

► **LAMAR COUNTY:** 903-737-4167, open 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays and Thursdays
 ► **FANNIN COUNTY:** 903-583-2189, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
 ► **DELTA COUNTY:** 903-408-1060, open 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday
 ► **RED RIVER COUNTY:** Clarksville Family Clinic at z0h0q.qr.ai

THE PARIS NEWS

Tuesday
February 23, 2021

Volume 151, No. 98

\$1.50



COVID 19 RED RIVER VALLEY

TODAY IS TUESDAY FEB. 23, 2021

Since Covid-19 testing began in March, there have been:

467

ACTIVE CASES IN RED RIVER VALLEY

11,399

DIAGNOSES
(Red River Valley)

260

DEATHS
(Red River Valley)

10,474

NUMBER OF RED RIVER VALLEY RESIDENTS WHO HAVE RECOVERED FROM COVID-19

CASES BY COUNTY

COUNTY	TOTAL CASES	ACTIVE CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERIES
Lamar	5,782	309	108	5,112
Red River	642	19	34	589
Fannin	3,148	24	95	3,084
Delta	290	38	10	242
Choctaw	1,537	77	13	1,447

Elsewhere in the region

Collin	81,392	1,361	694	67,526
Grayson	10,630	130	302	10,183
Hunt	5,255	1,332	138	3,785
Hopkins	2,880	184	99	2,597
Franklin	684	108	24	552
Titus	3,568	408	75	3,085
Morris	824	130	24	670
Bowie	6,448	512	172	5,764

STATE/NATION CASES

	TOTAL CASES	ACTIVE CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERIES
Texas	2,594,466	202,748	41,407	2,331,940
U.S.	28,463,318	9,281,100	505,235	18,973,190

*Reports as of 7 a.m. Tuesday

Multiple Sources

Thousands of vaccine doses coming to area

Paris clinic to be Friday and Saturday

By Klark Byrd

klark.byrd@theparisnews.com

More than 2,000 doses of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccines are on their way to the Red River Valley this week, and they're expected to join a delayed shipment of more than 2,000 doses from last week.

Although the state is now in its 11th week of vaccine rollout, eligibility for the vaccine remains only for those who qualify as Phase 1A and 1B. That includes frontline health care workers, first responders, those 65 and older and those 16 or older with at least one chronic health condition that puts them at higher risk for severe infection.

Now considered by the state as a vaccine

See **VACCINES**, pg. 3

Deport council finalizes ballots, partners with local nonprofit

By Julia Furukawa

julia.furukawa@theparisnews.com

DEPORT — As many local governmental bodies around the Red River Valley are preparing for May elections, Deport City Council members finalized the candidates for the upcoming election at a Monday meeting, drawing the order in which candidates will appear on the ballot.

Craig Folse, Rebecca Crawford, Gene Landreth, Danny Turner Jr. and John Roach are on the ballot for City Council, and Patrick Watson is running unopposed for mayor. The ballot will also include a vote to increase the sales tax rate to bring in more revenue.

A key topic was also handling the city's credit cards, which were canceled after former mayor John Mark Francis left office. Councilor Marilyn Glover said she no longer wanted to

See **DEPORT**, pg. 3

Cities, schools ready for May elections

By Mary Madewell

and Kim Cox

The Paris News Staff

Residents in cities and school districts throughout the Red River Valley will be going to the polls May 1 to determine who will serve on city councils and as school trustees for the coming year. In some instances, voters will decide the fate of bond elections and other matters pertinent to municipalities and school districts.

North Lamar ISD resi-

dents are to vote on a \$55.155 million bond referendum with five separate propositions, and Prairiland ISD constituents will decide the fate of a \$7.5 million bond in one proposition.

Election officials in both municipalities and school districts have approved candidate applications and are now in the process of drawing for positions on the May 1 ballot.

The last day to register to vote, if not already a registered voter, or to make a

change of address for the May 1 election is April 1. Early voting begins April 19 and ends April 27.

In Paris, Mihir Pankaj, a local hotelier who serves as a Paris Economic Development Corp. director and Paris ISD trustee, and James O'Bryan, a veterinarian and former member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, are in a race for the District 4 spot on Paris City Council currently held by Steve Clifford, who is term limited.

Incumbents Paula Portugal, from District 7, and Linda Knox, from District 5, are unopposed.

In Honey Grove, only incumbent Elderman Kenny Massey is on the ballot for the three seats up for election. Incumbents Thad Weems and Sonia Woods did not file for re-election, according to City Secretary Sally Wright, who said the new council would appoint

See **ELECTIONS** pg. 3



JULIA FURUKAWA/The Paris News

Owner Charles Shouse stands by his truck after a busy week of plumbing work. Shouse was working around the clock to help residents whose pipes were damaged due to the cold.

Head Above Water

Local plumbers work long hours to help through severe weather

By Julia Furukawa

julia.furukawa@theparisnews.com

Charles Shouse's phone was ringing off the hook last week. The local plumber's services were in high demand after subzero temperatures battered the state of Texas, and Paris residents were faced with busted pipes and plumbing issues from the cold.

"I answer my phone 24 hours a day. People started calling me three or four nights ago at 2:30 (a.m.)," Shouse said Friday. "So I'm talking on the phone at 2:30, and once I started talking, the phone kept ringing and I

didn't get to go back to sleep."

He was getting so many calls and messages that he had to silence his phone for a while just to deal with the projects he had on hand.

"At one point, we had to quit answering the phone so we could work," Shouse said. "But then we started going through our voicemails and stuff and calling people back, and it's pretty stressful."

Not only did Shouse deal with the overwhelming number of calls, but his wife did, too, when he was up in the wee hours of the morning.

"She said 'who are you talking to?'" Shouse said with a chuckle.

Some of the breaks Shouse

saw in pipes were massive compared to what he's dealt with in the past as businesses and homeowners dealt with damage that was almost unavoidable due to the cold.

"It was just super duper cold," Shouse said. "I've been doing this for 30 years and I've never seen some of the size of the splits, the breaks. It's kind of like, 'are you kidding me?'" But it got colder here than it ever has in probably my lifetime."

He responded to calls at Dr. David Salas's clinic and at the rehabilitation and nursing home Heritage House where pipes had busted, causing water to stop flowing. Nursing homes don't stop operating during severe weather and so Shouse said he worked diligently to get the water back on and do

damage control to help some of the more vulnerable members of the Paris community.

Shouse was not alone in having a slammed schedule. Courtney Relford at Diamond C Plumbing & Utilities said by the end of last week, the company had around 130 calls to get to. While she said some issues may have resolved themselves and workers may not have to go to all of the calls, she estimated they'd still be sending plumbers to dozens of homes and businesses to sort out damage from the storm.

"We got so many calls," she said.

While the weather has warmed up significantly this week, Shouse said residents

See **PLUMBERS**, pg. 3

Paris Council approves Municipal Code, ends mayor's disaster declaration

By Mary Madewell

mary.madewell@theparisnews.com

Paris City Council gave approval to a new Code of Ordinances, appointed members to a Charter Review Committee and established a new policy for approval of city contributions to nonprofit agencies at a Monday

night meeting.

Councilors opted to let the mayor's winter storm disaster proclamation expire, but not before interim Police Chief Randy Tuttle informed councilors of the importance for residents with storm damage to self-report to the Texas Division of Emergency Management at TDEM.texas.gov/warm

"Right now we are not under the federal individual assistance program, but that does not mean we won't be if enough people report damages," Tuttle said, explaining that the Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief pro-

See **COUNCIL**, pg. 3

Vol. 151; No. 98
Copyright 2021
The Paris News
\$1.50



INDEX

Daily Briefing2
 Classifieds7-8
 Comics9-10
 Obituaries10
 Sports12-13
 Voices4

FORECAST

Today
 High 69 Low 48
 Winds 10-15 mph

Wednesday
 High near 64.
 Winds up to 15 mph.

National weather Page 2

ONLINE POLL

In May 2020, a Paris News poll found 54% of respondents saying they were likely or very likely to get a Covid-19 vaccine while 37% were unlikely or very unlikely. It's been about three months since Texas began rolling out Covid-19 vaccines for distribution. Since then, have you changed your mind about getting the vaccine?



SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO VOTE

FOLLOW US



Find us on Facebook
 theparisnews.com