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CHANNEL CURRENTS

COVID-19 Cases as of April 15, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

5,928 POSITIVE
106 DEATHS
1229 RECOVERED

TEXAS

15,492 POSITIVE
364 DEATHS
Recoveries Not Reported

UNITED STATES

638,111 POSITIVE
30,844 DEATHS
52,619 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

2,062,485 POSITIVE
136,908 DEATHS
511,843 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
Methodist Hospital Download mymethodist app.

Commissioner Garcia leads creation of Harris County Small Business Loan Program

Many in our community are struggling to keep their lives together during this difficult time. Our friends and family are being laid off from their jobs, and for many applying for unemployment has been nothing less than a nightmare.

This situation is not any easier for our neighborhood small business owners. These job creators want nothing less than to be able to keep their people working. It keeps them sleepless at night, knowing that the difficult decisions they make could wind up hurting valued

See Small Business Loan, Page 2

Jacinto City moves May Election

JACINTO CITY – The city council met at their regular time last Thursday evening, and on the Agenda was an item to consider moving the May 2nd Municipal Election to a different date.

Governor Abbott had sent instructions to all municipalities to consider moving their election date to November, due to concerns about people congregating at the polls during the Covid-19 virus pandemic and subsequent lockdown. He strongly advised this action, with possible discipline if it was not followed.

The council voted to move

the election, but did not specify a date, only that it would be in the future. City Manager Lon Squyres said it might be in July, when a run-off election is scheduled in the county, or November.

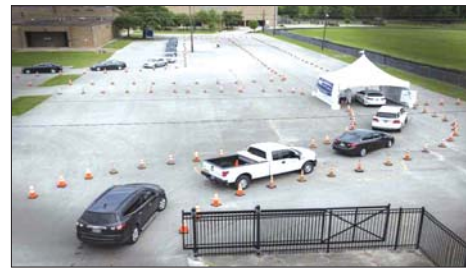
The council meeting was unusual, because it took place in the new police building, with all participants observing “social distancing” and the public participating by video conference.

Some elections are still scheduled May 2, including the Barbers Hill bond referendum, and Mont Belvieu municipal offices.

Harris County Expands COVID-19 Testing

Mobile Units to Reach All Precincts, Conduct 200 Tests Per Day

HARRIS COUNTY – County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced last Monday, April 13, 2020, that two new Harris County Public Health (HCPH) mobile units will provide drive-through testing for COVID-19, adding up to 200 tests per day to the county's current testing capacity. Each pop-up site, which will rotate locations across the precincts starting Tuesday, will be able to make up to 100 drive-through tests per day. Additionally, testing capacity at HCPH's two existing



One of 14 Drive-thru test sites in Harris County, at Forest Brook MS.

stationary sites will increase to 500 tests per location, per day, starting Wednesday.

These two units are in addition to 13 Drive-Thru sites around the county, both public and private.

These include 2 Harris County sites, 2 City of Houston sites, 4 free sites by UMMC, and 3 sites by MD Medical.

“Until we make testing
See Testing Sites, Page 2

EMS is ‘Front Line’ against Covid-19

HARRIS COUNTY – Crews of First Responders are thrust into the front lines of the war on COVID-19, and deserve recognition for their sacrifice. EMS technicians must answer calls that might include virus victims, and therefore they train and prepare for this contingency, as well as their normal emergency calls.

An example is Harris County ESD #5, Crosby's ambulance service, (ESD#5.) They are medical troopers working with local fire departments and law enforcement for the safety of our community.

Asking Medical Chief and Director of Operations Christy Graves, CCEMT-P how are treatments and procedures changing nowadays will get this response, “So, we are having to maintain our normal emergency response work and response to sick and possible COVID-19 positive patients. We have had to stay alert as well as change our protocols often, sometimes daily, in order to provide



This accident occurred on US Hwy 90 Westbound at Janacek Rd. at 12:38 pm on April 6, 2020. One patient endured entrapment, calling into play an array of first responders, equipment and subsequently a Life Flight was made to rescue a mother. Call volume overall for Harris County ESD #5, Crosby's ambulance service, decreased since the beginning of the quarantine. But motor vehicle accidents remained consistent.

the best care for all citizens during this endemic. This includes the PPE we wear to protect everybody because of how close we interview the patients. Obviously, we have to touch people to provide emergency care. We have developed very stringent guidelines to do this including limiting the number of care providers inside the ambulance with patients. We are no longer allowing extra riders including family members to increase safety. The driver of the ambulance is also completely sealed from the rear. This creates a closed ventilation system to help in decontamination of the ambulances.”

See Fight Against Virus, Page 6

San Jacinto River Coalition holds virtual meeting

HIGHLANDS – The San Jacinto River Coalition and its sister organization, THEA held its monthly meeting last Tuesday night by video instead of its usual in-person meet.

The group had skipped its March meeting due to the scheduled wedding of its president, Jackie Young (now Young Medcalf). Then they were faced with the inability to have its April meeting at the community center, due to the lockdown of county facilities because of the Covid-19 flu epidemic. Undaunted, Ms. Medcalf recorded a report which included news of the SJR Waste Pits, the Superfund Jones Road site in Cypress, and even her wedding.

A major question on the



Jackie Young Medcalf on THEA video report.

minds of many of the Coalition members, and others in the community, is whether the Covid-19 lockdown will affect the schedule of removal of the waste pits. Jackie has discussed this with the EPA project manager, Gary Baumgarten, and reports that work is continuing at the EPA, the engineering consultants, and even on-site re-

medial repair work. There is no indication of a major delay in the milestone dates of the project, he said.

On-site work is in the river just beyond the north edge of the cap, where the storm Imelda caused erosion of the river bed. Contractors are repairing and restoring much of the material that washed away, to protect the cap. The company in charge of the on-site work has submitted an addendum to their Health and Safety work plan to the EPA, indicating additional protection for their workers from the Covid-19 virus.

THEA's short term goal is to protect the public and the environment from any contamination from the

toxins in the waste pits. Their long-term goal, Jackie says, is to continue work on removal and relocation and storage of the dioxins and other toxic materials.

The work plan called for a 30% Design Report by the end of May for the North impoundment, but even though it may be ready, due to the lockdown that prohibits groups of more than 10, the EPA has indicated that they will not make a quarterly report in person to the Highlands and Channelview communities, as originally planned.

Workers on the site have discovered that some of the waste pits are deeper than originally thought. Instead of 12 to 14 feet, some areas of the site have toxins

as deep as 25 feet. Since this means more material must be removed, the EPA indicates the removal process will take longer, perhaps 4 years instead of 2. This will require additional negotiations with the Responsible Parties.

The coalition was also concerned about a new Corps of Engineers permit, that will allow TxDOT to contract to build new bumpers and supports to protect the IH-10 bridge from accidents that have shut it down twice this year. The permit states that new Dolphin structures, or bumpers, will be built to replace the three in place that are severely damaged, and new fender piling under the bridge for additional support.

Constable Diaz responds to lawsuit

Accused of Retaliation
The following article was submitted by Constable Chris Diaz:

On March 12, 2020, Harris County Precinct Two Constable Christopher Diaz moved to dismiss as baseless a federal lawsuit in which the plaintiffs have alleged Constable Diaz violated plaintiff's rights under the First Amendment.

Constable Diaz's motion to dismiss demonstrates the plaintiffs, several former employees and one current employee, did not engage in any constitutionally protected conduct and, further, there is no connection between any plaintiff's

allegedly protected conduct and a complained of, actionable employment decision. In fact, several plaintiffs have failed to even allege Constable Diaz had any direct involvement in the plaintiffs' reassignment, discipline, or discharge at all.

Precinct Two's records, available to the public under the Public Information Act, further refute each plaintiff's baseless accusations and demonstrate the following:

Jerry Luman: On July 30, 2019, Precinct Two discharged Luman after the Harris County Sheriff's Office and Harris County Constable's Office Precinct



Pct. 2 Constable Chris Diaz

One each independently determined Luman had displayed a lack of commitment and concerning behavior that undermined Constable Diaz's ability to operate Precinct Two. The Precinct One investigator also determined Luman was untruthful during the

course of the investigation.

Norman Verbosky: On March 7, 2019, Precinct Two discharged Verbosky because of Verbosky had failed to improve his management skills and had failed to attend training with Harris County and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. At the recommendation of an independent law enforcement consultant and subject to Verbosky's commitment to improve his management skills, Precinct Two twice offered to reinstate Verbosky's employment. Verbosky declined reemployment and retired from law enforcement.

David Williams: Without any notice to Precinct Two, Williams voluntarily resigned his employment on August 28, 2019.

Sara “Cindy” Vara-Leija: Without any notice to Precinct Two, Leija voluntarily resigned her employment on August 2, 2019.

Marcus Anderson: On November 11, 2018, Anderson provided to Precinct Two a medical clearance in which a medical doctor indicated Anderson was “fit for duty.” Precinct Two subsequently reassigned Anderson's shift.

Anderson voluntarily

See LAWSUIT, page 2

Attorney's comments:

The Attorney for the Plaintiff issued the following statement:

“I fail to see how this lawsuit is baseless. This lawsuit involves the systematic termination of Diaz's entire command staff after they protested Diaz's squandered misuse of taxpayer funded police services for use in Diaz' re-election campaign. If the citizens of Precinct 2 are unhappy with the police services provided by Diaz, there is good reason for that.”

Scott Poerschke
The Poerschke Law Firm, PC

ASK THE EXPERT

Diaz Lawsuit,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

resigned his employment on January 4, 2019.

Reed Clark: Clark voluntarily resigned his employment on June 9, 2019.

Ana Herrera: Herrera voluntarily retired from Precinct Two on July 19, 2019.

Claudia Arellano: On May 30, 2019, Precinct Two discharged Arellano after an Internal Affairs investigation determined Arellano had violated an individual's civil rights of due process by evicting that individual with a citation and not a writ of possession obtained after a hearing before a court of law.

Dwayne Pacifico: At the recommendation of an independent law enforcement consultant, Precinct Two re-assigned Pacifico's shift.

On March 5, 2020, the Friendswood Police Department arrested Pacifico and charged him with felony injury to a child. Pacifico subsequently admitted to the Friendswood Police Department that he assaulted and injured the child, who is Pacifico's fam-

ily member. As a result of Pacifico's admitted commission of a felony, as well as the findings of the Friendswood Police Department and Precinct Two's Internal Affairs Division, Constable Diaz discharged Pacifico effective March 12, 2020.

Ricardo "Pico" Rodriguez: Rodriguez voluntarily resigned his employment on June 9, 2019.

Javier Zavala: Zavala voluntarily resigned his employment on August 15, 2019.

Mary Ann Carrion: Without any notice to Precinct Two, Carrion voluntarily resigned her employment on June 3, 2019.

Emily Rivera: Rivera voluntarily resigned her employment on March 19, 2019.

Constable Diaz has honorably served as constable since 2013 and most recently won re-election in 2016 by more than 30 percentage points. Constable Diaz is currently seeking re-election.

Submitted Article

Small Business Loan,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

employees and their families. Meanwhile, the Federal SBA loan program has been slow to get up and running, and time is quickly running out for businesses to be able to stay afloat. However, Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia provided some relief.

Commissioner Garcia was the brainchild of a \$10 million, 0% interest/forgivable loan fund for Harris County small businesses. It was approved by Commissioners Court earlier last

week, and successful applicants will receive a crucial cash lifeline (a max of \$25,000 per business to keep paying employees' salaries and benefits) in a matter of weeks.

Please visit www.harriscountyloan.com for more information. Availability is expected to be extremely limited, and demand will be extremely high.

NOTE: Unfortunately, Harris County has stopped the application process for small business loan program after huge demand.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is a Moissanite and what makes it different from a Diamond?"



Moissanite, also known as silicon carbide, is a gemstone unlike any other. With more brilliance and fire than diamond, this stone has been a source of intense interest ever since its discovery more than a century ago. Moissanite dances with sparkles of light that draw the eye and delight the senses. Its unique internal beauty lends a captivating allure to jewelry, making a magnificent statement at a fraction of the cost of other gemstones.

Moissanite was first discovered in 1893 by the Nobel Prize-winning French chemist Dr. Henri Moissan at the site of a massive meteorite strike in Arizona. The tiny particles he unearthed were initially mistaken for diamond due to their hardness and brilliant reflectiveness, but after painstaking testing, were identified as naturally-occurring silicon carbide. This intriguing new stone was named Moissanite in his honor, and Moissan spent the rest of his life attempting to re-create this exceptional mineral, which is among the hardest materials on Earth.

Moissanite vs Diamonds
The resulting gemstones exhibit more brilliance than diamond, and are more durable than ruby, emerald, and sapphire. With a refractive index of 2.65-2.69, Moissanite is truly the World's Most Brilliant Gem®. And thanks to a dispersion level that produces 2.4 times the fire of diamond, Moissanite bends light into mesmerizing rainbow flashes of fire.

The unrivaled fire and brilliance of Moissanite is guaranteed to last forever. The sparkle that makes this gemstone so beloved will never fade or dull, and is protected by a

limited lifetime warranty from Charles & Colvard. Due to a hardness that is second only to that of diamond, Moissanite is highly unlikely to ever break, scratch or chip.

Nearly one hundred years after Dr. Moissan's discovery, scientists at a research laboratory in central North Carolina perfected and patented the innovative process that creates silicon carbide crystals for Charles & Colvard®. Within a controlled environment that mimics the forces of nature, their researchers produce durable, super-hard crystals with a minimum of ecological impact, and absolutely no mining. Today, Charles & Colvard® remains committed to producing the highest quality Moissanite gemstones using innovative techniques and technologies.

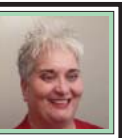
Moissanite was introduced to the jewelry market in 1998. It is regarded as a diamond alternative, with some optical properties exceeding those of diamond. Its lower price and less exploitative mining practices necessary to obtain it make it a popular alternative to diamonds. Moissanite gemstones are sometimes marketed as amora gems, as well as under the trademark Berzelian.

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 (Part 2)

I have been blessed to meet many interesting people in my lifetime. In December of 2018, while attending the funeral of a friend, I was sitting next to a mutual friend who began to talk about how interesting the funeral guests were. She noted that Pastor Steven had lived a very interesting life, filled with many eclectic friends. As we looked around the church, we saw professionals, engineers, geophysicists, teachers, nurses, politicians, member of the homeless community and several hundred attendees who were from all ages, races and economic statuses.

Suddenly she laughed and stated that my group of friends and contacts were about as eclectic as Pastor Steven's friends. Then she asked if I had been raised in a diverse community. I laughed. I explained that until sixth grade, I had not had an African American classmate. My parents were very different from each other and that was probably about as much diversity as I had been around. My dad was the youngest of six children from a small east Texas town. My mom was the oldest of eight children raised in Chicago. My friend asked me how in the world did I turned out the way I did. She talked about how much of an extrovert I was and how I seemed to love everyone. She was aware that I had been married twice, once to a Caucasian and once to a Black man. She had seen me interact with the homeless as well as millionaires.

I laughed and told her that it really started with my first job. I explained that I worked for a credit union that was located inside of one of the company's building. I started telling her that I was a teller and that one of the most interesting people I had ever met, who probably started me on my journey to meeting great people was one of the men from them. She asked me what company and when I said Shell Oil, she told me that she had worked at Shell Oil in the early 1980's and asked which location and did I remember the man's name. I gave her the name and address of the office building as well as his name. Suddenly a smile appeared on her face that was priceless. "I just talked to him two days ago. Let me give you his phone number."

The funeral started and I kept thinking I should get up and walk to the lobby and call my friend. Suddenly, as Pastor Steven's granddaughter starting to share memories about her amazing grandfather, the young man she was dating fell and he was out cold. People were screaming as our Pastor stood up and began to lead us all in prayer. Steven's daughter in law was calling 911. Just as the paramedics arrived and began to rip off John's coat, tie, shirt, shoes and started CPR, they covered him with a sheet.

Again, I started wondering if I should slip into the lobby and call my friend. Continued next week.

Testing Sites,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

accessible to everyone who needs it, we will not be able to fully tackle this disease in Harris County," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "These efforts are a key step forward, but they're not enough. We have to be nimble. We have to reach underserved communities and expand our ability to help folks identify if they are sick, and isolate immediately."

The pop-up testing locations were identified in coordination with Harris County Precincts. To be tested, residents must complete online screening via ReadyHarris.org and obtain an authorization code. Once confirmed they

meet the criteria for testing, residents will be provided an appointment time and directed to a testing site closest to them. Walk-ins will be turned away.

Testing sites will be allocated to the precincts from Monday through Saturday, spending three days in two precincts, and three days in the other two precincts.

All individuals can access the online screening tool at readyharris.org. Individuals without access to a computer or Internet can call the Harris County Public Health COVID-19 resource line at 832-927-7575.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Harris County Clerk urges voters 65 and older to vote by mail as precaution to COVID-19

Early voting for the Primary Runoff Elections is July 6-10

Houston, Texas — Harris County Clerk Diane Trautman urges voters 65 and older to vote by mail to ensure their safety during COVID-19 outbreak. Last month, the governor postponed the May 26 Primary Runoff Elections and rescheduled them for July 14, with early voting taking place July 6-10. The deadline to apply to vote by mail ballot for these elections is July 2.

“Our office will do everything it can to ensure a safe, secure, and accessible election,” said Trautman. “In order to do anything

different from a normal uniform election, our will require explicit guidance from the Texas Secretary of State.”

To be eligible to vote by mail in Texas, a voter has to be 65 years or older, have a disability or illness, be out of the county during the election period, or be confined in jail, with no conviction. Voters can go to www.harrisvotes.com to print out the application or call 713-755-6965 to request one. The last day to register to vote for the July 14 election is June 15. For voter registration informa-

tion, please contact the Harris County Tax Office.

“The procedure for mail ballot applications has always been to honor any request from a voter who checks the disabled box. We are not going to question someone’s disability,” added Trautman. “Any ability to expand the Ballot-By-Mail program will need to be granted at the state level.”

Residents are encourage to visit HarrisVotes.com and follow on social media for updates and information.

Harris County Attorney ready to take on price gouging

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan has set up a website for residents to file complaints about price gouging.

During a disaster, the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act makes it illegal for a company to sell or lease fuel, food, medicine, lodging, building materials, construction tools, or another necessity at an exorbitant or excessive price.

“Unfortunately, there seem to always be people who will take advantage of a crisis situation,” said County Attorney Ryan. “Our office wants you to reach out to us to let us know about a price gou-

ing situation.”

The County Attorney’s website explains the details you need to provide to file a complaint. It explains the process the Office will use to investigate a complaint and how it will be dealt with if it is determined that price gouging occurred.

Since the COVID-19 emergency declaration was issued, the County Attorney’s Office has received 115 price gouging complaints. Thirty-five have been investigated. Each case is looked at individually. Investigators will contact a store and determine how much a store paid for

an item and how much they are marking it up. Some products are more expensive for a store to purchase now; higher prices are not necessarily price gouging. Five cease and desist letters have been issued so far. If a company refuses to comply with the letter, a lawsuit may be filed.

The County Attorney’s website with information on price gouging is: www.harriscountyciao.org/coronavirus-consumer-complaints.

You can file a complaint from that website or email: ConsumerHelp@cao.hctx.net.

COVID-19 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE Paycheck Protection Program

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll.

SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.

You can apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating. Other regulated lenders will be available to make these loans once they are approved and enrolled

in the program. You should consult with your local lender as to whether it is participating in the program.

Lenders may begin processing loan applications as soon as April 3, 2020. The Paycheck Protection Program will be available through June 30, 2020.

Who Can Apply

The following entities affected by Coronavirus (COVID-19) may be eligible:

- o Any small business concern that meets SBA’s size standards (either the industry based sized standard or the alternative size standard)
- o Any business, 501(c)(3) non-profit organi-

zation, 501(c)(19) veterans organization, or Tribal business concern (sec. 31(b)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act) with the greater of:

- o 500 employees, or
- o That meets the SBA industry size standard if more than 500
- o Any business with a NAICS Code that begins with 72 (Accommodations and Food Services) that has more than one physical location and employs less than 500 per location
- o Sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed persons

For more details or to apply, please visit sab.gov

Temporary Closure Of State Historic Sites

Gov. Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to close all historic sites as part of the state’s efforts to strengthen social distancing practices and prevent gatherings of large groups of people. Our State Historic Sites are closed to the public and will reopen at the direction of the governor.

“Social distancing is our best tool to curb the spread of COVID-19 and save lives,” said Gov. Abbott. “The temporary closure of our state parks and historic sites will help us achieve this goal by preventing the gathering of large groups of people. I urge all Texans to continue to stay at home



San Jacinto Park

except for essential services as we respond to COVID-19. By following these social distance practices, we will overcome this challenge together.”

As an alternative to visiting a historic site, the Texas Historical Commission is providing free online

resources about Texas history, preservation, and heritage tourism.

Go to Texas History at Home to view resources for students, teachers, and history-lovers to engage with the people, places, and stories of the Lone Star State.



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.”

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

State-private partnership to speed up production of masks

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on April 8 announced a partnership between the Texas Military Department and Prestige Ameritech to increase production of personal protective equipment for health care workers.

Prestige Ameritech, with a 220,000-square-foot plant in North Richland Hills near Fort Worth, is the United States' largest domestic surgical mask manufacturer. The company's 24-hour operation will be staffed in part by members of the Texas National Guard 36th Infantry Division, enabling the production of an estimated 2 million surgical face masks per week.

Joining Abbott in making the announcement were Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner John Hellerstedt, Texas Division of Emergency

Management Chief Nim Kidd and University of Texas System Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs John Zerwas.

Abbott announced on April 6 that Texas had received 2.5 million masks in the previous 24 hours and would receive an additional 3 million masks by April 11. The governor's office also provided a region-by-region weekly breakdown of personal protective equipment that had been distributed: masks, face shields, gloves, gowns and coveralls.

In other action, Abbott announced on April 9 an emergency rule adopted by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to temporarily allow more nurse aides to serve residents in long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 response. Under the rule, nursing facilities

HOW WILL YOU BE SPENDING YOUR STIMULUS BUCKS???

E.Z. GOHING
Unflappable Guy

IMA INDETT
Financial Whiz

MARY KAFFENE
Coffee Freak

SEYMOUR PLAZE
Gridiron Fan



"I wanna buy a 55-inch TV, but my stores sellin' 'em won't be open!"



"I also want a big TV, but my rent and bills are overdue!"



"I don't need a TV, but a lifetime Starbucks pass works for me!"



"I want the TV football package, but wifey wants a toy poodle!"

ities may hire people to provide nurse aide services without having to complete a full certification program in their first four months of employment. This action will expand the eligible pool of direct-care workers and help long-term care providers who may face critical staffing shortages, Abbott said.

According to figures posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services at noon on April 12, some 13,484 people in Texas had been diagnosed with deadly coronavirus -- COVID-19 -- and 271 deaths resulting from the disease had been confirmed.

rected the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to close all state parks and historic sites indefinitely as part of the state's efforts to strengthen social distancing practices and prevent gatherings of large groups of people.

Historic sites and state parks will reopen at the direction of the governor.

"Social distancing is our best tool to curb the spread of COVID-19 and save lives," Abbott said. "The temporary closure of our state parks and historic sites will help us achieve this goal by preventing the gathering of large groups of people. I urge all Texans to continue to stay at

home except for essential services as we respond to COVID-19. By following these social distance practices, we will overcome this challenge together."

Care access to increase

Gov. Abbott on April 6 announced that Care.com, a private business that enables families to find, manage and pay for care and provides employment opportunities for caregivers, is increasing in-home child care access for frontline workers responding to the COVID-19 emergency.

As part of this initiative, Abbott said, Care.com is offering 90 days of free, premium access to their services, along with specific portals for frontline workers and caregivers in Texas.

Frontline workers looking for child care, as well as prospective caregivers, can enroll at <https://texasfrontline.care.com/>;

Potential caregivers are subject to Care.com's extensive background and safety checks. While child care services are not typically free of charge, the Texas portal gives residents the ability to waive their fees and volunteer as caregivers, providing additional support to frontline workers, Abbott added.

Hegar distributes revenue

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on April 8 announced

he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$701.8 million in local sales tax allocations for April.

The amount is 0.5 percent less than the amount distributed in April 2019.

Revenue allocations are based on sales made in February by businesses that report tax monthly.

Next month's allocations, which will mostly reflect sales made in March, will begin to show the impact of pandemic-related business shutdowns. The agency, therefore, expects local allocations in May to be lower, and June allocations will likely deteriorate further, Hegar said.

Lawsuit amicus is filed

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison on April 6 led 40 attorneys general in an amicus brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of injury lawsuit decisions by the Supreme Courts of Montana and Minnesota.

In the brief, Paxton and Ellison said those state supreme courts correctly ruled in favor of allowing individuals to file personal injury lawsuits in the states in which they reside and were injured, regardless of where the defendant was located.

The friend-of-the-court brief opposes an effort by large corporations to prevent individuals from filing lawsuits in their own local courts and to potentially prevent states from filing lawsuits to enforce their own laws, Paxton said.

Jobless urged to reapply

The Texas Workforce Commission on April 4 encouraged Texas residents previously deemed monetarily ineligible for unemployment benefits to reapply now, at the beginning of a new fiscal quarter.

The agency invited applicants who were denied unemployment benefits due to insufficient wages and who worked during the January 2019-December 2019 base period to visit the unemployment benefit services portal to reapply online.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Southwest Shipyard, L.P., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the amendment of Air Quality Permit, Permit No. 9442, which would authorize modification of the Southwest Shipyard facility located at 18310 Market St, Channelview, Harris County, Texas 77530. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Industrial Container Services - TX, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for issuance of Proposed Air Quality Permit Number 158777, which would authorize construction of a Drum Reclamation Facility located at 1402 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Harris County, Texas 77547. This application was processed in an expedited manner, as allowed by the commission's rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Subchapter J. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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LIFESTYLE PAGE

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OBITUARIES

David Lee Robbins

David Lee Robbins, 80, passed away April 6, 2020 at 11:11 a.m. At Herman Memorial Hospital. David Lee was born September, 28, 1939 to Oliva and Easter Lilly Robbins in Forest Hill, Louisiana. He graduated from Tioga High School in 1959.

David Lee worked in his younger years as a carpenter in Louisiana, marrying his high school sweetheart, Lana Dee Hayden, soon after graduating. After the birth of their first daughter, the two of them relocated to Houston, Texas. He worked for Houston Belt and Terminal Railroad (Union Pacific) as a switchman for 42 years. Together he and Lana had three daughters, Tami Elizabeth Newton of Crosby, Connie Lynn Harding of Crosby, and Laurie Gail Hopper of Bonham.

David Lee loved to hunt, fish, garden and devoted lots of time helping others. He took great joy in spending time with his grandchildren, Alisa Sharon McElroy, Timothy Eric Newton, Cara Michelle Collier, R.J. Harding, Randall David Newton and David Thomas



Hopper and many other family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, siblings; Elois Moody, Claude Robbins, Audrey Lowe, Patsy Pennington, Beatrice Crawford Stephens, and his grandson, Timothy Eric Newton. David is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lana, children; Tami, Connie and Laurie, 5 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

David Lee will be laid to rest on Friday, April 10, 2020 at Sterling White Cemetery in Highlands, Texas in a private ceremony.

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Miriam Agnes Kelly

Miriam Agnes Kelly, age 87, went to be with the Lord on April 3, 2020. She was born on November 20, 1932 in Alto, Texas to Hubert Earl and Hattie Agnes Singletary. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, cooking for family, playing bingo with friends and her greatest joy was spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a devout Christian, very loving and giving, always putting others before herself and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband of



65 years, Cecil H. Kelly, her parents, and her brother, Earl Singletary. Miriam is survived by her son, Timothy Kelly (and wife, Darrla); her grandchildren, Christopher Kelly; Haley Hammes (and husband, Derik); Katelyn, Kyle and Madison Kelly; her great grandchildren, Eli Kelly, Maggie Hammes and

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THOUGHTS FROM
HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice

Christ Over Infectious Diseases

As Christians, what do we do when the world goes insane, when a pandemic not only threatens everyone we know and love, but also leaves us watching local businesses and industries face the possibility of bankruptcy? If we're wise, we look to the Word and go to God.

The book of Joshua starts with a man looking into what the world would see as a questionable future. His God is telling him to gather his people together, cross a river, and take possession of the same land that Israel had been told to march into 40 years earlier.

Of course, 40 years earlier, the people were too afraid of the giants that inhabited that place. They trembled in fear at the thought of the battles they would face; and all but Joshua and Caleb were quite certain they would lose. So God sent them to wander the desert until a whole generation of people died.

So here stands Joshua, one of the two spies who dared believe in God's supremacy. He is in command now, and while nothing in Canaan has changed, the hearts of

God's people have. They have hope. And, through Joshua, they have a word from God.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9 NKJV)

If you know your Bible stories, you know that they did cross that river, and they did start taking the land. It wasn't easy. They actually lost their second battle because they had sin in the camp. Still, they conquered, fighting battle after battle and gaining those victories their parents thought were impossible.

As the years went on, they lost track of the ultimate goal, many turned aside from God, and they fell short of what God wanted for them. Even so, in following the command given to Joshua by God, they changed their lives and those of their descendants forever.

In a sense, we are Joshua, facing the unpredictable future COVID-19 has triggered, but no matter what we see going on around us, God has given us the same command. Be strong. Be of good courage. Don't let fear rule. Romans 8:28 tells us, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love

God, to those who are the called according to his purpose."

Do you love God? Are you called according to his purpose? If so, even this pandemic will work together for your good. How? I have no idea, but no matter how much we'd like to have all the answers, the fact remains that He is God and we are not.

So, make a choice. Choose not to walk in fear and worry. "Impossible," you say? I beg to differ with you. Have you ever counted the number of times Jesus said, "Fear not," or something similar? Look at Luke 12:25-26 (NLT): "Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And if worry can't accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things?"

Jesus' words let us know two things. We know that 1) Jesus was well aware how prone we humans are to indulge in worry and 2) It is possible to stop worrying. We may not think so, but again, Jesus only ever told the truth.

I like one of the memes I've seen. Someone decided to use COVID as an acronym for "Christ Over Infectious Diseases." Yes, He is still on the throne, ruling over all. God's got this.

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IN THE
STARS

- EVENTS**
- BIRTHDAYS**
- Apr 16--Louis Marie Bradbury
Morgan Little
Jason Roffe
- Apr 17--Pat Van Ness
Charlie Ward
Callen Reese Tittel
- Apr 18--Monica McKinney
Mark Williams
- Apr 19--Benny Clark
Magon Hencke
- Apr 20--April McClelland
- Apr 22--Robert McDowell
- ANNIVERSARIES**
- Apr 17- Roy & Pauline Cutbirth
- Apr 19--Vance & Cecilia Banik
- Apr 22--Chester & Marie Stasney

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Corinthians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who saw a vision of a woman named Wickedness flown away in a basket by two angels? Jonathan, Dodo, Zechariah, Belshazzar
3. From Judges 17, who confessed to his mother about stolen pieces of silver? David, Micah, Jonah, Esau
4. What animals did Samson use to set the Philistines' field on fire?
5. Mahershalalhashbaz is the longest word in the Bible on being whose son? Adam, Moses, Noah, Isaiah
6. From Genesis 27, to whom did Isaac give a blessing? Jacob, Abraham, Moses, Noah

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Zechariah; 3) Micah; 4) Foxes; 5) Isaiah; 6) Jacob

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com\(c\)](http://www.TriviaGuy.com(c)) 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

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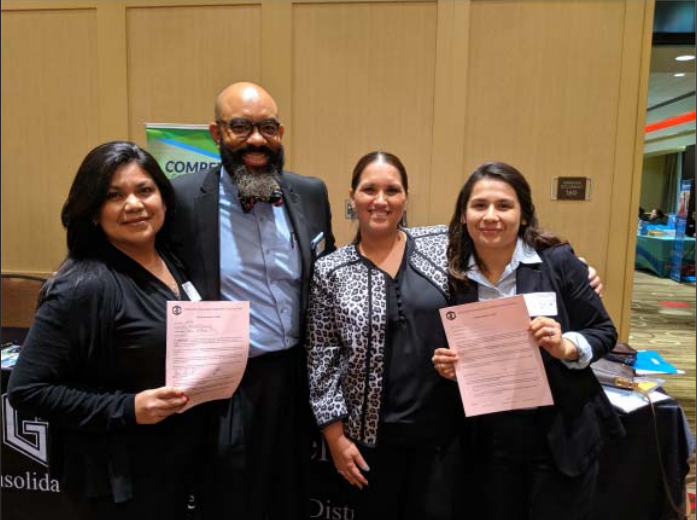
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I Corinthians 13:8

Goose Creek ISD to host virtual job fair this week



Maria Perez (left) and Gladys Rodriguez (right), former Clinical Student Teacher Interns for Goose Creek CISD, are congratulated on their new teaching positions by Dr. Tyrone Sylvester (second from left), director of human resources, and Lisa Steele, human resources coordinator.

Join us for the Goose Creek CISD Virtual Job Fair! The district is searching for certified teachers to hire for the 2020-2021 school year. Registration will be open through April 17. Applicants should reg-

ister at <https://bit.ly/2wSk-mG6>, upload a resume and fill out a Goose Creek CISD application. Please use Chrome when completing the application.

Principals and staff will

review resumes and contact applicants under consideration to interview virtually from April 20-24, 2020. Applicants must have filled out a Goose Creek CISD application.

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The Journey of a thousand miles begins with one step
-LaoTzu

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ROMANS 8:18

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COUNTY TALK

Harris County Judge
Lina Hidalgo



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 overwhelmed 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.



Fight Against Virus,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Asking how these changes came about was answered, "We have spent many hours consulting on joint task forces with other nationally recognized EMS providers to develop the best practices for Crosby. The safety of our staff and the public is our top priority. Just like with other disasters, we will meet this one collectively head-on. As with many medical systems across the nation, we have had our difficulties in accessing protective equipment and disinfectants. We have had to purchase different types including washable and renewable products in order to sustain the duration of this crisis."

On April 6, Ms. Graves answered how the roadways are doing late, "We have had 2 Life flights in the last 8 days involving motor vehicle collision. We have also had an unfortunate fatal motorcycle accident."

What Graves would like to share with all locals is: "Our best advice is if you do not need to go out on the road avoid it.†Have only one member of your household shop.†Wash your hands after each encounter as well as wash your workspaces/eating spaces.†Hand washing is number 1! Do not touch your face, this is hard but it is very beneficial. Stay back six feet when visiting neighbors and friends.†If you are sick and can manage, stay home. Going to a hospital will only make you sicker or get those who do not have the virus sick.†Know we will get through this working together. One day we will look back at this moment and realize that as Americans, we can survive anything if we do it as a team." Together we build a healthier and safer community.i Christy Graves, CCEMT-P

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR AN AIR QUALITY PERMIT

PROPOSED PERMIT NUMBER: 158777

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Industrial Container Services - TX, LLC, 2600 Maitland Center Parkway Suite 200, Maitland, FL 32751-4154, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for issuance of Proposed Air Quality Permit Number 158777, which would authorize construction of a Drum Reclamation Facility located at 1402 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Harris County, Texas 77547. This application was processed in an expedited manner, as allowed by the commission's rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Subchapter J. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on October 10, 2019. The proposed facility will emit the following contaminants: carbon monoxide, exempt solvents, hazardous air pollutants, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less, lead and sulfur dioxide.

The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit which, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the permit because it meets all rules and regulations. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Houston regional office, and at Galena Park City Hall, 2000 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Harris County, Texas 77547, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk St Ste H, Houston, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comment or to ask questions about the application. The TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. **You may submit additional written public comments within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of this notice in the manner set forth in the AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION paragraph below.**

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. Because no timely hearing requests have been received, after preparing the response to comments, the executive director may then issue final approval of the application. **The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or is on a mailing list for this application, and will be posted electronically to the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID).**

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. When they become available, the executive director's response to comments and the final decision on this application will be accessible through the Commission's Web site at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Once you have access to the CID using the above link, enter the permit number for this application which is provided at the top of this notice. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hib610/index.html?lat=29.731944&lng=-95.234444&zoom=13&type=r>.

MAILING LIST. You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to obtain additional information on this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea informacion en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Industrial Container Services - TX, LLC at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Darina Demirev, Senior Engineer at (630) 393-9000.

Notice Issuance Date: April 1, 2020

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ATTENTION

If you or someone you know worked for Shell Oil Company in Galena Park between 1959 and 1965 and worked with Horace Andrews please call Rebecca at Simmons Hanly Conroy toll-free at (855) 988-2537. You can also email rcookre@simmonsfirm.com.

14-17

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT
PROPOSED AIR QUALITY PERMIT NUMBER 160717

APPLICATION FP HYDROTREATING LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Issuance of Permit 160717

This application would authorize construction of the Jacintoport Plant located at Jacintoport Boulevard, approximately 0.25 miles east of the intersection with Sheldon Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77015. This application is being processed in an expedited manner, as allowed by the commission's rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Subchapter J. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application.

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.749444&lng=-95.119444&zoom=13&type=r>. The facility will emit the following contaminants: ammonia, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on March 30, 2020. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Houston regional office, and at https://www.brandxtract.com/permitting/20200327_ApplicationPackage_FPHydrotreating_New.pdf beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING You may submit public comments, or request a public meeting or a contested case hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all public comments.

The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application, if requested by an interested person, or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

After technical review of the application is complete, the executive director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision for an Air Quality Permit will then be published and mailed to those who made comments, submitted hearing requests or are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. A contested case hearing will only be granted based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on those issues submitted during the public comment period and not withdrawn. The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 30 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after the mailing of the response to comments.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, and daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing"; (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or an association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

If a hearing request is timely filed, following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific application by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from FP HYDROTREATING LLC, 58 Commerce Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06902-4506 or by calling Ms. Sharon Jones, Principal Consultant, SEE Solutions LLC, at (281) 416-4198.

Notice Issuance Date: April 7, 2020

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AMENDED Consolidated Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit and Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision

Air Quality Permit No. 9442

APPLICATION. Southwest Shipyard, L.P., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the amendment of Permit No. 9442. This application would authorize modification of the Southwest Shipyard facility located at 18310 Market St, Channelview, Harris County, Texas 77530. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.789722&lng=-95.065277&zoom=13&type=r>. The existing facility will emit the following contaminants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less, sulfur dioxide, inorganic compounds, and hazardous air pollutants.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on November 8, 2019. The executive director has completed the administrative and technical reviews of the application and prepared a draft permit which if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, and the draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, at TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk St Ste H, Houston, Texas, and on the internet at http://www.swslp.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Permit_9442_Public_Notice.pdf beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk St Ste H, Houston, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting. See Contacts section. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. The deadline to submit public comments or meeting requests is 30 days after newspaper notice is published. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to consider in the permit process.

The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. If a public meeting is held, the deadline to submit public comments is extended to the end of the public meeting.

CONTESTED CASE HEARING. You may request a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. A contested case hearing will only be granted based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on those issues submitted during the public comment period and not withdrawn. The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 30 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after the mailing of the response to comments. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 30 days from this notice, there is no further opportunity to request a contested case hearing and the executive director may approve the application.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. To request a hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests which the group or association seeks to protect must be identified. You may submit your proposed adjustments to the application which would satisfy your concerns. See Contacts section.

TCEQ ACTION. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. The executive director's decision on the application, and any response to comments, will be mailed to all persons on the mailing list. If no timely contested case hearing requests are received, or if all hearing requests are withdrawn, the executive director may issue final approval of the application. If all timely hearing requests are not withdrawn, the executive director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period. Issues that are not submitted in public comments may not be considered in a hearing. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST. You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive additional information on this specific application by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk. See Contacts section.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID) at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Once you have access to the CID using the link, enter the permit number at the top of this notice.

CONTACTS. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Southwest Shipyard, L.P., 18310 Market St, Channelview, TX 77530-3858 or by calling Ms. Elizabeth Stanko, Project Manager at (713) 244-1039.

Amended Notice Issuance Date: March 27, 2020

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