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VOLUME 8, NO. 15 (#319)

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

COVID-19 Cases as of April 8, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

3,711 POSITIVE
65 DEATHS
604 RECOVERED

TEXAS

10,076 POSITIVE
193 DEATHS

UNITED STATES

431,838 POSITIVE
14,817 DEATHS
23,906 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

1,514,866 POSITIVE
88,538 DEATHS
329,876 RECOVERED

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

City of Houston Pre-Screening 832-393-4220
Harris County Ask a Nurse 713-634-1110
Harris County Pre-Screening 832-927-7575 or readyharris.org
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MAY 2nd ELECTIONS MOVED TO NOVEMBER

COVID-19 Virus causes Galena Park, Galena Park ISD to reset local elections; Jacinto City to follow

HARRIS COUNTY – Following the proclamation of Texas Governor Greg Abbott, allowing the rescheduling of voting, several local elections scheduled for May 2nd have been postponed and moved to November 3rd, the official uniform election day for other offices.

The governor issued his directive to keep people from congregating at the polls, and to minimize the possibility that the COVID-19 virus would be spread to voters.

Galena Park took their action in a virtual board meeting Monday night, held by computer from

each Commissioner's home. The city had previously planned on holding the election as a "drive-up" at Baggett Community Center and City Hall. This would have allowed voters to cast ballots from their car, to avoid close proximity.

See Elections Moved, p. 3

Galena Park ISD issues statement on unprecedented action

GALENA PARK – The Galena Park Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved an order to postpone the May 2, 2020, trustee election until the November 3, 2020, uniform election date during an emergency meeting

held Monday, March 30th. Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation giving local government entities that would otherwise hold elections on May 2, 2020, authority to postpone elections until the next uniform election date.

See GPISD Election, p. 3

Congresswoman and Jacinto City host COVID-19 testing

By Allan Jamail

JACINTO CITY - Monday, April 6, 2020 Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and the City of Jacinto City hosted the United Memorial Medical Center's COVID-19 virus testing. The testing of 190

people was conducted at the Jacinto City Town Center which was aimed at testing First Responders and seniors over 60 years of age.

North Channel Star writer Allan Jamail asked about the cost for the tests and both UMMC President

Syed Mohuiddin and Congresswoman Lee said the testing is free.

City Manager Lon Squyres upon learning of the availability to be able to bring testing to the city activated all city departments to work with Congresswoman Sheila

Jackson Lee and United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC) to accomplish the testing. He said, "I'm so glad for this opportunity to make our first responders comfortable when going home to their families after serving on the front lines in our communities."

First responders tested were from Jacinto City, Galena Park, Houston and several constable precincts.

Mayor Ana Diaz and city officials were at the site to oversee the one day

See VIRUS testing, p. 3



L to R: Dr. Joseph Varon, Mayor Ana Diaz (white shirt) Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (at podium), Constable Chris Diaz and not pictured, Constance Jones (Texas Coalition Black Democrats). Wearing protective masks and keeping a safe distance apart from each other as each one gave their advice as to how to prevent the spread of the virus. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Lon Squyres, City Manager (in foreground) making sure everyone that will be tested keeps a safe distance apart while waiting in line at the Jacinto City Town Center. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

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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 PCT. 2— 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 homebound 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 home due to illness, disability, or lack of mobility qualifies.

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-meal).

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



Commissioner Adrian Garcia

and all seniors who are struggling and are unable to leave their Precinct 2 homes, due to illness, dis-

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.
- Unable to prepare nourishing meals due to limited mobility, psychological, or mental impairment.
- Without resources such as family and friends.

Crosby Community Food Drive



Crosby Community Center staff, known to be friends with the Easter Bunny hosts a Food Distribution for Precinct 2 residents made possible by donations through Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM) and H-E-B grocers.

Free food distributed at several schools and centers



Precinct 2 Northeast Community Center, seen above, and Aldine’s MO Campbell Center were just two of many sites throughout the area that were distributing free food to families in a drive-thru last week. Pct. 2 food came from the Hilton Americas Hotel, and consisted of carrots, potatoes, apples and brussel sprouts.

It was distributed by Second Serving, and deputy constables from local precincts. It only lasted two hours, and then the food was all gone. Anyone with extra food is encouraged to call Pct. 2 for future distribution. The city of Houston is also distributing food at their community centers. Earlier in the week Aldine ISD distributed food parcels at 22 schools throughout the district.

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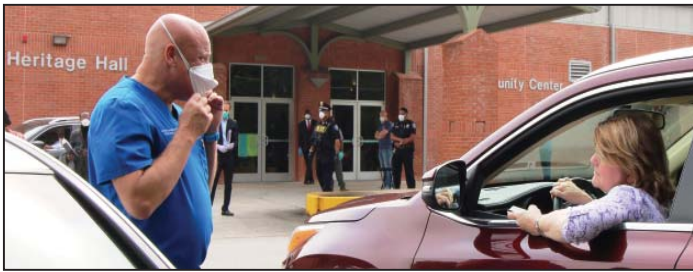
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CROSBY’S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

COMMUNITY NEWS

Congresswoman and Jacinto City host COVID-19 testing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Dr. Joseph Varon with UMMC visits with a lady in the parking lot who asked to be tested who said she thought she had the COVID-19 symptoms. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

event. Mayor Diaz said, “We’re so appreciative of Congresswoman Lee for her bringing UMMC here for testing of our Police and Fire Department personnel, area seniors and anyone with Covid 19 symptoms.”

Jacinto City’s Heritage Hall Director Elizabeth Flores was applauded for her and her staff’s role in helping to get seniors to the facility for testing. Maria Espinosa, Program Assistant said, “since the daily meals eaten here at the facility has been canceled due to the virus we now have a week’s supply of meals boxed up and given to the members that they come get and easily prepare at home.” Debbie Martinez, Program Assistant stayed busy all day shuttling seniors from their homes to the testing site.

State Senator Carol Alvarado said, “I am grateful for the extensive work that United Memorial Medical Center and Congresswoman

Sheila Jackson Lee are doing across Houston to open testing centers. We all know that our seniors are the most vulnerable group, so it’s really key that they’re able to get tested and treated quickly, if needed. Mobile testing centers like this one are a big part of tackling COVID-19 and slowing its spread, so I couldn’t be more appreciative to have testing in Jacinto City.”

State Representative Ana Hernandez said, “I am grateful for the commitment to the health of our community and leadership of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee during these unprecedented times. It is vital in our fight against this virus outbreak that our senior citizens and first responders, the most vulnerable of our neighbors, have access to coronavirus testing.”

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has also teamed up with UMMC for testing at their own UMMC facility on Tidwell,

Houston at Forest Brook Middle School and Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land.

At the UMMC facility 3,030 test were made having 285 confirmed positive cases, the average age of those testing positive is 37. Forest Brook had 413 tests with only 2 positive. Sugarland had 446 tests and 35 positive.

The test specimens were sent to Houston’s AltruDX laboratory with results due in 3 days. It’s a clinical laboratory for the biological, microbiological, serological, chemical, immunohematological, hematological, biophysical, cytological, pathological, or other examination of materials derived from the human body for the purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of any disease or impairment of, human beings.



Jacinto City has fenced off all the playground equipment and park benches to prevent people from gathering there. (Photos by Allan Jamail)

Elections Moved,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ty with others. However, the city decided it would be safer to have the election in November, in the normal manner, according to City Attorney Robbers Collins. Voters will choose between 3 candidates for Mayor, and several Commissioner seats.

Galena Park ISD also voted to move their Trustee election to November. The vote was by remote means to keep everyone safe from the virus.

Jacinto City has not officially moved their election to November as of press time. The May 2nd election was to take place at the Town Center. However, City Manager Lon Squyres said that the agenda for the April 9th City Council meeting included a discussion and vote on moving the election to November, and it is expected to pass.

Another entity in the area that has scheduled an

election is the Barbers Hill ISD. They plan to ask voters to approve a \$277 million dollar bond issue for new schools and related expenditures. They have indicated they will continue to have the election on May 2nd, and voters will cast their ballot at the high school, perhaps in a “drive-up” mode. They also are encouraging everyone to use mail-in ballots if possible.

GPISD Election,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

form election date.

Growing concern for public safety, rapid escalation of novel coronavirus cases in Harris County and extension of the Stay At Home, Work Safe order issued by Harris County Judge, Lina Hidalgo, prompted the Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees to

take action to postpone the election.

“As a district, we are working diligently to enact measures to protect our staff, students and families from unnecessary exposure during this pandemic crisis,” stated Dr. Angi Williams, Galena Park I.S.D. Superintendent.

dent. “I am so thankful our Board of Trustees was proactive and took swift action to postpone the election. Safety is our top priority at this time.”

Early voting for the November 3rd election will take place October 19, 2020 – October 30, 2020.

Husband held in wife’s murder

Sergeant Dennis Wolford, a Harris County Sheriff’s Detective, reports that on March 31, Jason Armster, 37, went to the Baytown Police Department saying his wife was deceased at the residence they share at 13102 Ashley Meadow Ln. in unincorporated Harris County.

At the time he indicated he did not know who if anyone had killed her. Armster’s statements led Baytown PD believe Jason Armster possibly murdered his wife. From this point, Harris County Precinct 3 Constables Deputies went to the residence to conduct a Welfare Check. Deputy Constables were allowed entry into the residence by a child who advised his mom was sleeping in her bedroom. Deputies entered the room and found a deceased female in the bed with obvious trauma to her body. Deputies took custody of three children to Child Protective Services until relatives were contacted.

HCSO Homicide and Crime Scene Investigators assumed the lead role in the investigation. The investigation has revealed the complainant suffered at least one gunshot wound. Jason Armster has been charged with murder and is being booked into the Harris County Jail.

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Published each Wednesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to: northchannelstar@gmail.com

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COUNTY TALK

Harris County Judge
Lina Hidalgo



Harris County Surpassing 1,000 Cases of COVID-19, 13 Fatalities

“Today, our county reached a grim milestone. Within Harris County, including the City of Houston, more than 1,000 residents have now tested positive. Deaths have now entered the double-digits - 13 people have had their lives stolen by COVID-19. We know it is easy to feel powerless against this virus, an invisible force responsible for so much hardship across our region. The truth is, we are not powerless. For those of you at home, distancing and protecting your community - thank you. That simple act of staying physically apart from others is making a difference by saving lives - among the vulnerable and strong alike. Those same actions will help us get past this surge in cases sooner so that we can go back to normal and our economy can get back on track as soon as possible. As we have with every other challenge we have faced, we will emerge stronger when this is over- but the only way to get there is together.”

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo Extends Stay at Home, Work Safe Order to April 30

These past few weeks, our lives have been uprooted as our community has taken crucial and extensive measures to protect ourselves from the COVID-19 epidemic. We have declared a public health emergency in Harris County. Large gatherings have been canceled, schools have closed their doors, and we have ordered restaurants to close their dining rooms. Those who are able to do so are working from home, many juggling full-time jobs and caring for and home-schooling their children. Too many are without a job and struggling to make ends meet. Countless others, from medical professionals to grocery store employees, are on the job risking their health and working harder than ever, preparing for what is yet to come.

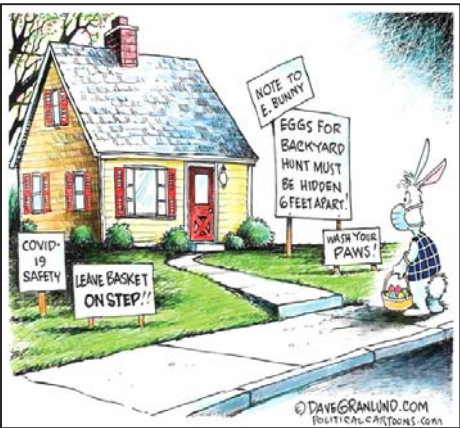
While I know this is an incredibly difficult time, we are in a crucial moment in which our sacrifices will save the lives of our relatives, neighbors, and friends. Everyone must play their part to help us stop the spread of Coronavirus. Only by stopping the spread of the virus will we keep our healthcare system from being over-

whelmed and ensure that we get over this crisis and back to normality as soon as possible.

The number of COVID-19 cases within Harris County continues to quickly grow, and we must continue to do everything possible to temper these numbers. On Tuesday, I extended the mandatory Stay Home-Work Safe order for Harris County. The order closes non-essential businesses and stops non-essential activities through April 30. This decision, and any other decisions we make, are based on science and data. Our North Star is the advice we are getting from our hospital leaders, who tell us rates are going up too quickly, but we are still in time to fare better than what we are seeing in other communities if we all do our part.

Please, follow the order and stay home as much as you possibly can. Keep practicing social distancing and following community guidelines. Support our local restaurants by ordering take-out or delivery. If you can, donate to the Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund to help our most vulnerable residents in this critical time of need. Stay informed by visiting the Ready Harris website for COVID-19 information, updates, and resources. Take some time to fill out your census. And take care of yourself— reach out for help if you or someone you know needs it.

We are in this together and we will beat this together. Stay strong.



HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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

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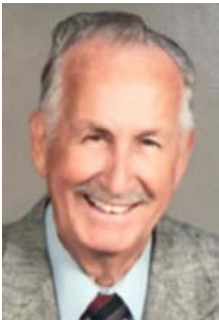
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OBITUARIES

BOB L. BOYLES



Bob L. Boyles

Bob L. Boyles was born April 28, 1939, to Levi and Opal Boyles in Gladewater, Texas, the first of 5 children. He passed away March 30, 2020 with his family by his side.

After living in California, New Mexico and Houston, the family moved to Crosby, Texas in 1949, where Bob enrolled in the fifth grade in Crosby ISD, and that very same year, met the girl who would become the love of his life.

Bob graduated from Crosby High School in 1957, where he had been active in FFA as an officer, was class vice-president, and had been very active in Boy Scouts.

Bob enrolled in University of Houston when his education was interrupted by being drafted into the US Army. He was discharged from military service in 1960 after serving 18 months in Germany, with the rank of E-5, and was called back into the army in 1961 to serve a third year, which contributed to his forming many close, life-long friendships. One of his most enjoyable activities was participating in the many “Co-A” reunions with his army buddies.

On July 8, 1960, Bob married Joyce Polka and they were blessed with three children; Bob Jr., Belinda and Bethany, and the family resided in Crosby from 1963 to present.

Bob was employed at Pritchett Engineering and Machine for 28 years, followed by Montgomery Brothers, Marberry Machine, Montgomery Machine (Scottish firm) G & G Machine and was currently employed to USA Precision Machine. He was a member of NACE and ASME.

Bob was a member of Crosby United Methodist Church, having served on many committees. Co-founded and was president

of the Crosby High School Football Booster Club (1975-1979). He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department, then upon the founding of Harris County Emergency District #80, he became the President and served in that capacity until his death. He was Republican Precinct chairman and Harris County Election judge for many years. Bob proudly served as Commander of the Crosby American Legion Post 658. He was a committee member of Crosby Alumni Association and was a member of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Houston General Go-Texas Committee for 20 plus years and became a Lifetime Member.

Bob loved his family, and enjoyed hunting all across Texas, owning a ranch and raising Beefmaster and Longhorn cattle in both Harris and Kerr counties. He loved the time he and Joyce spent traveling in the USA with their family and in later years in Canada, Mexico, the UK, Europe, Czech Republic, Alaska, Hawaii, Scotland and many other countries in Europe.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Levi and Opal Boyles, brother Jerry Lynn, son Bob Jr., and best friend Clyde Clements.

Bob is survived by his wife of 59 years, 8 months, Joyce, daughter Belinda and husband Jeff Armstrong; grandchildren Emily, Ashley (Kelly Station), and Jeff Jr., great-grandchildren Baylor Marie and James Wyatt. Daughter Bethany and husband Matthew Gotthardt, Gotthardt children: Emily, Matthew, Holden, and Korbyt. Sisters Sharron Montgomery, Rev. Vivian Boyles and Savannah Boyles. In-Laws Raymond and Connie Polka, Joe Dee and Janet Polka, Carol Tepera and many loving nieces and nephews of the Polka, Tepera and Montgomery families.

It is a great wish of Bob's that there not be sadness nor mourning. Just to remember the joys that his past life has been. Due to the current situation in the United States, there will only be a graveside service for immediate family. A celebration of life to follow at a time to be announced later, with a gathering of everyone coming together.

Bob Boyles leaves a legacy of dedication,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CROSBY – Few leaders of a community have held so many leadership positions as did Bob Boyles and few have left a legacy that is dedicated to saving lives and guarding the security of a community.

On March 19, 1981, a vehicle was pulling out from a side street as a Crosby Fire Truck approached, a collision was to be imminent so Bob Boyles Jr. swirled to avoid injuring someone else, in the disaster that followed, the son of a community leader lost his life.

In that year a young Alan Kulak was mascot for the department, they told him he was too young to be a fireman at age 15, and he was training under Bob Junior to take on skills needed to save lives and fight fires. Now Fire Chief Kulak believes that due to the loss of his son in the line of duty, Bob Boyles dedicated himself to making Crosby have a great a fire department as it could possibly afford.

He was elected President of the Board of Directors in 1982 when Crosby Firefighters had to relay only upon donations from the general public and fundraising to keep fighting fires.

Boyles spearheaded many of the fundraising

drives himself in those days, his dedication extended to asking for donations.

In 1988 a young Assistant Chief Kulak recalls going to Boyles to ask if it was possible to obtain a tanker for the department as this equipment would greatly expand the capacity of the firefighters to battle large flames. Boyles went to work finding a finance company that would extend credit to an organization that was running completely off of donations. Boyles came though and the department ordered its first tanker in 1989.

Boyles again got financing for badly needed equipment when the ladder truck was so delapidated it was costing more to keep it running than a new truck would cost in 1991. The department had not hardly begun paying off the tanker when Boyles got financed a new ladder truck.

“Bob always went above and beyond to keep our equipment operational throughout the late 1980's and 1990's before we had a tax basis,” reports Chief Alan Kulak.

Boyles lead the charge to get a tax basis in 1998 and lead the effort to bring the ISO insurance improvements of 1999. That

Free Meals by Precinct 2 at centers and parks, schools

Meal Distribution during COVID-19

The safety and well-being of our communities come first in Precinct 2. We understand that during this time food accessibility can be limited due to vacant grocery stores. To help, Harris County Precinct 2 is hosting a food distributions at parks (children only) and community centers (all ages) Below you will find flyers and information about what's taking place this week (week of April 6th)

FREE KIDS LUNCHES AT PARKS

Happening at 5 parks every day

Drive-thru style and on a first come, first serve basis.

Parents MUST bring their kids in order to receive them

FOR LUNCHES AT OUR COMMUNITY CENTERS

Taking place at 9 Precinct 2 Community Centers

Drive-thru style and on a first come, first serve basis.

For individuals of all ages

Must be present to receive lunch

Be sure to also follow Harris County Precinct 2 on social media for more information and updates on other resources available to you.

OTHER FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

The Houston Food Bank, school districts, as well as other organizations are working together to host food distributions in various areas, in efforts to address the food insecurity while following social distancing procedures for the safety of the community. Are you or someone you know in need of food? Perfect! This blog is for you. We have put together a list of meal distribution locations for those in need during this difficult time.

Note: You can also find local pantries across the county by visiting the Houston Food Bank's website, or call their helpline at 832-369-9390.

PRECINCT 2 AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

ALDINE ISD

Starting Monday, March 30, Child Nutrition Service

es will be providing breakfast and lunch pickup from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Families will be able to pick up six meals for each student on Monday and four meals for each student on Thursday. This change allows both families and staff to remain healthy and safe during meal pickup.

Students no longer have to be present for meal pickup, however, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) requires parents/guardians to show proof of enrollment in a school district through an ID badge, report card, attendance report/record, or birth certificate for students under school age.

GOOSE CREEK ISD

Since Monday, March 23, Goose Creek CISD has adjusted its Grab and Go meal distribution to include additional locations and to allow both breakfast and lunch to be given out at one time. This will not only give families easier access to the meal distribution sites, but it also will allow them to pick up breakfast and lunch in one stop. Children must be present to receive meals.

Each child age 18 and under will receive two bags of food. Goose Creek CISD staff will hand out the food from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on weekdays. The 19 locations include Alamo, Ashbel Smith, Austin, Bañuelos, Bowie, Carver, Clark, Crockett, Harlem, Highlands, Lamar, San Jacinto, and Travis elementaries; Cedar Bayou, Gentry, and Horace Mann junior schools and Goose Creek Memorial, Lee and Sterling high schools.

GALENA PARK ISD

Galena Park ISD's Student Nutrition Department will provide FREE meals beginning Tuesday, March 17, and continuing through the duration of the closure at the campuses listed below.

Students must be 18 years of age to qualify.

Breakfast will be provided from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and lunch will be provided from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Meals will be distributed near the bus ramp of the campus.

CURBSIDE MEAL CAMPUSES:

Woodland Acres Elementary School - 12956 Sarahs Ln, Houston, TX 77015

Sam Houston Elementary School - 4101 East Sam Houston Pkwy N, Houston, TX 77015

Galena Park Elementary School - 401 N Main St, Galena Park, TX 77547

Dr. Shirley J. Williamson Elementary School - 6720 New Forest Parkway, Houston, TX 77049

North Shore Middle School - 120 Castlegory Rd, Houston, TX 77015

DEER PARK ISD

Deer Park ISD continues to provide free breakfast and lunch to children 18 years and under on weekdays through April 10. Parents can drive by the following locations to pick up a lunch meal as well as a breakfast meal for the next morning for each child who is present in the vehicle (under state guidelines, each child must be in the vehicle). Walk-up orders are also permitted for those who have no vehicle. However, each child must be present to pick up meals, and social distancing rules must be followed.

Beginning Monday, March 30:

THE FALLS OF DEER PARK (7201 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505)

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CARPENTER ELEMENTARY (5002 W Pasadena Blvd, Deer Park, TX 77536)

(Use the parent drop-off lane/north entrance off Pasadena Boulevard between Bonnette Junior High and old Carpenter Elementary)

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

DEEPWATER ELEMENTARY (309 Glenmore Dr, Pasadena, TX 77503)

(Use the bus lane/north entrance off Meadowlake Road)

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL-NORTH CAMPUS (402 Ivy Ave, Deer Park, TX 77536)

(Use the student pickup lane near the school library off Ivy Avenue and East Fourth Street)

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

HOUSTON LEISURE RV RESORT

(1601 S Main St, Highlands, TX 77562)

10:30-11:15 a.m.

PIEDMONT APARTMENTS

(7510 Decker Dr, Baytown, TX 77520)

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

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IN THE STARS

EVENTS

BIRTHDAYS

Apr 9– Casie Russell
Damon Lay
Mitchell Thompson
Apr 10–Wendi Owens
Apr 11–Paul Bailey
Teresa Barker
Richard Lyons
Apr 11–Ashleigh Oviedo
Apr 12–Rylee Clamon
Apr 13–Cameron Hosea
Apr 15–Harry Stewart
Cherie Zarsky

ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 9–Robert & Delana Matthews
Joshua & Kaylee Bradley
Apr 10–Rod & Anita Davis

HUFFMAN ISD

Beginning March 30, Grab-n-Go breakfast and lunch meals will be available once per day, from 11:00 - 1:00, Monday-Friday at Huffman Elementary School.

The Houston Food Bank will be making their food delivery this Friday, April 3. This food may be picked up Friday, also from 11:00 - 1:00, and is open to all Huffman community members in need of assistance.

For more information, please visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/huffmanschools> or email them at sdupree@huffmanisd.net.

SHELDON ISD

Sheldon ISD continues to provide “Grab and Go” meals for children ages 1-18 beginning at the following campuses:

Carroll Elementary
Royalwood Elementary
Sheldon Elementary
Null Middle School
C. E. King Middle School

Each week on Monday and Thursday, breakfast will be available for pickup from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.; and lunch will be available for pickup up from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Each distribution will consist of six meals each time to cover for the week. Students MUST be present when walking or driving up in order to receive their meals for accounting purposes.

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ROMANS 8:18

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ASK THE EXPERT

County, Pct. 2 close parks over Easter

Harris County, TX — Following Judge Lina Hidalgo's order to close all county parks to the public, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia has ordered all Precinct 2 parks to be closed to the public beginning this Thursday, April 9th at 8 p.m. To help prevent further spread of Covid-19, there will be no picnicking, no congregating or swimming permitted. The parks closures will remain in effect until Monday, April 13th at 8 a.m.

Closures includes: Playgrounds, splash pads, fitness area, beaches, pavilions, sport complex, nature center and preserves. All restrooms and water fountains

The following are minor exceptions provided social distancing practices are maintained (no groups larger than 10, a minimum of six feet between individuals/family units, etc.) Sylvan beach fishing pier limited access Outside trails will remain available for

public use Boat ramps at Clear Lake Park and Sylvan Beach Park will be open

Commissioner Adrian Garcia issued the following statement: "I support Judge Hidalgo's decision to close Harris County Parks for Easter weekend. I am also glad Precinct 2 will be able to keep the boat ramps at Clear Lake Park open as well as allow fishing at Sylvan Beach Pier. All of our decisions are made with the goal of keeping residents safe and healthy. We know Easter weekend is special for so many in our community, however we want take precautions to prevent large crowds from gathering at the parks."

In addition, due to the ongoing limitations in place because of the County Judge's Stay-At-Home order, Precinct 2-sponsored open-water training for Sylvan Beach Lifeguards is postponed until further notice.

State parks closed indefinitely due to virus

AUSTIN—At the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott, Texas State Parks will be closed to the public effective at the close of business Tuesday, April 7 in order to maintain the safest environment for visitors, volunteers and staff. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will continue to stay current with the latest public health recommendations and will announce when a definite reopening date has been determined.

"Given the myriad of challenges and heightened risks of operating the parks at this time, we believe this is the best course of action right now in order to meet the health and safety expectations the state has set out for the citizens of Texas," said Carter Smith, Executive Director of TPWD. "All state parks will remain temporarily closed until public health and safety conditions improve. During the closure, staff will continue to steward and care for the parks to ensure they can be immediately reopened to visitors at the appropriate time."

Outdoor recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, biking, jogging, walking, hiking, wildlife viewing, and the like are essential activities for Texas citizens. TPWD will continue to do its part to actively encourage and promote these opportunities in ways that are safe and close to home, said Smith.

Through this trying time, TPWD has worked diligently to facilitate access to the outdoors across the state, including in the state park system, which hosted nearly 740,000 day and overnight visitors throughout the month of March.

Despite the implementation of increasingly restrictive visitor use measures to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, TPWD has reached a point where public safety considerations of those in the parks, and in the surrounding communities, must take precedence over continued operations. Difficulty in ensuring compliance with social distancing, problems in maintaining adequate supplies and keeping park facilities sufficiently sanitized are only a few of the challenges encountered by state park staff.

While parks are closed to the public, staff will be working to help maintain the standard upkeep, maintenance, stewardship, and continued regular cleaning of site facilities.

The Texas State Parks

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "Is the precious metal Silver a good investment?"

Silver, like other precious metals, may be used as an investment. For more than four thousand years, silver has been regarded as a form of money and store of value. However, since the end of the silver standard, silver has lost its role as a legal tender in all developed countries, although some countries mint bullion and collector coins like the American Silver Eagle with nominal face values.

Millions of Canadian Silver Maple Leaf coins and American Silver Eagle are purchased as investments each year. The Silver Maple Leaf is legal tender at \$5 per ounce and there are many other silver coins with higher legal tender values, including \$20 Canadian silver coins. Silver is legal tender in the U.S. state of Utah, and can be used to pay all debts.

Like most commodities, the price of silver is driven by speculation and supply and demand. Compared to gold, the silver price is notoriously volatile. This is because of lower market liquidity, and demand fluctuations between industrial and store of value uses. At times this can cause wide ranging valuations in the market, creating volatility.

Silver often tracks the gold price due to store of value demands, although the ratio can vary. The crustal ratio of silver to gold is 17.5:1. The gold/silver price ratio is often analyzed by traders, investors and buyers. In Roman times, the price ratio was set at 12 or 12.5 to 1. In 1792, the gold/silver price ratio was fixed by law in the United States at 15:1, which meant that one troy ounce of gold was worth 15 troy ounces of silver; a ratio of 15.5:1 was enacted in France in 1803. The average gold/silver price ratio during the 20th century, however, was 47:1.

Silver coins include the one ounce 99.99% pure Canadian Silver Maple Leaf and the one ounce 99.93% pure American



American Silver Eagle bullion proof coin

Silver Eagle. Coins may be minted as either fine silver or junk silver, the latter being older coins made of 90% silver. U.S. coins 1964 and older (half dollars, dimes, and quarters) are generally accepted to weigh 24.71 grams of silver per dollar of face value, which at their nominal silver content of 90%, translates to 22.239 g of silver per dollar. All U.S. dimes, quarters, halves and 1 dollar pieces contained 90% silver since their introduction up until 1964 when they were discontinued. The combined mintage of these coins by weight exceeds by far the mintages of all other silver investment coins.

All 1965-1970 and one half of the 1975-1976 Bicentennial San Francisco proof and mint set Kennedy half dollars are "clad" in a silver alloy and contain just under one half of the silver in the pre-1965 issues.

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 jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Delayed Dreams

As I am writing this column, I should have been packing for a short vacation. For the first time in my life, I was scheduled to travel to Oklahoma City for a few days. I managed to purchase my airline ticket, book the hotel, book the rental car and keep the trip a surprise from the friend I was going to visit. It was not just a surprise trip; it was to celebrate a friend's 75th birthday.

And I could take that a little further. I have not seen this friend in over 30 years. We had lost contact from 1997 to 2018, Yet somehow through a series of miracles, we reconnected, and this was supposed to be a weekend of reflecting over our past, sharing things we had missed and making more memories.

Jim and I worked in the same building from 1981 until I changed employers in 1983. During the time we worked in the building, we visited a few times a month yet really did not know each other. On my last day before changing jobs, my coworkers held a going away reception for me and as he passed by our office, he stopped in to see what was happening. We chatted, exchanged numbers and he told me to keep in touch.

Several weeks later, as I was driving home from my new job, I noticed a street sign and had to pull over. We did not have cell phone phones but as I pulled out the paper with his address and phone number, I spotted a payphone at a convenience store. The street sign I saw

was for his street. As I picked up the phone to call him, I wondered if he would remember me.

Fortunately, he did, and he invited me to stop at his home. We laughed. We talked about so many things that first night. And we made plans to get together again soon. Over the next year or so, we continued to get together and learn so much about each other.

He was an African American who had served in the Navy, attended Fisk University and was a native of Oklahoma. I was a young 22-year-old Caucasian who was still living in the same zip code after 13 years.

He moved to Chicago, I married and had my first son. Occasionally I would hear something on the radio that made me think about him. He had worked in Human Resources and truly built a wall around himself, which is probably something that piqued my interest. He was such an interesting person yet very few people knew him.

Several years later, as the internet became more and more popular, I would be looking for him. At some point in 1997, I located him at the University of Chicago. We had a very brief phone conversation and I could tell there was something wrong. As we hung up, I began to pray that God would reunite us soon.

The irony of this was that it took until December 2018 for us to talk again.

More next week.



Let's talk. On video.

It would be great to see your face. Hear your voice. Talk about how you and your family are doing. We're here to support you, and our community, in whatever ways we can. You've always been the reason we do what we do. You always will be. May love, kindness, friendship, and faith always guide us. And for that friendly video chat, just send us a note here, we'll set it up with you -- and let's talk!



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Sections 4.004, 83.010, 85.004, 85.007, V.T.C.A., Election Code

NOTICE OF GENERAL TRUSTEE ELECTION

To the Registered Voters of Barbers Hill ISD, Chambers County, Texas:

Notice is hereby given that the polling place listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on May 2, 2020, for voting in a general election, to elect two trustees for a full three-year term, electing one trustee each for positions designated as Places 3 and 4.

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE:

Precincts 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 15

C. T. Joseph Conference Center
Barbers Hill ISD
9600 Eagle Drive
Mont Belvieu, Texas 77580

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at:

Barbers Hill ISD C. T. Joseph Conference Center
9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, Texas 77580

between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., beginning on April 20, 2020 and ending on April 28, 2020. On April 21 and April 28, 2020 early voting hours will be extended from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

Barbers Hill ISD, c/o Lesa Hall
P. O. Box 1108
Mont Belvieu, TX 77580
lhall@bhisd.net

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 20, 2020.

Issued this the 20th day of January, 2020.

George Barrera, President, Board of Trustees

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