that we hold sacred, is being weaponized against the principles of journalism." The former managing editor of Time magazine, Richard Stengel, has written: "All speech is not equal. And where truth cannot drive out lies, we must add new guardrails." And so its erstwhile champions are ready to retreat from strict adherence to the First Amendment to a new rule of "free speech for me, but not for thee."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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

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Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

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THOUGHTS FROM
HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Do You Trust?

I'm a horse trainer, and I've trained my share of dogs to work with me. In years of training, I've learned something. Given the right tools, you can make an animal do pretty much anything you want to, but all training goes a lot better when the two of you trust each other. You get better results, you learn to read each other, and you develop the art of functioning as a team.

In the animal world, horses are prey. As a result, they're naturally cautious and can be frightened by any number of things. This can make training a horse a challenge, but once a horse fully trusts you, is confident that you'll not lead him wrong, even if he's thrown into a totally new environment with unexpected distractions and apparent threats he'll still do what you tell him to. You've taken the pressure off him; he's confident that he's safe, and the flight response no longer rules. As a result, you can accomplish great things together.

Now flip the picture. Think of yourself as the one being trained,

with God as your trainer. Like the horse, we humans seem to have an instinctive tendency to fear all sorts of things and often have issues with trust, especially when it comes to situations that we clearly can't control. God knows this, but He also knows how much better things will be if we can just learn to trust Him; in other words, if we have faith. "With God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) This is a commonly quoted verse, and two of the most important words are the first: With God. When we work with God we can be a powerhouse team!

Think about how many times you see the importance of having faith in God illustrated in the Bible. Israel in the desert comes immediately to mind: They didn't trust Him enough to march into the Promised Land the first time, so they spent forty years walking in circles. God didn't want that; He wanted the best for them and wants the best for us today. He is focused on helping us grow in faith. He's methodical and patient; He puts up with our fear-inspired bucking and rearing; and He

continually works to soothe, reassure, and comfort us. As we learn to trust Him, He teaches us more, and the better we get at responding to His voice the closer we get to being able to genuinely work with Him, holding up our end of things so that we can accomplish the unimaginable.

God needs us to work together with Him. He needs us to be His hands and feet, to be His voice, to be His representatives here on Earth, but we're limited when we respond to fear more quickly than we respond to Him. We're limited when our attention is more focused on what's going on around us than it is on His voice of reassurance. We're limited when we balk instead of bowing.

Let's do it. Let's make a conscious decision to walk in faith, to do as Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us and genuinely trust Him with all of our hearts, refusing to be led astray by our own understanding, but rather letting Him guide us in all our paths. The results will surely be amazing!

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Groundbreaking Initiative provides boost to Air Quality monitoring in Harris County

Harris County, Texas (January 28, 2021) – A new collaborative initiative between Harris County, an independent research group and private industry, will enhance daily collection and availability of air monitoring data and improve air quality knowledge during significant industrial incidents.

Deployment of new equipment and development of new protocols was made possible through a first of its kind \$1 million grant provided to Harris County by the American Chemistry Council (ACC) Foundation in December 2019. The grant assists Harris County purchase monitoring equipment that enhances the County's local Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP). CAMP provides air data to the community through a recently created air monitoring network.

"Over the past two years, Harris County has undertaken historic steps to modernize the county's ability to protect the environment and enable a proactive response to threats to public health and safety," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "After decades of systemic underfunding and neglect of key County departments, we've made the biggest investments needed in more than 30 years. There is still a long way to go, but we should never lose sight of the fact that every family in Harris County should never have to worry about the quality of the air they breathe or the safety of their environment."

Harris County is using the grant to deploy the following new air monitoring equipment:

- 1 Stationary Gas Chromatograph (GC) unit located in Friendship Park, Seabrook
- 4 Semi-Stationary Sensit@SPOD units located in
 - Hartman Park in Manchester
 - Barrett Station near Crosby
 - River Terrace Park in North Channel
 - Fairmont Park in La Porte

8 portable DustTrak units to be used by Harris County Pollution Control Services staff

55 handheld Multi-Gas Detectors to be provided to the following emergency response teams:

- Harris County Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Team
- City of Houston Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team
- City of Baytown Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team

The stationary monitors will communicate data directly through the recently created HCPCS CAMP network. Information from portable and handheld monitors will be uploaded to the website to provide local officials with timely and useful data to make informed decisions on community response to potential health impacts.

Over the past year, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office, Harris County Pollution Control Services (HCPCS) and Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) have worked with ACC, East Harris County Manufacturing Association (EHCA) and Texas Chemical Council (TCC) to outline



ADRIAN GARCIA



LINA HIDALGO

activities, equipment and protocols that best serve the community.

"It has been exciting to have been working together with ACC, TCC, EHCMA, and HARC. I commend and thank them for their partnership with my office. Our joint work has been with the goal to provide Precinct 2 citizens and industry neighbors access to current air quality data for everyday use by the public. On top of that, this critically important information will be especially valuable during industrial events," said Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

"This historic relationship we are building takes a significant step toward making Harris County a model of how to be good neighbors for entities all across the nation. Collaboration between industry, environmental groups, community-focused organizations along with government is what helps promote a healthy, safe, and economically strong area. Together we can work to assure our residents feel engaged and educated about our industry neighbors and industry can ensure their neighbors breathe clean air," said Commissioner Garcia.

"Harris County Pollution Control's Community Air Monitoring Program is a huge step toward establishing a networked air monitoring system that will allow Harris County to provide residents with real-time data and information about the air quality in their communities," said Dr. Latrice Babin, Director of Harris County Pollution Control Services. "The data gathered will inform residents and decision-makers on routine monitoring as well as emergency events. The ACC Foundation grant is a timely and generous contribution to the CAMP program that will prove beneficial to fence line communities deeply impacted by industrial events."

"Harris County Pollution Control looks forward to working collaboratively with HARC to better understand baseline data and various other community partner stakeholders that will continue to boost the County's air monitoring program," Dr. Babin added.

In another collaborative effort, Harris County and City of Houston are finalizing an agreement for Harris County to place an SPOD monitor in the City of Houston's Hartman Park. "We first want to thank Harris County Precinct 2 and Harris County Pollution Control for taking this important step of placing an advanced air monitoring system in our Hartman Park," said Kenneth Allen, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "The safety of our citizens is the number one priority for both the City and County. Our strong partnership means we work hand-in-hand in the fight to keep our citizens informed about their air quality. It's a mission that must be done collaboratively to protect the people, neighborhoods, and communities of Houston."

Through the grant, Harris County is also obtaining independent scientific support from HARC, including analysis and modelling of air quality data collected throughout Precinct 2. To help with their analysis, HARC also received 30 years of private industry air monitoring data which will assist with background studies on air quality to better understand day-to-day baseline readings.

Under the new agreement with HARC, a Science Advisory Committee of noted air quality, risk communications, and health experts will help review threshold values for certain pollutants, which will support the ongoing analysis conducted by the County's revamped Pollution Control department.

"This is a very exciting project for HARC. We look forward to working with the project's independent Science Advisory Committee and ACC, EHCMA, TCC, first responders, Harris County, other governmental entities, and all the partner community stakeholders and advocacy groups to help enhance Harris County's and our region's emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Protecting public health and safety is a paramount goal we all share," said Dr. Mustapha Beydoun, HARC Vice President and COO.

HARC, Harris County and industry will test the new network and improve stakeholder coordination during a series of table-top drills slated for later this year.

"We thank Judge Hidalgo and Commissioner Garcia for opening the door to industry for collaboration. We applaud Commissioner Garcia for his active leadership and we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this groundbreaking initiative, which will help protect workers and communities throughout the Houston region," said Chris Jahn, President and CEO of the American Chemistry Council. "One of the project's important strengths is that in addition to providing local officials with an array of new air monitoring equipment, it also allows officials to draw on the scientific expertise of HARC. It's a tremendous team effort that will greatly improve the county's ability to collect, analyze and share information about air quality, especially during an emergency."

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DON B. GANN

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

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All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
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Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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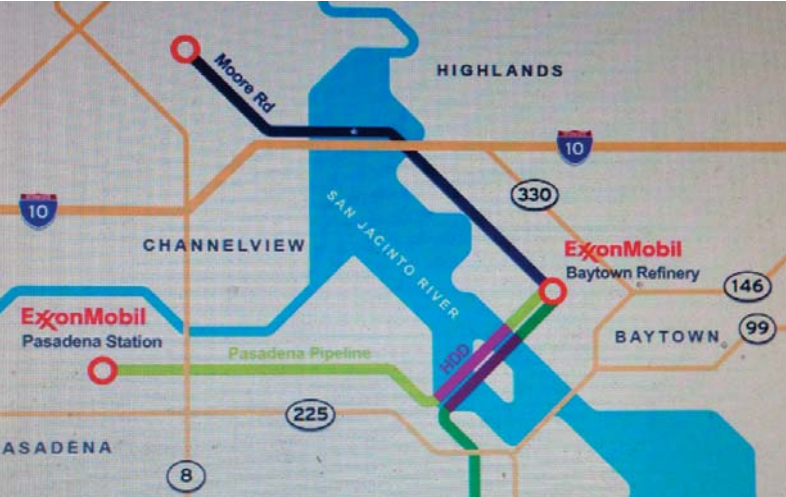


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New Pipeline,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The Pipeline shown in black replaces an existing line, and starts at a supply depot in Channelview, travels through neighborhoods along River Road, crosses under the San Jacinto River near the I-10 Bridge, and continues through Lynchburg neighborhoods until it reaches the Exxon plant in Baytown. Other supply lines from Pasadena and Bayport are also shown.

among others. Numerous inspections are conducted during our work to verify the construction quality of the new pipe before it is placed into service. Once a pipeline is operational, inspections and maintenance are conducted on a regular basis for the life of the pipe.

ExxonMobil Pipeline Company began last Fall to replace an existing 20-mile crude oil pipeline between EMPCo's Webster Station in Webster, TX and ExxonMobil's Baytown refinery in Baytown. The work will take place on and along a 20-mile pipeline corridor through parts of Webster, Houston, La Porte, Pasadena, Deer Park and Baytown. The replacement 36 inch pipeline will support delivery and takeaway crude service to and from ExxonMobil's Baytown refinery, and will reinforce the energy infrastructure network enabling domestic

crude production from the Permian Basin in west Texas and southeast New Mexico.

Also beginning in the Fall of 2020, ExxonMobil Pipeline Company will replace approximately eight miles of an existing pipeline in the Baytown and Channelview areas between the Baytown refinery and Moore Road junction near the southeast intersection of Beltway 8 and Highway 90. ExxonMobil and its predecessors have safely operated multiple pipelines in these locations for many years. This work supports the continued safe and reliable operation of our pipelines in the region.

In 2020, ExxonMobil Pipeline Company replaced approximately 10 miles of pipeline segments in Baytown, Deer Park and Pasadena on its Pasadena Pipeline system. The construction work was safely completed in

the Summer of 2020. We appreciate the cooperation of local officials who supported the safe and timely completion of this project."

Lynchburg neighbors declined to speak of the neighborhood cut through.

The Houston region has become the country's first place region for exports, by being home to the largest petrochemical manufacturing complex in the Americas. Energy production and the export of crude oil, along with the increasing global demand for chemicals produced in the region, are major drivers of this success. Largely because of petrochemical activity along the 52-mile ship channel, the nearly 200 private companies that make up the Greater Port of Houston have helped make the port the first place U.S. port in foreign waterborne tonnage.

GCM Dazzlers Perform in Houston Texans Cheerleaders All-Star Performance



The Goose Creek Memorial Dazzlers

The Goose Creek Memorial Dazzlers had the opportunity to perform in the Houston Texans Cheerleaders All Star performance, which was videotaped and aired on Sunday, December 6, at the NFL Houston Texans Gameday. The HTC All Star performance showcases various dance teams throughout the Houston and surrounding areas. All Star performers learned choreography and filmed it live on site at their individual campus. The GCM Dazzlers learned the choreography and filmed with five Houston Texans Cheerleaders at the GCM football field. This recorded performance was an opportunity that showcased that "when there is a will there's a way."

Dazzlers also had a Q & A session with the HTC after the recordings. Topics such as dancing beyond high school, goals and community service were discussed. Each HTC present gave her background on her dance career, whether dancing at a university or being a professional cheerleader, and the workload and the dedication it takes to accomplish your goals.

Fans can watch the performance online to support the GCM Dazzlers and all other dance teams that participated in the virtual performance showcase. Since 2015, the Dazzler organization has performed in the All

Star performance each year. The GCM Dazzlers are under the direction of co-directors Larisa Coy Cantu and Marisa Coy Yepez (HTC Alumni 2005-2012).

"We feel like having the performance filmed at each home stadium gives that sense of community for each dance team that participates. Being able to showcase the talent on the team is an opportunity we would not pass up," said Cantu.

Although this year might have been a little different, it still allows a performance opportunity and to showcase the talented dancers at Goose Creek Memorial High School. The Dazzlers thank GCM principal Gary Guy, fine arts director Susan Chiboroski, deputy superintendent for administrative services Dr. Demetrius McCall, GCCISD and the Dazzler Booster Club for approving this opportunity to flourish.

"Our team thrives on maintaining a positive work ethic, instilling and displaying dedication and passion for dance no matter what the circumstances are. The challenges of 2020 have taught our team to cherish every opportunity and memory and to overcome adversity no matter what. Having this opportunity is a memory of a lifetime for which they are proud to be a part," said Marisa Yepez.

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