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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

#### HOUSTON METHODIST HOSPITAL BAYTOWN

MYMETHODIST APP (DOWNLOAD) FOR VIRTUAL URGENT CARE

# Congress passes \$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package

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- 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

Federal funds, grants and support to states,

See YES TO Census, page 3



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

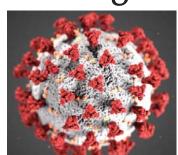
## COVID-19 Virus changed everyone's life

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

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

 $See\ COVID\text{-}19\ Virus,\ page\ 2$ 

## 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 nonessential businesses to

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

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 healthcare 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 COVD-19," Judge Hidalgo said. "Any uncertainties

See Order Extended,

## 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, "Tve 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 register on an online form on the Harris Co. Precinct 2 website (www.hcp2.com/ programs/precinct-2-mealprogram). 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 home-bound 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-

See Senior Food Program, Page 3



Commissioner Adrian Garcia

#### LIFESTYLE PAGE



#### Nelda Jovce 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 Craw-ford 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 mar-ried 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 High-lands 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

will be missed by all who knew and loved her. She is preceded in death by her husband, Wil-liam Holleman; parents, Norman and Viola Craw-ford; son, Dan Lee Holleman; grandson, Michael Bland; brothers, Glen Ray Crawford and Norman Carroll Crawford; former sister-in-law. Lina Sue Phibrother-in-laws, Virginia



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

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

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#### COVID-19 Virus, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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

and is more virulent, that would be a victory, since the toll could be higher, perhaps even 2,000,000.

Without a vaccine to de-feat 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 arriving from outside the J.S.

Although most families and individuals are not used to this type of restric-tion and find it uncomfortable and abhorent, nevertheless the guidellines 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 domestic 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

## strange viewpoint, he said

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY HIGHLANDS 281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.

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#### 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 "With these temporary do their jobs as we face this otherwise in good standing waivers, nurses in Texas public health emergency.

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,

tients 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

#### 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 cru-cial role in Texas' response to COVID-19, bat COVID-19."

and we are working to reduce barriers for former nurses who are ready and willing to serve in our com-munities," 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 com-

#### 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 sus-pending 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."

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#### **COMMUNITY NEWS**



Dear Friend,

As COVID-19 cases continue to spread across the country, it is critical that we remember the important role individuals can play in reducing the spread of the virus. We urge all Texans to protect yourself and others by staying home!

For Harris County residents, the county's recently issued "Stay Home, Work Safe" order. At readyharris.org, you will find information about the COVID-19 testing process at Harris County and City of Houston testing sites as well as information on the county and city COVID-19

call centers for those that may have questions or need information.

Additionally, we've created a Harris County COVID-19 Resource Guide with information about school district food distribution, healthcare, filing for public benefits like unemployment, and information for specific populations. You can find the guide at https://bit.ly/HC-COVID19INFO. Please keep in mind that this information is not exhaustive and is subject to change at any time as more information becomes avail

Lastly, if you are looking for something to do at

home, don't forget to take some time to complete the 2020 Census. Residents can self-respond to the Census online at https:// my2020census.gov/or over

the phone in English by dialing 844-330-2020 or in

Spanish at 844-468-2020. The U.S. Census Bureau

recently extended the deadline for this year's Census from July 31st to August 14th.

As the number of positive COVID-19 results rise, let's continue to do our part to flatten the curve by staying home as much as possible and only go out if

absolutely necessary.

Kind regards,

Ana Hernandez

## Governor Abbott announces comfort food care packages for Texas youth and families

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today announced the Comfort Food Care Package (CFCP) program to provide meals for at-risk youth and families in communities across Texas as the state responds to COVID-19. As part of the program, participating restaurants offer CFCPs for patrons to purchase on behalf of families and youth in need. Each care package contains enough food to feed a family of 5 to 6 and will be delivered to recipients' homes. The program is a partnership between the Governor's Public Safety Office, the Texas network of Family and Youth Success Programs (formerly called Services to At-Risk Youth), Favor Delivery, and the Texas Restaurant Associ-

"Thank you to the generous Texans and restaurants across the state for stepping up to provide meals to families in need," said Governor Abbott.

"The Comfort Food Care Package program will provide at-risk youth and families with an additional food source, while giving Texans another way to support local restaurants and their fellow Texans experiencing hardships due to COVID-19."

"This innovative new

program is a win for communities and restaurants across Texas," said Emily Williams Knight, Ed.D., President and CEO of the Texas Restaurant Association. "By harnessing the generosity of Texans, customers can now support their communities and their favorite restaurants at the same time. I'm proud we could partner with Governor Abbott and Favor to launch this program so quickly. While we can't predict when the impact of this crisis will end. we can find comfort in knowing that we have a new way to ensure everyone receives a meal and by

doing that, we will help to keep local restaurants running "

The Comfort Food Care Package program utilizes the following steps:

1. Participating restaurants list CFCPs on their online ordering system for customers to purchase on behalf of at-risk families and youth in the community.

2. Customers add CFCPs to their orders and purchase

3. Family and Youth Success Programs identify families and shelters who have the most need and work with participating restaurants and Favor to get the meals delivered.

Families interested in utilizing the CFCP program should contact their local Family and Youth Success Program for more information. Restaurants interested in participating in the program can sign up on the Texas Restaurant Association website.

#### YES to Census,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

counties and communities are based on accurate census statistics like population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Our community benefits when we have more clinics, bet-ter schools, safe roads, and an expanding workforce. High-quality census data gives community leaders important information needed to make decisions about building community centers, opening business es, and planning for the future. Standing up and being counted is an impor-tant way for individuals to impact where money to build and improve infrastructure is allocated across the U.S. This information is also critical to local disaster and emer-gency preparedness fund-

YOUR BUSINESS CAN HELP

The census is the basis for distributing grants for economic development and informs decisions, such as local business expansion and neighborhood revitalization.

We encourage business owners, as trusted voices in your community, to spread the word about YES! TO CENSUS 2020 by printing and posting signage found in the marketing toolkit (includes multiple languages, templates, Instagram carousel, flyers, emails, postcards and fact sheets). Find materials specific to your customer and community base, including: children, African American, Chinese, Persons with certain disabilities, Hindi-speakers, Hispanic, LGBTQ+, Non-Hispanic, LGBTQ+, Non-

panic White, Urdu-speakers,

Vietnamese

Partners, like you, are critical to the success of a complete and accurate count in 2020. You have the chance to educate your community about Census 2020 and encourage citizens to respond. The census data is used in a multitude of ways and impacts funding and services around housing, education, transportation, and employment. Understanding the importance of this initiative is critical to our future as a city, county, state and nation.

#### GET THE WORD OUT: SAFETY & TRUST

Please help your community understand there is no jeopardy in completing the 2020 Census. Responses will be safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Answers to the 9 simple questions (like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home-including children) can only be used to produce statistics. Responses cannot be used against them by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

not by ICE.
Also important to note, the census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

If you have need for printed materials, they can be picked up at 8410 Lantern Point Dr., Houston, TX 77054. Please send your request to check out materials to Janeen Spates at,

Janeen.Spates@csd.hctx.net.

## Investigation into shooting on Uvalde Road

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man at 1217 Uvalde Road about 8:30 p.m. last Thursday, March 26.

According to HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division Officer K. Saulsberry, the victim, Gilbert Owen Magee, 62, observed a male inside a vehicle at a gas station at the on Uvalde and recognized him as one of two suspects who assaulted him with a baseball bat a few months ago. Magee

approached the suspect sitting in the passenger side of a white Nissan Altima parked near the gas pumps and struck him through the vehicle window. The suspect pulled out a handgun and shot Magee several times. As the Nissan drove away, Magee ran to the corner of the business.

The suspect returned to the location, exited the Nissan and approached Magee. He fired several more shots and struck Magee. The suspect then fled the scene in the Nissan. Paramedics were called and transported Magee to the hospital in critical condition.

At this time, there is no suspect description.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.



#### Senior Food Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ability, or lack of mobility. Our current program is great, but I know there is going to be an increasing need for help, and we are preparing to meet the demand."

#### Eligibility

After submitting an application, a Harris County Precinct 2 representative will evaluate applicants' conditions. Evaluations

will include assessing the ability to perform daily activities such as food preparations and shopping, how often the applicant leaves their home, as well as their access to other assistance services. Note: All information gathered is totally confidential, and records are kept at the Harris County Precinct 2 service provider's office.

People may qualify for home deliveries if they are:

- Ages 60 and over.
- Homebound due to illness, disability, or frailty.

ness, disability, or frailty.
- Unable to prepare nourishing meals due to limited mobility, psychological, or mental impairment.

ment.
- Without resources



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#### OPINION PAGE



## 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  $2020,\,\mathrm{your}$  benefit cut will be as stated above because you're claiming exactly 2 years and 4 months early. But if you another 5/9ths of 1% (.556%) for each additional month you delay up

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 repre $sent\ legal\ or\ financial$ guidance. It presents the opinions and interpreta  $tions\ of\ the\ AMAC$ 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 Adminis $tration\ or\ any\ other$ governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website  $(a mac foundation. org \, / \,$ programs/social-securityadvisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.



#### White House grants disaster declaration for state of Texas

ALISTIN — 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 prospec tive 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

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 supersedes 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

A person in quarantine is prohibited from allowing visitors into or out of the designated guarantine 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 rvices will distribute \$19.5

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 oper 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 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.



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

"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, 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



"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.



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#### **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 im-pact 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 Texas 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

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 feder-a l l y - f u n d e d 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 employ-ees laid off because of COV-ID-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.

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 COV-ID-19.

Employees whose work

## 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 Founda-tion Board of Directors has approved \$200,000 in emergency funding to assist students in need during the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

"We know that circum stances 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 College Foundation Board Chair. "We want our students to be able to complete their certificate or degree this semester with-out 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 on-line at https://

sjcdgrants.academic works.com/opportunities/

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/coro-

#### APRIL 2, 2020 NORTH CHANNEL STAR PICK-UP LOCATIONS

North Channel Chamber Office, I-10 in Woodforest Bank Bldg

Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd

Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi

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 Capital Bank, I-10 E 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.,

Water District #47, Woodforest Blvd Chevron, Woodforest & Uvalde Bonfire Wings, Woodforest Blvd Serena Donuts, Woodforest Blvd Pine Trails Community, Woodbend Dr

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

CLOVERLEAE

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

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.

More News on our website: www.northchannelstar.com

## 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 fo-

cused 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. Cus-

tomers are reminded to fol-

low the advice of local

public health officials and follow all public health di-

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

o 292 West Bellfort/ Westwood/TMC o 297 South Point/Mon-

roe/TMC o 298 Kingsland/Ad-

dicks/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 op-

METRORail

- 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- 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 The service adjustments will be closed. METROLift

- The number of passengers in each vehicle is being reduced to allow social distancing which may ex-tend wait times.

Social Distancing
- Seating on METRO ve-

hicles has been reduced by

- Boarding and exiting is through the rear door un-less 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 lo-

cations are currently

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-

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#### **ASK THE EXPERT**

#### Governor Abbott waives COVID-19 medical costsharing for public safety employees

AUSTIN - March 30, 2020 - Governor Greg Abbott has waived certain statutory provisions to ensure public safety employees who contract COVID-19 during the course of their employment will be reimbursed for reasonable medical expenses related to their treatment of COVID-19. Because the nature of their duties has caused them to increase their risk of contracting COVID-19, the Governor has waived these statutory provisions so that public safety employees who contract COVID-19 are not also financially penal-

"Texas' public safety employees are vital to our COVID-19 response," said Governor Abbott. "These brave men and women are on the front lines and risking potential exposure to keep our communities safe. By waiving these statutory provisions, Texas will ensure that those who may contract COVID-19 will have the support they need to pay for medical expenses.

#### Order Extended,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that arise from this order should be resolved in favor of staying home or staying

On Monday, Ready Harris launched an online dashboard showing the to-tal number of confirmed cases and deaths due to COVID-19, the disease caused by Coronavirus. Additionally, the county has deployed an online screening tool to help resi-

dents determine if a COVD-19 test is warrant-

Violations of the Stay Home-Work Safe order are subject to fines and up to 180 days in jail. Please seek legal counsel if you are unsure if a certain business, service, or function is considered essential. The order may also be clarified based on Governor Abbott's order on essential businesses.

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## **ASK DIAMOND JIM**

### Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for April?"

APRIL BIRTHSTONE -

Natural diamonds are a rare and unique ultimate gift for a loved one. Thought to be one of the hardest substances on the globe. diamonds date back billions of years. The diamond is the traditional birthstone of April and holds significant meaning for those born in that month, thought to provide the wearer with better relationships and an increase in inner strength.

Wearing diamonds is purported to bring other benefits such as balance, clarity and abundance. It's also symbolic of eternal love, and those fortunate to call April the month of their birth will enjoy the following history behind this rare gem

Diamond Gemstones

Adopted from the Greek work adamas, meaning "invincible," diamonds come in a wide range of colors such as black, blue, green, pink, red, purple, orange and yellow. The color is dependent upon the type of impurities that are present in the stone. For instance, vellow stones have minuscule traces of nitrogen while blue ones contain boron.

During ancient times, theories touting the magical powers of diamonds were prevalent: some thought lightning bolts formed

diamonds, while other theories asserted that diamonds were the tears of God.

The Healing Powers of Diamonds

During the Middle Ages, diamonds were thought to hold healing powers and to cure ailments stemming from the pituitary gland and brain. By heating the crystal and taking it to bed, it was thought to draw out the harmful toxins that were crippling the body. It was also believed that diamonds could have an effect on an individual's balance and clarity and could boost their energy when combined with other crystals like amethyst.

The diamond as the April gemstone has garnered the hearts of many and is the most coveted crystal to date. Deemed as the "King of all Birthstones, diamonds make the ideal choice for an April birthday gift (She'll love you for it!)

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

 $Diamond\ Jim\ is\ a$ diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email imills@pineforestjewelry.com.

## **CHARLOTTE'S**



## Relationships Matter

the past few weeks. more and more people have realized how much relationships matter. There are reminders almost daily of those we know who have fallen ill due to COVID-19. There are press conferences as well as social media posts throughout the day notifying us as to what new restrictions are put in place. With those conferences, there are constant criticisms as to how the elected officials are handling the situation. There are countless minding us to pray.

Over the course of

Perhaps you have noticed that each day, there are more cars on your street or in your apartment complex not leaving. Make a phone call to a parent who is at home with their children and you can hear frustration in their voice about not being able to teach the children. Suddenly there is a new appreciation for educators.

For someone who grew up with her father working in the retail management, it hurts my heart to move to on-line grocery shopping. I tried to shop at the two local Kroger stores on-line, but they were not available at the time. Then I tried the two local Wal-Marts and they were not accepting orders. I finally decided to order from a store in Crosby. While it was not a far drive and I was able to open the car windows and feel a breeze and I did not have to listen to

other shoppers while in line, I was very disappointed that of the 19 items that I ordered, only five were available. Perhaps even more disappointing was that the notification arrived just as I parked to have the order delivered to my car.

In talking with others, I decided it would be a good idea to take the time to not just send our elected officials a thank you note, but to do it by hand. Once I did that, I realized there were some others who might appreciate opening the mailbox and finding a handwritten note. I made a promise to myself to send at least 10 notes a week. Then someone asked me if I really thought the Post Office would be working much longer. I have no official answer, but I know I cannot live in fear. I must remain optimistic despite how things seem.

By the time I started writing this article, I had five friends hospitalized with the virus and had already lost one friend to it. I have multiple friends who have lost a loved one and with all the restrictions, funerals and memorial services are very difficult. Now more than ever, I feel relationships matter. Take the time today to call your family and your friends. Social media is nice, but there is something very special about hearing the voice of those you have in your life.



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Notice is hereby iven that Origina Letters of Administration for Docket No. 482579; Estate SCOTT FITZGERALD TH-OMPSON Deeased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Haris County, Texas, Deceased, were is sued on March 4

#### REBECCA JEAN THOMPSON

The residence adlress of the admin istrator is in Harris County, Texas. The nailing address is

o Weston Cotten 1500 Wallisville 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the ime and in the

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manner prescribed by law.
Dated this February 21, 2020

Perton talker by WESTON COTTEN

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#### NOTICE TO **CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Adminis-tration for Docke No. 482635: Estate of ALTON CLEVE MONROE De ceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Har-ris County, Texas, Deceased, were is sued on Macrh 20,

#### RACHEL MARIE MONROE

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c/o Weston Cotter 1500 Wallisville Rd Highlands, TX

All persons having claims against this Estate which is cur ently being admir istered are required to present then within the time and n the manner pre scribed by law. Dated this February 4

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#### NOTICE OF ELECTION

THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY WILL HOLD A REGULAR CITY ELECTION ON SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020. THE POSITIONS TO BE FILLED AT THIS **ELECTION ARE COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION NO. 1, COUNCIL** MEMBER POSITION NO. 2, AND COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION NO. 3. THE POLLING PLACE FOR ALL PRECINCTS WILL BE JACINTO CITY TOWN CENTER, 1025 OATES ROAD, SECTION 1, JACINTO CITY TEXAS AND THE POLES WILL BE OPEN 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

EARLY VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE BEGINS AT CITY HALL, 1301 MERCURY DRIVE, CONFERENCE ROOM, JACINTO CITY, TEXAS ON APRIL 20, 2020 - APRIL 24, 2020 FROM 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. AND ON APRIL 27, 2020 - APRIL 28, 2020 FROM 7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M..

#### **AVISO DE ELECCIONES**

La Ciudad de Jacinto City tendrá su elección regular para puestos de Concejal del la Ciudad El Dia Sabado 2 de Mayo 2020. Los puestos que serán Disponibles en Esta Eleccion Seran: Puesto Concejal #1, Puesto 2 y Puesto 3. Las Casillas para los dos precintos, estaran ubicados en Jacinto City, En el centro comunitario, 1025 Oates Road, Section #1 Jacinto City, Texas. Y Las casillas Electorales Seran Abiertas Desde Las 7:00 a.m. Hasta 7:00 p.m.

ones Anticipados en persona serán en el City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, En la Sala de conferencias, Jacinto City, Texas el dia 20 de Abril hasta 24 de Abril 2020 des de 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. y el 27 de Abril 2020 hasta 28 del Abril 2020 de 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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## San Jacinto College responds to need for medical supplies

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 trans-ferred a pallet full of medical supplies to Harris County Public Health.

"This challenging situa-tion 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 genera-tion of their workforce, it is important for us to sup-port them during this pan-

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 commu-

nity."

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



San Jacinto employees transfering 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 extreme-

ly difficult time."
San Jacinto College is currently in an altered op-erations period during the COVID-19 situation. Additional information is available on the College website at www.sanjac.edu/coro-

## Small Business Paycheck **Protection Program**

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 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 are used to keep employ- their workforce employed. Visit SBA.gov/ Coronavirus for more information on the Pavcheck Protection

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

LOAN TERMS &

CONDITIONS Eligible businesses: All businesses, including non-profits, Veterans organizations, Tribal concerns, 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 nonpayroll 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

No collateral

- No personal guaran-

- No borrower or lender fees payable to SBA





#### 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.







