

SPORTS

Harden quiet on his future with team amid trade talks.

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CORONAVIRUS

U.S. sees deadliest year on record, in large part due to COVID.

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Congress passes \$900B in pandemic aid

Trump expected to sign bill with relief for small businesses, \$600 checks

By Benjamin Wermund
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — After weeks of negotiations, Congress on Monday night passed a \$900 billion coronavirus relief package that will send more stimulus checks to many Texans,

boost unemployment benefits and offer billions in aid for small businesses.

The relief package will send \$600 checks to those making less than \$75,000 and their children and will add \$300 a week in unemployment for 11 weeks, payments that are each half as

much as Congress offered in the first round of COVID stimulus last spring. It includes another bundle of forgivable paycheck protection loans, an earlier round of which provided \$41 billion of assistance to more than 417,000 small businesses in Texas.

The package also includes funds for vaccine distribution, as well as increased food stamp aid and

MORE INSIDE

Five things to know about what's in the relief package.

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White House Task Force urges Texas to step up COVID-19 mitigation.

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Nearly 5,600-page bill is massive leap of faith for Congress.

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rental assistance. And it offers billions to help schools and colleges make necessary upgrades to reopen safely.

The House passed the relief package on a 359-53 vote Monday evening. Two dozen Texans, including every Democrat, voted for the bill, with nine Republicans opposing it and three not voting. The Texans who voted against it were Reps. Brian

Babin of Woodville, Michael Burgess of Lewisville, Michael Cloud of Victoria, Mike Conaway of Midland, Louie Gohmert of Tyler, Lance Gooden of Terrell, Chip Roy of Austin, Van Taylor of Plano and Randy Weber of Friendswood.

The Senate passed it late Monday night, and the White House has said President Donald Trump will *Stimulus continues on A11*

‘AN AMERICAN DUTY’



Photos by Marie D. De Jesús / Staff photographer

Connie Moffitt talks to her husband through a window Monday while he stays at Park Manor of Westchase, a nursing home.

Nursing homes ready for major endeavor of vaccinating residents

By Jeremy Blackman and Emily Foxhall
STAFF WRITERS

Amy Buehrer wanted to be sure her dad understood the choice he was making.

It has been a tumultuous year at his new nursing home in Houston, where visits for months were prohibited because of the coronavirus pandemic. He hadn't had a say in the lockdown. But she wanted 86-



Ollie Moffitt, 86, is eager to receive the vaccine against COVID-19, calling it “an American duty.”

INSIDE

» Elderly, infirm Texans get priority in next vaccine phase. Page A3

year-old Ollie Moffitt to be able to decide whether to receive the vaccine that could begin restoring his freedom. The answer was unequivocal.

To him, “this is an American duty,” Buehrer said.

Next week, pharmacy teams will begin fanning out across Texas for one of the most cumbersome and critical phases of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign: inoculating staff and residents at the thousands *Facilities continues on A10*

Barr sees no need for probe of Biden, election

AG undercuts Trump on push for inquiries

By Michael Balsamo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Undercutting President Donald Trump on multiple fronts, Attorney General William Barr said Monday he saw no reason to appoint a special counsel to look into the president's claims about the 2020 election or

to name one for the tax investigation of President-elect Joe Biden's son.



Barr

Barr, in his final public appearance as a member of Trump's Cabinet, also reinforced the belief of federal officials that Russia was behind a massive hack of U.S. government agencies, not China as the president has suggested.

Barr is leaving the Justice Department this week, having morphed from one of Trump's most loyal allies to one of the few members of the Cabinet willing to contradict the president openly. That's been particularly true since the election, with Barr declaring that he had seen no evidence of widespread voting fraud, even as Trump continued to make false claims about the integrity of the contest.

The president has also grown particularly angry that Barr didn't *Barr continues on A12*

Questions unanswered after release of La Marque police shooting video

By Nicole Hensley
STAFF WRITER

A woman's mournful screams and shouting from irate neighbors filled five minutes of body-worn camera footage from when a La Marque police officer killed a 22-year-old Black man, a

shooting that his family has said was not justified.

Authorities on Monday released footage from a portion of the deadly Dec. 9 encounter between Officer Jose Santos and Joshua Feast, who was wanted on multiple felony warrants and who police said had

been named a person of interest in recent shootings. Within minutes of the shooting, neighbors gathered and confronted the officer as Feast lay dying in his cousin's driveway.

While police also released more details about the encounter, the video

still left some questions unanswered. The video does not appear to clearly show when Santos opened fire and whether Feast brandished a weapon at the officer. The first 30 seconds of the video lacks audio, so the initial interaction between *Video continues on A12*



La Marque Police

The video shows the officer chasing Joshua Feast, who can be seen briefly facing the officer before bolting.

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