

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 8, NO. 14 (#318) THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

COVID-19

Cases as of April 1, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

1,366 POSITIVE
16 DEATHS
118 RECOVERED

TEXAS

4,080 POSITIVE
64 DEATHS

UNITED STATES

206,207 POSITIVE
4,542 DEATHS
8,413 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

921,924 POSITIVE
46,252 DEATHS
192,964 RECOVERED

COVID-19 RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON

832-393-4220

HARRIS COUNTY

713-634-1110
ASK A NURSE

PRE-SCREENING

HARRIS COUNTY
832-927-7575
readyharris.org

HOUSTON METHODIST HOSPITAL BAYTOWN

MYMETHODIST APP
(DOWNLOAD)
FOR VIRTUAL URGENT CARE

Congress passes \$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package

▪ \$1,200 for individuals earning \$75,000 annually or less.

▪ \$2,400 for a marriage couple earning \$150,000 annually or less.

▪ \$500 per child
▪ No need to fill out an application, Government will deposit it into your bank account based on your 2018 or 2019, the latest you have declared.

▪ Only people with a social security number qualify for this stimulus check.

▪ Checks could be deposited within 3 weeks or could take up to 4 months.

SAY "YES" TO CENSUS, BE COUNTED

HARRIS COUNTY – Since 1790, as mandated by the Constitution, Americans have come together every 10 years to be counted. This record of every person residing in the United States is important as it provides the basis for the reapportionment of congressional seats, redistricting, and distribution of over \$675 billion in vital annual federal funds to support state, county and community programs across the country. For perspective, it's estimated

that our community lost millions of federal funding because of undercounting. This is important for residents of Harris County. In 2020, let's make sure everyone counts!

CENSUS 101

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in Census 2020. There will be four options to complete: By phone, by mail, in person and, for the first time, online. Respondents will also have the opportunity to complete the census on

their mobile device.

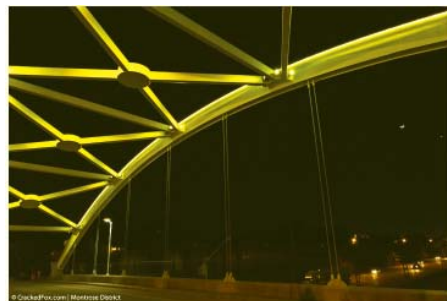
YES! TO CENSUS 2020

To ensure we are not overlooked, the City of Houston and Harris County have created the YES! TO CENSUS 2020 campaign, a local initiative inviting families, friends and neighbors to show pride in our communities by responding to the census.

HOW THE CENSUS BENEFITS OUR COMMUNITY

Federal funds, grants and support to states,

See YES TO Census, page 3



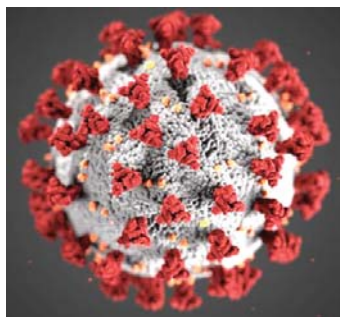
Montrose Bridges over the Southwest Freeway were lit in Yellow this week to mark CENSUS WEEK.

COVID-19 Virus changed everyone's life

People around the world, including Harris County residents are experiencing the biggest changes in their whole life, due to the incredible spread of the Coronavirus known as COVID-19.

School closings, businesses and restaurants closed due to the public orders to "Stay Home Work Safe," financial markets in turmoil, and medical facilities overwhelmed with patients that are sick and dying are the signs of the path of destruction that this virus has wrought.

Starting in Wuhan China, it seemed that the problems were far away, but modern lifestyles including worldwide travel, brought the deadly virus into hundreds of countries in just a few short weeks. Every country has fought the epidemic on their own terms, but with thousands sick and hun-



dreds dying, the World Health Organization soon labelled this disease a Pandemic.

In this country, federal officials and the President at first tried to minimize the threat and say that they had control of the disease, but eventually had to admit that there was a lack of medicines and medical supplies to properly deal with the problem.

In only a short month, since last February, Houston has seen a total of 377 confirmed positive cases and 4 deaths. Harris County outside Houston has recorded 303 cases and 2 deaths. Although the common flu is more prevalent each year than Covid-19, the new virus spreads faster

See COVID-19 Virus, page 2

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo extends "Stay Home Work Safe" order to April 30

Harris County, Texas - March 31, 2020, As the region continues to see growth in COVID-19 cases, County Judge Lina Hidalgo today announced she will extend the county's Stay Home-Work Safe order to 11:59 p.m. on April 30. The order advises non-essential businesses to

shut down and for residents to stay home except for essential activities.

"During this critically important time for our region, we need to maintain our efforts to drastically reduce public gatherings and activities," Judge Hidalgo said. "The increase in cases we have coming

into our hospitals, the projections from our health-care leaders show this is by no means the time to go back to normal. We all see the case rate growing.

Texas Medical Center CEOs commended the county's decision in a joint statement, saying the extension is necessary "to

save lives and protect our patients, families and the region."

The Stay Home-Work Safe order, which was first issued on March 24, allows "essential" businesses and workers to continue operations as long as social-distancing practices are in place. "The intent behind

this order is to drastically limit public gathering and activities - a practice we know reduces the spread of COVID-19," Judge Hidalgo said. "Any uncertainties

See Order Extended, Page 6

College student Cinthia Flores rescues baby squirrels

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. March 28-2020 – Jacinto City resident Cinthia Flores a pet lover became a rescuer of two infant squirrels.

Flores said, "I've been home taking my college courses on-line due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. When I took my two house dogs out in my fenced-in front yard I noticed Oso (Bear in En-

glish) my male German Shepherd acting strange. He was putting his head down in the shrubbery near the bottom of a tree whining and turning around looking at me as if he was trying to get my attention. Bella my Chihuahua joined Oso and they both kept trying to get me to come see what they found".

"Upon my investigation I discovered two tiny baby squirrels lying on the ground under the tree, they were crying. I summoned my mother Maria to help me, we picked them up and took them inside and made a shoe box bed with a baby warmer in it. After talking to a member of the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), I was advised before bringing them to them I



needed to first prevent their dehydration by giving them electrolytes which we did with an eye dropper," Flores said.

Should you know of an animal being mistreated, neglected or needing rescued call the ASPCA at 713-861-9453.

Pictured to the left: Cinthia Flores holding the two baby squirrels she rescued after falling from their nest.

Photo by Allan Jamail

Pct. 2 expanding 'Homebound Senior Food' delivery program

New online portal and phone hotline will enroll qualifying seniors for daily hot meal delivery

Harris County, TX — With the thought that no one should go hungry during the current Harris County Stay-At-Home order, and because many in elderly population already have difficulties getting out anyway, Commissioner Adrian Garcia is expanding the existing home-

bound senior daily free hot meal delivery program in Precinct 2. Any Precinct 2 resident who is age 60 or older possessing limited resources and is unable to leave their home due to illness, disability, or lack of mobility could qualify.

Seniors that qualify will receive daily, nutritious hot meals delivered directly to their door by Precinct 2 staff. Anyone who believes they are eligible for this service is asked to reg-

ister on an online form on the Harris Co. Precinct 2 website (www.hcp2.com/programs/precinct-2-meal-program). Those without internet access are asked to apply over the phone via the Precinct 2 Hotline (713-274-2222) which is active Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia issued the following statement:

"During this crisis, we will not forget our most

vulnerable residents of Precinct 2, such as homebound seniors. I have instructed my staff to expand our current homebound senior food delivery program by signing up any and all seniors who are struggling and are unable to leave their Precinct 2 homes, due to illness, dis-




Commissioner Adrian Garcia

See Senior Food Program, Page 3

★

OBITUARIES

Nelda Joyce Holleman



Nelda Joyce Holleman, 88, of Highlands, Texas, passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2020. She was born at home in Caradan, Texas on July 28, 1931 to Viola Jane Harris Crawford and Norman Thomas Crawford. Nelda lived in Caradan through the first grade, at age 6. In 1937, the family along with two younger brothers, Glenn Ray and Norman Carroll moved to a government farm in Goose Creek, Texas, on Garth Road, which is now called Baytown. She attended elementary and junior high at Cedar Bayou and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1948. Nelda met the love of her life William Clinton Holleman on a Sunday night at church and then a year later they were married on December 16th, 1950. In their retirement years, they became full time RV'rs for six years and traveled to many places. She was an avid reader and a member of the Highlands Book Review Club. Tending to her garden, planting vegetables, and yardwork is what she really enjoyed. Nelda had an outgoing personality and a good sense of humor that will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is preceded in death by her husband, William Holleman; parents, Norman and Viola Crawford; son, Dan Lee Holleman; grandson, Michael Bland; brothers, Glen Ray Crawford and Norman Carroll Crawford; former sister-in-law, Lina Sue Philo; sister-in-laws and brother-in-laws, Virginia

Holleman, Marian and Jimmie Holleman, Jan and Robert Holleman; and her favorite aunt that was like a mother to her, May Redden.

Nelda is survived by her children, Susan O'neal and husband William, and William Kraig Holleman; grandchildren, Carrie Bland Cuevas and husband Chuck, and Matthew Bland; great-grandchildren, Ian Cuevas, Hailie Ellis, Jillian Cuevas, Tanner Cuevas, and Daphne Cuevas; sister-in-law, Patsy Crawford; cousins, Ollie and Jack Matthews, and a host of extended family and friends.

The family would like to say "Thank You" to the staff at ADL Assisted Living in Highlands, especially to Mrs. Virginia, Donna and Devyn, and Ruth from Faith Hospice for all their loving care.

Services and a graveside were privately held and were under the care of Sterling-White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands Texas.

STERLING ~ WHITE
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

281-426-3555

11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd.
Highlands, TX 77562

ATTENTION TO ALL

+

EMERGENCY PERSONNEL

As a way of showing our gratitude to you, we're offering all hospital personnel

GM SUPPLIER PRICING.

PLEASE CALL: 281-962-9180 FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

0% APR FOR 84 MOS.

PLUS

NO PAYMENTS FOR 120 DAYS

TURNER


CHEVROLET

Crosby, Texas

21001 Crosby Freeway, Crosby TX 77532
On the corner of Hwy 90 and Hwy 2100 between Barrett Station and Crosby

Call: 281-962-9180

TurnerChevroletCrosby.com



Robert Turner
Owner

0% APR for 84 months on select models in lieu of incentives. \$11.90 for every \$1,000 financed, with approve credit thru gm financial. 120 day defer payment available thru gm financial with approve credit. Offer expires 4/30/2020.

"Our people make the difference."

COVID-19 Virus,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and is more virulent, therefore more dangerous, say the medical experts. The U.S. has experienced 174,467 cases of the virus, with 3416 deaths. Experts at the Center for Disease Control in Washington have predicted that the toll might rise above 100,000 deaths, and the president conjectured that it might be 200,000. But in a strange viewpoint, he said

that would be a victory, since the toll could be higher, perhaps even 2,000,000. Without a vaccine to defeat the virus, medical professionals are telling the public that the only way to control the spread is to stay 6 feet away from others, wash hands thoroughly and often, clean surfaces and don't touch them unless necessary, and control your cough and cover it

with a clean tissue. Since the development of an effective vaccine may be months or years away, hospitals are trying to ease the severity of the disease in those affected with ventilators for their lungs, and medicines made for other purposes but showing some success in treating this virus. In addition most local and federal governments have severely restricted travel, whether it is a Stay Home order as such from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, or a forced quarantine for travelers arriv-

ing from outside the J.S. borders. Although most families and individuals are not used to this type of restriction and find it uncomfortable and abhorrent, nevertheless the guidelines are being followed by most of the population, and experts say it is having an affect on the rate of spread of the disease. The fact that essential services, such as groceries, fuel, and medical services are still available in some form have helped ease the minds of most people. However, experts have noted that stress and do-

mestic violence have risen in situations such as this, and warn people to seek help, or find diversions such as physical exercise to help control the stress. Authorities such as Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia have warned that East Harris County is especially vulnerable to the health problems related to the COVID-19 virus. This is because of the age of the population, the existing pollution in the environment, and the notorious lack of medical services in this area. He cautioned all residents to take extra care

to follow CDC and County guidelines, such as "social distancing." He asked anyone with a special problem to contact his office for more help. Deadlines for elections, sports events, school and businesses re-openings, and social distancing have been pushed back several times, now extending through May in many cases, or longer. It remains to be seen how deadly this disease will be, and how soon life will return to normal. Citizens are filled with expectation and hope that it will all be over soon.

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY

HIGHLANDS

281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.

NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

SIGNATURE

Select SERVICES

www.SigSelect.com

Select Services:

Personal Care

Social Outings

Respite Care

24 hr. Care

In-Hospital Sitting

Post-Surgical Assistance

Pet & Plant Care

Light Housework

Meal Preparation

Transportation

MONICA NELSON

COMMUNITY LIASON

346-216-8872

mnelson@sigselect.com

606 Rollingbrook Dr. #2G

Baytown, TX 77521

832-695-2328

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Call

GRAFIKSHOP

for printing quotes

713-977-2555

LOVE NEVER FAILS

I Corinthians 13:8

Gov. Abbott waives several licensing barriers in healthcare

Governor Abbott waives certain licensing renewal regulations, fees for nurses

AUSTIN – March 25, 2020 - Governor Greg Abbott has waived certain regulations from the Texas Board of Nursing regarding licensing renewal and subsequent fees for nurses in Texas. The Governor's waiver authorizes a six-month grace period for nurses with expired licenses. This grace period will allow nurses who are otherwise in good standing

to continue practicing and will give them additional time to renew their license without added fees and penalties. "Nurses are essential to protecting the public health and safety of our communities as we combat the COVID-19 virus," said Governor Abbott. "With these temporary waivers, nurses in Texas

can continue caring for patients without worrying about potential delays or barriers imposed by the licensing renewal process. We are grateful for the nurses serving throughout our state, and Texas are committed to ensuring they have the resources and support they need to do their jobs as we face this public health emergency."

Governor Abbott removes licensing barriers for advance practice registered nurses

AUSTIN – March 28, 2020 - Governor Greg Abbott has waived certain regulations allowing for an expedited licensing reactivation process for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) in Texas. Under these waivers, an APRN with a license that has been inactive for more than two years, but less than four years, will not have to pay a reactivation fee, complete continuing education

credits, or complete the current practice requirements. For APRNs with a license that has been inactive for more than four years, the reactivation fee and continuing education requirements will be waived. "Our frontline healthcare workers play a crucial role in Texas' response to COVID-19,

and we are working to reduce barriers for former nurses who are ready and willing to serve in our communities," said Governor Abbott. "By expediting the process for APRNs to reactivate their license, Texas is allowing more healthcare professionals to reenter the workforce and assist in our effort to combat COVID-19."

Governor Abbott waives certain licensing regulations for pharmacists, technicians

AUSTIN – March 28, 2020 - Governor Greg Abbott has waived certain licensing renewal regulations for Texas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees. With these waivers, the Governor is temporarily extending ex-

piration dates for licenses and temporarily suspending continuing education requirements for pharmacists. "As our state responds to COVID-19, it is important that Texans continue to have access to the

services they depend on to meet their daily needs," said Governor Abbott. "With these waivers, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can continue to meet the needs of their fellow Texans without potential delays caused by an expired license."

The Journey of a thousand miles begins with one step

-LaoTzu

STERLING ~ WHITE

FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

11011 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD.

HIGHLANDS, TX 77562

(281) 426-3555

WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1824"

Siding & Roof Repairs

Mobile Home Skirting

Call Mr. Roofer

281-452-0000

What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later

ROMANS 8:18

ENVELOPES

Printed with your Address

1 or 2 colors

Special Rates 250 to 25,000

Please call for a Quote

Grafikshop at Star-Courier

713-977-2555



Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – Retiring from Work; When Should I Claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I turned 63 August 12th, 2019. I will be retiring June 30th, 2020 from my current job. I will have made approximately \$35,000 by then and am receiving severance pay of \$19,000 on June 30th. Will the pay I receive through June 30th affect what I can draw from Social Security? Also, how much of a difference would it be if I wait until August 12th, 2020 to officially start drawing Social Security? Is there any other information I should be aware of before I start drawing Social Security? Signed: Anxious to Retire

Dear Anxious: First, let me assure you that the money you earned this year before your benefits start aren't counted as part of Social Security's "earnings test" which could affect your payment after your benefits start. When you claim, your Social Security benefit amount will depend upon two things – your "primary insurance amount" (or "PIA") which is determined from your highest earning 35 years (adjusted for inflation) over your lifetime, and the age at which you claim your SS benefit. By claiming at age 64 in August, your benefit will be cut by about 15.6% from what it would be if you wait to claim at your full retirement age (66 plus 4 months). Your earnings for 2020 won't be applied to your SS record until after you file your 2020 taxes in 2021, so won't affect your benefits (if appropriate) until after that. If your 2020 earnings are more than any of those in the 35 years used to initially compute your benefit, your benefit will increase at that time. The day of the month you were born isn't significant, only the month. So, if you apply to start benefits in August of 2020, your benefit cut will be as stated above because you're claiming exactly 2 years and 4 months early. But if you wait longer you'll gain another 5/9ths of 1% (.556%) for each additional month you delay up

until your full retirement age (FRA).

Although you plan to retire from work, be aware that if you decide to return you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings limit once you are collecting benefits before your FRA, and that will be the case until you reach your full retirement age. If you go back to work after you start your SS and earn more than \$1,520 in any remaining month of 2020, you'll not be entitled to benefits for that month. Starting in 2021, you'll be subject to an annual earnings limit of at least \$18,240 (that's the 2020 limit – limits for future years aren't yet known but will be higher). Exceeding the annual limit will cause SS to withhold half of anything you earn over the limit. The limit is more, and the penalty is less in the year you reach your FRA and goes away once you have reached your full retirement age.

Finally, to be sure you're aware, you can actually defer claiming SS until age 70 if you wish. After you reach your full retirement age you'll earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) of 8% per year of delay, which are added to your benefit when you finally claim it. That would give you a benefit which is 29% more at age 70 than it would be at your full retirement age.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org / programs / social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.



White House grants disaster declaration for state of Texas

AUSTIN — President Trump on March 25 issued a major disaster declaration for the state of Texas as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trump's action came at the request of Gov. Greg Abbott, who is seeking additional federal assistance to combat the disease. In recent days Abbott issued multiple waivers of state laws to remove barriers limiting the response to the pandemic. He also activated the Texas National Guard to be prepared to assist with response efforts.

Abbott said the president's declaration "opens up new sources of funding for individual and public assistance that will help Texas respond to this public health emergency and protect public health and safety."

Federal aid is earmarked to overcome current and prospective shortages of personal protective gear, medical equipment, testing supplies, hospital beds and medical personnel.

Meanwhile, Abbott has ordered the temporary closure of in-person school operations and prohibited non-critical visits to nursing homes, retirement or long-term care facilities. He also has mandated that Texans avoid:

- Social gatherings of more than 10 people;
- Dine-in eating and drinking at bars or restaurants; and
- Gyms or massage establishments.

On March 28 the Texas Department of State Health Services reported 25,483 people had been tested so far for COVID-19 in Texas. Of those, 2,552 tests were reported as positive and there had been 34 deaths.

Quarantine orders issued

Gov. Abbott on March 26 issued an executive order mandating a self-quarantine for individuals traveling to Texas as their final destination through an airport from the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut area or from the city of New Orleans.

Abbott said the order, consistent with the guidance of Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, would be enforced by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

Self-quarantines will last 14 days or for the duration of a person's presence in Texas, whichever is shorter.

Abbott said the executive order does not apply to people traveling in connection with military service, emergency response, health response or critical-infrastructure functions, as may be determined by the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

The executive order would remain in force until he modifies, amends, rescinds or supercedes it, Abbott said.

On March 29, Abbott issued another executive order that expands the quarantine mandate to include air travelers arriving from the states of California, Louisiana and Washington and the cities of Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit and Miami.

A person in quarantine is prohibited from allowing visitors into or out of the designated quarantine location — other than a physician or healthcare provider — and is prohibited from visiting any public spaces.

Announcements, actions

The following are few of many announcements posted last week by the governor's office relating to actions to combat COVID-19:

— Texas received a \$16.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living to provide meals for older adults. The grant was part of a \$250 million outlay authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act signed into law by President Trump on March 18.

— Texas received \$36.9 million from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the state's initial allotment of funding from the first emergency coronavirus bill passed by Congress. The Texas Department of State Health Services will distribute \$19.5

million to 43 local health departments to aid in their COVID-19 response, including \$1.75 million for Dallas County, Tarrant County and the San Antonio Metro Health District. Remaining funds will be used by DSHS to support operations in areas of the state not covered by local health departments and for statewide response activities.

— Gov. Abbott and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission on March 25 requested permission from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to allow Texas Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program recipients to use their benefits at take out and drive-thru restaurants throughout the state. If approved, this action would open up another food source for 3.2 million Texans as the effort to combat COVID-19 continues.

— Gov. Abbott on March 24 directed the Texas Department of State Health Services to issue guidance allowing restaurants to sell bulk retail products from restaurant supply chain distributors directly to consumers for home consumption, provided that such foods are in their original condition, packaging, or presented as received by the restaurant.

Agencies to stay on job

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on March 25 issued a letter explaining that political subdivisions may not restrict state agency personnel, agents and contractors from providing governmental services, including travel to and from work.

Paxton said the authoritative document is Gov. Abbott's Executive Order GA-08, which says, "all critical infrastructure will remain operational, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services."

Local government regulations must remain consistent with the state constitution and laws, Paxton added.

MESSAGE FROM

REP. BRIAN BABIN



Babin issues statement on passage of the phase III Coronavirus relief package

WASHINGTON, DC — U.S. Congressman Brian Babin (TX-36) issued the following statement after the Phase III coronavirus relief package, the CARES Act (H.R. 748), was passed by voice vote in the U.S. House of Representatives earlier today and signed into law by President Trump hours later.

"The Phase III coronavirus relief package was far from perfect, but the American people and the economy need immediate help to address this unprecedented crisis," said Babin. "This package contained many components that will stimulate our economy, provide resources for hospitals and health care workers, relief for small businesses and their employees, support for state and local governments, and help for American workers. It's for this reason that I support its passage.

"I am relieved that Speaker Pelosi's ploy to include many of her socialist wish list of Green New Deal policies failed earlier this week. It's also important to note that this package did not include a pay raise for Members of Congress as has been inaccurately reported on Facebook and other media outlets.

"I have full confidence that President Trump and his Administration will use these funds responsibly and do what is necessary to protect the American people and defeat this pandemic while sustaining the viability of our economy and workforce until the threat of this virus has passed.

"In the meantime, I will continue to pray and fight to ensure the residents of Texas's 36th Congressional District remain safe and have the resources they need to continue the battle against COVID-19. Together, we will win and America will rise stronger than ever before."

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save pTime & Money



281-428-1187
1-800-345-8471
Sales & Repair Service
Baytown, Texas
John Henderson
628 Cedar Bayou Rd.



CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS
FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS
713-702-3200
JOHNNY GAEKE
OWNER-INSPECTOR
911 S. MAIN
HIGHLANDS, TX 77562

Free Estimates Financing Available

MR. ROOFER
Siding & Contracting LLC
281-452-0000
CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR
New Roofs • Repairs • Painting • Hardi Plank Siding
• Mobile Home Siding
P.O. Box 914, Channelview, TX 77530
Mrroofer@gmail.com
= Major credit cards accepted =



Printing & Promotional Products
281-462-1200
www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net
213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532



Donate A Boat or Car Today!
BoatAngel
"2-Night Free Vacation!"
800-700-BOAT
(2828)
www.boatangel.com
sponsored by boat angel national center STOP DRUGS AGAINST DRUGS



FILL DIRT
BANK SAND
ROADBASE
LIMESTONE
119 Listi Ln, Highlands
hillmaterials.com
WE DELIVER TO YOU
(281) 843-5000
residential • commercial • industrial



Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI)
Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation.
CALL TODAY: 806.620.1422
LOBO MINERALS, LLC
PO Box 1800 • Lubbock, TX 79408-1800
LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details

COMMUNITY NEWS

Governor Abbott announces Federal Stimulus Package to help Texans affected by COVID-19

AUSTIN – April 1, 2020 – Governor Greg Abbott today issued a statement regarding the recently passed \$2 trillion federal stimulus package intended to relieve the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a special focus on unemployed workers and the state’s hardest-hit businesses.

"We appreciate the speedy passage of this stimulus package designed to provide much-needed relief for hardworking Texans families who have been economically impacted by COVID-19," said Governor Abbott. "While the state of Texas continues to take action to protect public health, we are also committed to working with our federal partners to ensure Texans have the financial relief they need during this time."

Workers are the main beneficiaries of the stimulus dollars, whether their

situation consists of reduced hours, furlough, or termination related to COVID-19. Self-employed Texans whose businesses have failed under the stress of the global pandemic may also be eligible as well.

A newly created Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) fund is the bill's primary vehicle, empowering states to extend federally-funded unemployment benefits by an additional 13 weeks (past the usual 26 weeks). The fund also boost weekly benefits for those laid off, terminated or furloughed due to COVID-19 by \$600 per week.

The measures also reduces paperwork and speeds the claims process by empowering employers to file one mass claim on behalf of all their employees laid off because of COVID-19. It also eliminates

any chargeback to Texas employers for claims filed due to COVID-19.

Much like disaster unemployment assistance seen in past weather-related disasters, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) may be available for displaced workers not normally eligible for regular or extended benefits. Workers whose hours have been reduced due to the COVID-19 slowdown may qualify for Work Share, a federal Short-Term Compensation program.

Employees whose work has been impacted by COVID-19, whether by a reduction in hours or a loss of their job, are encouraged apply for unemployment benefits online or call 1-800-939-6631. Employers can also utilize online filing for mass claims they file on behalf of employee groups laid off due to COVID-19.

METRO delivers essential trips, modifies service, adds more cleaning

"Stay Home, Work Safe" Order Reduces Ridership



Beginning Monday, March 30, METRO is making more adjustments to its bus and rail schedules to continue to provide the highest level of service possible. The modified schedule will maintain service throughout the region with some possible delays. All Park & Ride routes, except those serving the Texas Medical Center, are suspended.

METRO's efforts are focused on connecting essential workers to their jobs. We also realize some in our community have few travel options which is why we are committed to providing trips to grocery stores, pharmacies and other places people need to go. It is critical we all limit travel to only essential trips. This supports city and county leaders "Stay Home, Work Safe" Order to hopefully slow the transmission of COVID-19 (the coronavirus).

METRO has intensified its already rigorous cleaning schedule and will be bringing in even more staff to disinfect buses at transit centers during midday. This is in addition to the daily cleaning METRO performs outside of service hours. The Authority continues to put emphasis on surfaces frequently touched by the public. Customers are reminded to follow the advice of local public health officials and follow all public health directives.

The service adjustments below may mean longer travel times, so please plan accordingly:

- Park & Ride**
 - All Park & Ride routes serving the Texas Medical Center will operate on a regular weekday schedule.
 - o 170-171 Missouri City Express/Fort Bend Town Center
 - o 292 West Bellfort/Westwood/TMC
 - o 297 South Point/Monroe/TMC
 - o 298 Kingsland/Addicks/NWTC/TMC
 - o 291 Conroe
 - All other Park & Ride service is suspended.

- Local Bus/Community Connectors**
 - Local bus routes will continue to run on a modified Saturday Schedule seven days a week.
 - All routes will run at a reduced frequency of every 30 minutes to one hour.
 - Community Connector routes will continue to operate.

- METRO Rail**
 - The Red Line will operate a modified Sunday schedule every 12 minutes.
 - The Purple Line will run on a modified Sunday schedule every 18 minutes.
 - The Green Line will run bus shuttles every 20 minutes.
 - The Texas Medical Center rail shuttle from Fannin South to Hermann Park/Rice U station will operate every 12 minutes during weekday morning

- and evening peak times.
- HOV/HOT Lanes**
 - All HOV/HOT Lanes will be closed.
- METROLift**
 - The number of passengers in each vehicle is being reduced to allow social distancing which may extend wait times.
- Social Distancing**
 - Seating on METRO vehicles has been reduced by 50 percent.
 - Boarding and exiting is through the rear door unless accessibility needs require front door entry.
 - As employers and schools adhere to the Stay Home Order, METRO ridership has decreased allowing for more space among passengers. (Total fixed route ridership Thursday, March 26, 2020 was 130,000 boardings, down 53 percent from one year ago)
 - Fares are suspended temporarily.
 - METRO RideStore locations are currently closed.

METRO's TRIP app and Next Bus Arrival Texting will not be accurate. Patrons should stay informed by subscribing to real-time, route information through METRO's service alert system and monitoring the agency's social media accounts, Twitter, Facebook. Customer service representatives can be reached 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. seven days a week by calling 713-635-4000.

San Jacinto College Foundation approves emergency funding

Money will assist students in need amidst COVID-19

PASADENA, Texas – March 26, 2020 – The San Jacinto College Foundation Board of Directors has approved \$200,000 in emergency funding to assist students in need during the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

"We know that circumstances have changed for many of our students as a result of the COVID-19 situation, and we wanted a way to be able to help these individuals," said Tom Watson, San Jacinto Col-

lege Foundation Board Chair. "We want our students to be able to complete their certificate or degree this semester without the worry of added expenses. I thank the Foundation Board and College leadership for their support of these efforts to assist our students."

Students who need emergency funding to support their education at San Jacinto College should apply for the scholarship online at <https://sjcdgrants.academicworks.com/opportunities/76>

The Foundation will consider awards up to \$250 per student. To make a donation to assist students, visit the San Jacinto College Foundation website.

San Jacinto College is currently in an altered operations period during the COVID-19 situation. Additional information is available on the College website at www.sanjac.edu/coronavirus.



APRIL 2, 2020
NORTH CHANNEL STAR
PICK-UP LOCATIONS

NORTH SHORE
North Channel Chamber Office, I-10 in Woodforest Bank Bldg
Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd
Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi St.
San Jacinto College North, Student Center & Library
Fonteno Court House, Wallisville Rd
Sellers Brothers Market, Uvalde Rd
YMCA, Wallisville Rd.
Kroger's, Woodforest @ Beltway 8
Sen. Sylvia Garcia office, in Woodforest Bank Bldg
North Channel Library, Wallisville Rd
Water District # 21, Sheldon Rd

CHANNELVIEW
Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd
Post Office, Sheldon Rd
Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd
Channelview Admin Bldg, Sheldon Rd
Holiday Inn, I-10 E
Martin Luther King Community Ctr., Lorenzo St.
Water District #47, Woodforest Blvd
Chevron, Woodforest & Uvalde
Bonfire Wings, Woodforest Blvd
Serena Donuts, Woodforest Blvd
Pine Trails Community, Woodbend Dr

SHELDON
Sheldon ISD Admin Bldg.
Kroger's, Normandy at Woodforest
Sheldon ISD Transportation
HCA Houston 24/7, Beltway 8

CLOVERLEAF
HC WCID #36, Hollywood St
Grayson Community Center, Corpus Christi St
Galena Park Admin Building, Beltway 8 at Woodforest
CommunityBank of Texas, I-10 E @ Freeport
North Channel Assistance Ministries, Bonham @ Freeport
Chevron, I-10 West

JACINTO CITY
City Hall, Main Street
Community Center/Senior Center, Oates Rd
Capital Bank, I-10 E
Jacinto City Branch Library, Akron St
State Rep Ana Hernandez office, Mercury Drive
Sellers Brothers Market, Market St
Market Street Feed Store, Market St
Mr. Mercury Gas Station, Mercury Dr
Jacinto City Parks & Recreation, Mercury Dr
Chevron, Market St

GALENA PARK
Baggett Community Center, Keene St
Galena Park City Hall, Clinton Drive
Galena Park Library, Keene St
United Comm. Credit Union, 16th St
Galena Park Community Crt, Keene St
Middleton Super Market, Clinton Dr
Exxon King Fuel, Clinton Dr
Galena Park Medical Clinic, Clinton Dr

If you would like to be a PICK-UP LOCATION, let us know.
713-266-3444 or northchannelstar@gmail.com.

REV 01/2020

More News on
our website:
www.northchannelstar.com

Now is a good time to
subscribe to the

NORTH CHANNEL
★ STAR

SUBSCRIPTION RATES by Mail

6 months \$25.00
12 months \$45.00

Complete the form below, and return with payment to:
NORTH CHANNEL STAR
5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057

Date _____

MAIL TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Method of Payment: ☐ Check or M.O. ☐ Credit Card

Credit Card No: _____

Name _____ Expiration _____

Security Code _____ Address for Credit Card _____

Signature _____

San Jacinto College responds to need for medical supplies

Small Business Paycheck Protection Program

Transfer to Harris County Public Health includes gloves, masks

PASADENA, Texas – In response to the ongoing need for medical supplies and personal protection equipment for medical professionals on the front line fighting COVID-19, San Jacinto College has transferred a pallet full of medical supplies to Harris County Public Health.

“This challenging situation has put our health care partners in critical need of PPE and equipment, and we are glad to be able to lend a hand to our neighbors in this way,” said San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. “As an institution that works closely with our local health care providers to train the next generation of their workforce, it is important for us to support them during this pandemic.”

Included in the supply transfer were latex and nitrile gloves, surgical and N-95 masks, safety glasses, disposable wipes, gowns, hand sanitizer and alcohol prep pads. Items were delivered Saturday, March 28, 2020, to Harris County Public Health.

“We are extremely grateful to San Jacinto College for their generous donation of personal protection equipment,” said Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, executive director and local health authority for HCPH. “Our dedicated public health workforce is on the frontlines serving the people of Harris County and combatting the spread of COVID-19. As the well documented need for PPE rises across the country, we are fortunate to have a strong network of community partners to help us serve our community.”

Last week, the College loaned three respirators from the respiratory ther-



San Jacinto employees transferring medical supplies to Harris County Public Health



Among the medical supplies were gloves and masks.

apy program to Methodist Hospital Baytown to assist with the shortage in that location. “Everyone in health care is acutely aware of the crisis we currently have within our communities and health care systems,” said Rhonda Bell, dean of health sciences at the San Jacinto College Central Campus, who coordinated the loan

to the hospital. “The opportunity to assist our health care partners is one small bright spot in an extremely difficult time.”

San Jacinto College is currently in an altered operations period during the COVID-19 situation. Additional information is available on the College website at www.sanjac.edu/coronavirus.

With \$349 Billion in Emergency Small Business Capital Cleared, Treasury and SBA Begin Unprecedented Public-Private Mobilization Effort to Distribute Funds

WASHINGTON – March 21, 2020 – Following President Trump’s signing of the historic Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza and Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin today announced that the SBA and Treasury Department have initiated a robust mobilization effort of banks and other lending institutions to provide small businesses with the capital they need.

The CARES Act establishes a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The Program will provide much-needed relief to millions of small businesses so they can sustain their businesses and keep their workers employed.

“This legislation provides small business job retention loans to provide eight weeks of payroll and certain overhead to keep workers employed,” said Secretary Mnuchin. “Treasury and the Small Business Administration expect to have this program up and running by April 3rd so that businesses can go to a participating SBA 7(a) lender, bank, or credit union, apply for a loan, and be approved on the same day. The loans will be forgiven as long as the funds are used to keep employ-

ees on the payroll and for certain other expenses.”

“This unprecedented public-private partnership is going to assist small businesses with accessing capital quickly. Our goal is to position lenders as the single point-of-contact for small businesses – the application, loan processing, and disbursement of funds will all be administered at the community level,” said Administrator Carranza. “Speed is the operative word; applications for the emergency capital can begin as early as this week, with lenders using their own systems and processes to make these loans. We remain committed to supporting our nation’s more than 30 million small businesses and their employees, so that they can continue to be the fuel for our nation’s economic engine.”

The new loan program will help small businesses with their payroll and other business operating expenses. It will provide critical capital to businesses without collateral requirements, personal guarantees, or SBA fees – all with a 100% guarantee from SBA. All loan payments will be deferred for six months. Most importantly, the SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll costs, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest.

The Paycheck Protection Program is specifically designed to help small businesses keep their workforce em-

ployed. Visit SBA.gov/Coronavirus for more information on the Paycheck Protection Program.

- The new loan program will be available retroactive from Feb. 15, 2020, so employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees through June 30, 2020.

LOAN TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Eligible businesses: All businesses, including non-profits, Veterans organizations, Tribal concerns, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, and independent contractors, with 500 or fewer employees, or no greater than the number of employees set by the SBA as the size standard for certain industries

- Maximum loan amount up to \$10 million

- Loan forgiveness if proceeds used for payroll costs and other designated business operating expenses in the 8 weeks following the date of loan origination (due to likely high subscription, it is anticipated that not more than 25% of the forgiven amount may be for non-payroll costs)

- All loans under this program will have the following identical features:

- Interest rate of 0.5%

- Maturity of 2 years

- First payment deferred for six months

- 100% guarantee by SBA

- No collateral

- No personal guarantees

- No borrower or lender fees payable to SBA

YOU CAN KEEP YOUR COUGH AT HOME

with Houston Methodist Virtual Urgent Care

Our providers are available to screen for the coronavirus via video visit.

Whether you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or want to avoid spreading or catching germs, our board-certified providers are here for you 24/7. Virtual Urgent Care is available to new and existing patients for your non-emergency, urgent care needs. Get the same trusted care you expect from Houston Methodist — from the comfort of your own home.

Virtual Urgent Care is available through the MyMethodist app. Download it today.



houstonmethodist.org/virtual-care

