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 VOLUME 8, NO. 17 (#321) THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

COVID-19 Cases as of April 21, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

7,578 POSITIVE
153 DEATHS
1892 RECOVERED

TEXAS

20,087 POSITIVE
520 DEATHS
Recoveries Not Reported

UNITED STATES

788,920 POSITIVE
42,458 DEATHS
73,533 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

2,501,156 POSITIVE
171,810 DEATHS
659,732 RECOVERED

COVID-19 RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON

832-393-4220

HARRIS COUNTY

713-634-1110
ASK A NURSE
MOBILE TESTS
713-439-6000

PRE-SCREENING

HARRIS COUNTY
832-927-7575
readyharris.org

MD MEDICAL

1-888-776-5252
For Pre-screening
Aldine Mail Rte.

A MESSAGE
From STATE REP. ANA HERNANDEZ



Dear Friend,

The coronavirus pandemic is overwhelming, and one of the most excruciating parts for many people is the feeling of utter helplessness in the face of widespread suffering and hardship. Though staying inside and staying healthy are the most crucial ways to stave off this outbreak, there are many ways you can help your community while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

It is important that we take care of each other during these stressful and uncertain times. Several nonprofit organizations could use your time and money to make sure vulnerable populations are cared for during the pandemic. Below, we have listed information about how you can support some of our frontline organizations through their COVID-19 response.

If you can't contribute financially there are many

See Message, page 3

Houston, Harris County appoint 'Recovery Czars' to lead relief from Covid19 crisis

HARRIS COUNTY - April 20, 2020, County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Monday selected State Representative Armando Walle to lead the COVID-19 pandemic relief and recovery effort on her behalf. As Harris County COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Czar, Rep. Walle is tasked with leading the effort to drive the region's economic recovery. He will join the Houston relief and recovery Czar in this effort and jointly they will convene

community and government stakeholders as necessary.

"State Rep. Walle is uniquely positioned to build consensus across Harris County's diverse communities to help our region emerge from the COVID-19 disaster. As a leader in the state Legislature on issues of health, safety, and the economic well being of families, he's a champion for the important priorities that we want to make sure are in



State Representative Armando Walle appointed Harris County Relief and Recovery Effort Czar

Marvin E. Odum, former Chief Recovery Officer for Houston's Hurricane Harvey efforts, appointed City's Recovery Czar

the forefront of this relief and recovery effort," Judge Hidalgo said. "Like the rest of the world, Harris County will not be the same when this crisis abates. But with inclusive, fast and coordinated planning, we will build an economy and a social services network that gives every resident the tools they need to thrive once again."

A Harris County native, Rep. Walle is a graduate of

See Recovery Czar, Page 8

Galena Park I.S.D. names John Moore lone finalist for Superintendent Position

On Tuesday, April 21, 2020, Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees announced Dr. John C. Moore as the lone finalist in the District's superintendent search.

"I am thrilled and honored to be selected as the lone finalist for superintendent of Galena Park I.S.D., and I look forward to continuing the great work started by Dr. Angi Williams. My objective is, and has always been, to become a superintendent in Galena Park I.S.D. who inspires students, staff and the community to grow beyond what anyone believes is achievable. Dr. Williams has led this District extremely well for the past nine years, and is a well-respected educational leader throughout Texas and the nation," remarked Dr. Moore.

Dr. Moore began his educational career as a teacher in Calcasieu Parish School, Sulphur, Louisiana in



Dr. John C. Moore

1990. In 1991, he moved to Houston, Texas and became a teacher at W.C. Cunningham Middle School. During his tenure in Galena Park I.S.D. he has spent 29 years as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and associate superintendent, all in Galena Park I.S.D.

Dr. Moore earned his undergraduate and Master of Education degrees from McNeese University in Lake Charles, LA; and a Doctor of Education degree from Lamar University.

"Dr. Moore is well-prepared for this role and the Board supports him

wholeheartedly. We are appreciative of the work Dr. Williams has done for the District for the past 35 years and we look forward to Dr. Moore continuing to move this great District in a positive direction," said Board President, Ramon Garza.

After a state-mandated 21-day waiting period, the Board of Trustees will meet again to vote on the selection of Dr. Moore as Superintendent of Schools. After he is formally named to the position, he will succeed Dr. Williams, who has served as Superintendent since 2011, and is retiring after a forty-year career in education.

Governor plans to reopen state

By Patrick Svitek, The Texas Tribune

AUSTIN -- Gov. Greg Abbott last Friday, April 17, 2020, announced initial steps to re-open the Texas economy as it continues to reel from the coronavirus pandemic.

During a news conference at the Texas Capitol, Abbott said Texans' efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus were pay-

ing off.

"We're now beginning to see glimmers that the worst of COVID-19 may soon be behind us," Abbott said. "We have demonstrated that we can corral the coronavirus."

To get the economy going again, Abbott named a "statewide strike force" chaired by James Huffines, the Austin banker and former UT regent. The task force staff will be led by Mike Toomey, a



Governor Greg Abbott at a new conference in Austin last Friday, announcing steps to re-open the state.

veteran lobbyist who was chief of staff to Abbott's predecessor, Rick Perry.

Abbott offered a host of names that will advise the task force, including fellow statewide officials, top medical experts and business leaders. You can view those names — as well as Abbott's executive order establishing the task force — here.

After naming the task

Governor to open State, Page 6

North Shore Rotary cancels Fish Fry, but Raffle is May 16



North Shore Rotary has announced that they have had to "modify" their annual fundraiser, the Famous Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil, which was scheduled for May 16th at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville.

Due to the restrictions because of the coronavirus,

the food will not be served this year, and instead a LIVE Facebook drawing and ZOOM online session will be held.

The RAFFLE DRAWING for a new vehicle and other prizes will be held on that date, at 2:00 p.m. The Grand Prize is a choice of a Chevy Camero or a Chevy Colorado from Turner Chevrolet.

Raffle Tickets are available for \$100, from any Rotarian or by calling 281-452-6660.

Galena Park holds Food distribution on Earth Day

The City of Galena Park and Mayor Esmeralda Moya hosted a free food distribution event on Wednesday, April 22 which was also national Earth Day.

Also included were free face masks. The food was given out at curbside at the City's Basketball Pavilion on Keene Street, in the afternoon starting at 2 p.m.

City Residents only were given food, and they had to show proof of residency.

For home-bound senior citizens and individuals with disabilities, distribution was on Thursday at their residence in Galena Park.

Commenting on the food distribution, Mayor Es-



Hundreds of boxes for food were distributed.

meralda Moya said "My fellow citizens, I am committed to continuing to provide our community with food assistance and other essential resources. Many blessing, Esmeralda Moya, Mayor."

★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

Child dies in crash on US 90 at Beltway 8

Reasons for changes in legislation concerning restraint of children in vehicles were never better illustrated than on the morning of April 16 when a three or four year old was fatally thrown from his family's car onto the roadway in a failure to yield right of way accident.

The other two people in the vehicle, the mother and sister were taken to Memorial Hermann Hospital with injuries described as non-critical.

It seems the mother, Oralia Martinez, was behind the wheel and according to witnesses, failed to stop at the eastbound redlight from the US 90 Feeder Road at Beltway 8. An 18-wheeler coming from the southside of the Beltway on the green light struck the rear quarter panel of the passenger side of the car and projected the boy from the other side of the vehicle.

The boy was in the back seat and most of the investigation was centered upon if he were restrained.

"All the buckles were intact," said Sesan Teare, Vehicular Crimes Chief at Harris County District Attorney's Office. "So that leads us to believe he was unrestrained."

"We offer condolences on the loss of the four



year old. It's just devastating to see the child's body out here," said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzales.

Traffic investigators later discovered the age difference in the lad than originally reported.

Traffic investigators determined that the car was travelling about 50 miles per hours when struck at about 10:10 a.m. But according to the Sheriff, speed wasn't a factor.

The accident happened during a call for all non-essential traffic to stay at home.

The 18 wheeler was a 2016 Freightliner towing a 48'flatbed semitrailer.

Precinct 2 contracts small restaurants to cater free hot meals for the community

Harris County Precinct 2 is offering 1,000 free hot meals to the community and supporting small restaurants while doing it. Commissioner Garcia tasked his team to contract small restaurants to cater the meals that will be offered at 4 community centers throughout Precinct 2.

Last Friday was the first time the Precinct offered the meals for individuals of all ages and plans to continue to award a different catering company/restaurant every week. Each center

will serve 250 meals on a first come, first serve basis. Meals will be served until supplies last.

Last Fridays' restaurants being supported with a total spend of \$6,309 included:

1. The Teapot Depot
2. Azalea Creek Catering
3. Armenta's Mexican Restaurant
4. Snapper Jack's

Meals will be served again this Friday, April 24, 2020 starting at noon at the following

community centers:

1. Grayson Community Center 13828 Corpus Christi St., Houston, TX 77015
2. Barrett Community Center 11901 Mulberry St, Barrett, TX 77532
3. Northeast Community Center (10918 1/2 Bentley, Houston, TX 77093)
4. JD Walker Community Center (7613 Wade Rd., Baytown, TX 77521)

You may also check Pct. 2 website for any updates at hcp2.com or change in locations.

New to working from Home Full-Time? Here's How To Stay Productive

As the coronavirus pandemic threatens public health and the U.S. economy, more people are working from home on a regular basis. The move follows social distancing guidelines as an attempt to slow the outbreak, but keeping scattered workforces connected and productive can be challenging for managers and employees.

"This is new terrain for all involved, but employees and their companies can come out of this stronger by learning how to work together even better while they're physically apart," says Dr. Jim Guilkey (www.jimguilkey.com), author of M-Pact Learning: The New Competitive Advantage — What All Executives Need To Know.

"Optimally, working remotely can sharpen the skills you have and open new avenues of training that broaden skill-sets and increase results. But technology alone can't smooth the transition to remote working, and both employees and business leaders must learn how to implement new structures and some new or tweaked processes."

Dr. Guilkey offers tips for both managers and associates to make working from home work out well for their companies:

For employees:

— Get started early. "When going to the office, you normally get up and out the door early," Dr. Guilkey says. "At home, this is more difficult. Get up, take a shower, and get started."

— Create a dedicated work space. People who haven't worked remotely may need to experiment with different approaches to find what setting works best

for them. "Just because you're not going to the office doesn't mean you can't have an office. Dedicate a specific room or surface in your home to work," Dr. Guilkey says. "You should associate your home office with your actual office. This creates the correct mindset for being productive."

— Structure your day like you would in the office. Workers need to adopt exceptional conscientiousness when it comes to dividing their day into intensive work, communications, personal time and family life," Dr. Guilkey says. "Have an agenda. Schedule meetings and project time and stay on schedule."

For managers:

— Set expectations. "It is vital that employees know what is expected of them," Dr. Guilkey says. "When will you be available? How long will it take to get back to someone?"

— Create a cadence of communication. Without daily face-to-face interaction, there's more importance on communication. "A rhythm of communication is vital—daily check-ins, weekly one-on-ones, weekly team meetings, etc.," Dr. Guilkey says.

— Take a video-first approach. "Video, with all the current technology, is the most effective means of remote communication," Dr. Guilkey says. "Invest in reliable tools."

— Maintain company social bonds. One drawback of working remotely is the potential breaking of social bonds that are necessary for productive teamwork. "Video conferencing or a quick Google chat with a colleague is vital to keep relationships strong," Dr. Guilkey says.

"Employees miss face-to-face banter and impromptu discussions in the physical office, so seeing faces on the screen daily is optimal for morale and a sense of normalcy."

"Employees and employers can take this unprecedented time as a time to improve individually and as a company," Dr. Guilkey says. "Working from home and working well together can go hand-in-hand when everyone is pulling even harder in the same direction."

About Dr. Jim Guilkey

Jim Guilkey, PhD (<http://www.jimguilkey.com>) is the author of M-Pact Learning: The New Competitive Advantage — What All Executives Need To Know. He is the president of S4 NetQuest and a nationally recognized expert in instructional design and learning strategy, with extensive experience in leading the design, development, and implementation of innovative, highly effective learning solutions. Under his leadership, S4 NetQuest has transformed the learning programs for numerous corporations, including Johnson & Johnson, McDonald's, Merck, Nationwide, Chase Bank, BMW, Cardinal Health, Domino's, GE Medical, Kaiser Permanente, Yum! Brands, and others. Guilkey is a frequent speaker at national conferences and corporate training meetings. Before co-founding S4 NetQuest, Guilkey served as the assistant director of flight education at The Ohio State University. He received a BS in aviation and an MA and PhD in instructional design and technology from Ohio State.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Where you can get tested for coronavirus in the Houston area

Here's a list of free, COVID-19 testing sites in Houston and Harris, Fort Bend and Galveston counties.

There are several free, drive-thru coronavirus test sites in the Greater Houston Area and some will test with or without symptoms.

Houston testing sites HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Houston Health Department's two COVID-19 drive-thru sites will broaden testing to anyone wanting to get a test and double their daily testing capacity to 1,000 on Tuesday.

Each community site will ramp up its testing capacity from 250 to 500 people per day. The tests are free to the public.

People can call the department's COVID-19 call center at 832-393-4220 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. to receive a unique identification code and instructions on where to go for testing and how to obtain their test results.

The community sites only accept people with the identification code obtained through the department's COVID-19 call center. People showing up at the test sites without an identification code will not get tested.

The testing sites will continue operating until further notice.

Workers at the sites only collect insurance information and don't accept payment. The information obtained through testing or services will not be used against immigrants in their public charge evaluation.

WALGREENS

Walgreens will operate two COVID-19 testing facilities in Harris County.

One will be in Houston at the former Walgreens store site at 14531 Westheimer Road and the other in Pasadena at 101 West Southmore Avenue. (Note: The Westheimer location does not show up on most online map services because it is a closed location. Walgreens is re-opening that site to conduct testing.)

Testing at these locations will begin Friday, April 17.

These sites will provide drive-up COVID-19 testing through a self-administered nasal swab, at no cost to the patient. The guidelines for being tested at each of these sites align with HHS guidelines where testing is being prioritized for individuals that have symptoms and are/have:

Healthcare worker with symptoms

First responder with symptoms 65 or older with symptoms

Those with pre-existing health condition with symptoms

UNITED MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee has teamed up with United Memorial Medical Center to open these free testing sites in the Houston area.

UMMC; 510 W. Tidwell Road, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Forest Brook Middle School; 7525 Tidwell Road, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jacinto City Town Center Community Building; Mobile testing for seniors and first responders is now underway at 1025 Oates Rd in Jacinto City.

Due to the size restrictions of this testing apparatus, they are asking seniors and first responders to pre-register for testing at this location through the City of Jacinto City.

Cullen Middle School, 6900 Scott St.

People are asked to bring one thing.

"You can have a drivers license a water bill, just something that we can be able to record in the registration. And if there is some kind of birth certificate for the child or anything or school ID," said congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

Health care professional in protective gear will screen you from your car. If you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with coronavirus, you'll go to a second tent for a nasal swab.

Anyone with a positive test will get a call from the Harris County Health Department.

LEGACY COMMUNITY HEALTH

Legacy Baker-Ripley, 6500 Rookin Street, Bldg B, Ste 200 Bissonnet

Legacy Branard, 401 Branard St., Level 3

Legacy Deer Park Center St., 3430 Center St., Deerpark

Legacy Fifth Ward, 3811 Lyons Ave.

Legacy Lyons, 3811 Lyons Ave.

Legacy Mapleridge, 6550 Mapleridge Street, Ste. 106

Legacy Montrose, 1415 California St.

Legacy Northline, 5598-A1 North Freeway, Northtown Plaza

Legacy Santa Clara, 5616 Lawndale St., Ste A108

Legacy San Jacinto, 4301 Garth Suite 400, Baytown

Legacy Sharpstown, 6677 Rookin

Legacy Southwest, 6441 High Star Dr.

Legacy Central Beaumont, 450 North 11th St.

Legacy asks that you please call (832) 548-5226 first with any questions before arriving.

HARRIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

On Monday, April 13, County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced two new Harris County Public Health 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 and will be able to up to 100 drive-through tests per day.

The first mobile sites are coming to the Tomball and Humble area, the Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner's Office confirmed.

The Tomball site will do testing through April 14 - 16 and April 27 - 29.

The Humble site will be doing tests through April 20 - 22 and May 7 - 9.

Commissioner R. Jack Cagle said each site is able to complete as many as 100 tests per day, but these numbers expected to increase daily.

Residents must do pre-screening at checkforcorona.com/harriscounty or call 713-439-6000.

Those deemed to be at-risk for coronavirus will be given a code and phone number to call. After a telephone consultation, those still deemed to be at risk will be given another unique code and information on where and when they are to be tested.

If you have a fever, cough or other potential symptoms, the Harris County Health Department offers an online screening to determine if you should be tested.

Here's how it works: If deemed "at-risk" you will receive a unique code and a phone number to call.

Call the given number and complete phone consultation. If confirmed "at-risk" you will be given another unique code and information of where to get your first test.

Proceed to the testing facility at your scheduled time. Be sure to bring with you a photo ID and other information as requested by your nurse screener.

The online screening tool is available in several languages.

FIRST RESPONDERS, HEALTHCARE WORKERS

The City of Houston has set up a free testing site for first responders and healthcare workers only. Details about the site, including its location and the pre-screening process, are being shared with these individuals through their organizations.

Mobile virus test site opens in Humble, free total sites now number 18

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas — Mobile coronavirus testing sites temporarily in the Tomball and Humble area starting this week, the Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner's Office confirmed Monday.

Harris County Public Health is running both sites, which are temporary and only available for pre-approved residents. Officials said walk-ins will not be allowed.

Harris County Public Health will be testing 100 pre-approved residents a day at each location.

The Tomball site will do testing through April 14 - 16 and April 27 - 29. The Humble site will be doing tests through April 20 - 22 and May 7 - 9.

Commissioner R. Jack Cagle said each site is able to complete as many as 100 tests per day, but these numbers expected to increase daily. Residents must do pre-screening at



Drive-Thru Coronavirus test swab technique.

checkforcorona.com/harriscounty or call 713-439-6000 for information.

Those deemed to be at-risk for coronavirus will be given a code and phone number to call. After a telephone consultation, those still deemed to be at risk will be given another unique code and information on where and when they are to be tested.

See List of Tests Sites on this page.

Covestro LLC donates \$67,500 to local food programs amid COVID-19 outbreak

PITTSBURGH, Apr. 16, 2020 -- As the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact the United States,

Covestro LLC has donated \$67,500 to local food banks to aid communities across the country where the company has local operations.

The donation, which marks Covestro's ongoing commitment to the places where its employees live and work, comes at a time when the nation's food programs like food banks and food pantries are experi-

encing unprecedented demand.

"With virtually every American affected by COVID-19 and millions turning to food programs, including many for the first time, we understand the urgent need to help families and individuals get the food they need to stay healthy," said Rebecca Lucre, head of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability, Covestro LLC. "This donation will contribute to that effort."

Covestro is making the donation to 10 food programs in its six site communities including

Pittsburgh, Pa., Baytown, Texas, New Martinsville and South Charleston, W. Va., Newark, Ohio and Deerfield, Mass.

For more information about how Covestro is responding to COVID-19, visit the website at www.covestro.us/en/company/covid-19.

A Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ways to help fellow Texans during this crisis.

- Stay connected and check on your friends and family; if you are feeling a little lonely and anxious, chances are other people in your life are too.

- If you have elderly neighbors or friends, call them to see how they're faring. Offer to do some non-contact chores, like putting the trash out, getting the mail or mowing the lawn.

We will get through this crisis together. The social distancing we have been practicing is working and will continue to flatten the curve and keep our communities healthy.

Kind regards,
Ana Hernandez
State Representative

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NORTH CHANNEL STAR
PICK-UP LOCATIONS

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

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

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

GALENA PARK
Baggett Community Center, Keene St
Galena Park City Hall, Clinton Drive
Chevron, Woodforest & Uvalde
Bonfire Wings, Woodforest Blvd
Serena Donuts, Woodforest Blvd
Pine Trails Community, Woodbend Dr

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

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

REV 01/2020

OPINION PAGE

1918 FLU EPIDEMIC
By Prof. Rebecca Howard, LSC

Lone Star College history professor relates COVID-19 with 1918 flu epidemic

HOUSTON (April 13, 2020) - The outbreak of COVID-19 has many historians drawing comparisons to the 1918 flu epidemic. Much like the coronavirus, authorities in 1918 responded to the epidemic with a combination of church, school and theater closures, cancellations or prohibitions of public gatherings in attempts to quarantine the ill.

"In 1918, most people would have experienced some kind of disruption to their lives due to the influenza outbreak," said Rebecca A. Howard, Ph.D., LSC associate professor of History. "Some of the closings and cancellations were ordered locally, others came from the state level."

It is estimated that 500 million people, about one-third of the world's population at that time, had been infected and more than 50 million people worldwide died from the 1918 flu epidemic. It killed people within a few days and stood out because it often killed young and health people, not just the very young and the very old like most influenza outbreaks.

"We don't know the exact numbers, even in the United States," said Howard. "The systems for death certificates, if they even existed, became overwhelmed in both urban and rural areas. So we have a mix of official records backed up by oral histories."

The 1918 flu epidemic is not the only 20th-century event which forced self-quarantine measures. During World War II, polio epidemics became especially common. An ancient disease, poliovirus caused paralysis, especially in children. Those who survived often lost the use of their limbs for life.

"Since poliovirus tended to spread in the summer, sleep away camps, public swimming pools, movie theaters, local festivals and even public libraries would close if there were cases reported in the area," said Howard. "Diphtheria epidemics also repeatedly closed churches and schools and limited public gatherings throughout the early 20th century. Entire towns were put under quarantine."

Diphtheria, a bacterial infection, blocks the throat with thick mucus often causing death. Children under the age of 6 would most likely be impacted. Adults could be carriers for the disease and unknowingly give it to children.

During that time, newspapers and public notices in places like post offices were the means of informing the public about social distancing rules.

"We would consider it a violation of privacy today, but it was extremely common to list the names of families that were under quarantine in their homes in newspapers due to the disease," said Howard. "How else would people know not to come over?"

One of the most important things we learned from the past was that controlling diseases required a response at many levels of American society.

"The 1918 flu was spread by soldiers returning from World War I and much of the early information about the epidemic was deliberately hidden from the public out of fear it would hurt morale during a war," said Howard. "By the 1940s and early 1950s, with a robust federal system honed by World War II, you saw a much stronger federal response to polio, especially in tracking the spread of it."

OPINION
By SEN. BRANDON CREIGHTON

Senator Brandon Creighton Statement on Texas School Closings

"The health and well-being is the first priority for all Texas students, which is why Governor Abbott and TEA Commissioner Morath made the hard decision to close Texas schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Whether you have a kindergartener, a high school senior, or are finishing up graduate work for your masters, this decision will be a defining part of your education. As a par-

ent and a legislator, I know this is difficult.

"Throughout these difficult times, Texas educators have risen to the occasion and found innovative, creative ways to continue connecting with their students. I know this will continue, and I hope to be a resource for all 19 school districts throughout Senate District 4 to ensure the best outcome for students, educators and Texas families."

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Governor's orders move state toward reopening

AUSTIN — In line with signals from the White House to restart the nation's economy, Gov. Greg Abbott on April 17 issued executive orders to move the Lone Star State toward normalizing citizens' activities during the COVID-19 crisis.

Transactions that pose little threat of spreading the deadly virus may reopen using a retail-to-go model beginning April 24, Abbott ordered. On the other hand, schools must remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Teachers will have limited access to campuses for video instruction, to perform administrative duties and to clean out their classrooms, the governor added. In response, the Texas Education Agency issued a statement saying, "While a difficult decision to make, it is the right one for our families and communities, and the only one that makes sense for Texas at this time."

Abbott said he would announce a revised plan for the state on April 27 based on recommendations by his newly appointed Strike Force to Open Texas. The team from the public, private and medical sectors will advise him on safely and strategically reopening the state.

Abbott also issued an order that loosens his March restrictions on non-emergency surgeries. That order was aimed at conserving hospital capacity and personal protective equipment for the COVID-19 response.

Additionally, Abbott reopened state parks effective April 20. His new order requires park visitors to wear face coverings and maintain a six-foot distance from individuals outside of their party. Groups are to be no larger than five people.

After Abbott's news conference, Texas House Democratic Caucus Chairman Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie, said, "We want the Texas economy to fully reopen as soon as possible, and public health experts agree that can only happen with robust testing in place. When it comes to decisions on how to defeat COVID-19, we have to continue to follow doctors' orders."

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

"Texas continues to be in the bottom three states when it comes to COVID-19 testing per capita, and Gov. Abbott has failed to provide a clear plan for how Texas will increase testing. ... We need to dramatically increase testing, right now," Turner added.

According to figures posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services at noon on April 19, some 18,923 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 477 deaths resulting from the disease had been confirmed.

Sales tax holiday set

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is urging Texans to shop online or practice strict social distancing measures for in-store purchases during the April 25-27 sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies.

Hegar noted that the holiday is intended to help Texans prepare for events like hurricanes and spring storms. "Unfortunately, strong spring storms, wildfires and the upcoming hurricane season will still threaten Texans in the months ahead, and so it's important that homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face these emergencies," he said.

Hegar recommended that shoppers visiting retailers practice social distancing as described by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The list of tax-free items is established by law. It does not include items such as masks or personal protection equipment, Hegar stressed. More information can be found at comptroller.texas.gov.

Hemp grower licensed

Earlier this month, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller announced the first Texas industrial hemp license had been issued to a farmer in Killeen.

The license grants the farmer the opportunity to grow hemp in Texas for one year. As a part of the application process, the applicant specified a facility where the hemp will be grown, Miller said.

This first license represents the long-awaited launch of the hemp industry in Texas following the passage of the Farm Bill by Congress in 2018, he added.

Rebuild hits milestone

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush on April 15 announced the Texas General Land Office has rebuilt more than 1,000 homes destroyed by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The construction was funded through the Homeowner Assistance Program.

Bush's sights are set on rebuilding 7,000 homes using \$1.334 billion in available Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery, plus an additional \$500 million in Community Development Block Grants for Mitigation that come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

More than 2,500 applicants have been approved for assistance by the General Land Office. An estimated 800 homes are currently under construction, in addition to those completed.

"The GLO's disaster recovery team continues working hard every day to help Texas families rebuild their homes and their lives following one of this nation's largest and most destructive storms," Bush said.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

"A Little Stir-Crazy"

It's safe to say everyone is getting a bit tired of it.

My parents, both in their eighties, were going a little stir-crazy in Florida. They missed their house in the woods and so they filled the RV with food and water and drove 2000 miles north. I was worried about them, naturally, but they only left their RV to fill up with gas and they are now in their home up north and a lot happier. My mom explained how they were able to make it in record time.

"Usually, your father would want to stop at every Waffle House along the way. But they were all closed!" I could tell this was not entirely bad news, as far as my mother was concerned.

I read advice columns every day and this enforced closeness is putting a lot of strain on relationships. Couples are discovering annoying habits in their loved one, habits that might have gone undetected for months or even years but now have come to light and—given enough stress or boredom—suddenly become sufficiently aggravating to write to an advice columnist.

Readers write in because their partners are messy cooks or they breathe too loudly or they interrupt them when they are trying to work. It seems there are a lot of folks wondering what the heck they ever saw in their beloved in the first place. There's a lot of tension out there.

The advice columnists counsel patience. "Don't do anything rash in these times." "Assume that you might be a little over sensitive and try to be more tolerant." I suspect this is good advice even in the best of times.

My husband, Peter, is a good person to be in isolation with. He has good habits and leaves me alone to write and, unlike me, he doesn't get wound up over nothing. About the only thing that ever bothers me is that, very occasionally, Peter snores. He tells me to wake him up when he does this and I try. But that's when the trouble starts.

Peter starts to snore and I nudge him. "Honey, you're snoring," I tell him.

Peter stops snoring. There is a long pause. Peter is thinking this over, I can tell.

"I don't think so," he finally decides. Then he falls back to sleep.

A few minutes later, I nudge him again.

"Honey, you're snoring again."

"Well... wake me up!" Peter says, sounding a little exasperated.

"I just did."

"Huh." Peter sounds doubtful, then falls back to sleep again.

We can have this conversation several times in a single night. I know I have it easy. An old college buddy of Peter's is married to a woman who grew up quite poor. Having enough of the essentials on hand has always been more important to her than to most people and so, understandably, having enough toilet paper is a pretty big deal.

She had a fairly good supply, enough to get through a few weeks, when her husband (who was going a little stir-crazy) took all her toilet paper and hid it in the garage.

"Where is all the toilet paper?!" she asked in alarm.

"I traded it for a case of wine," he told her.

I don't know how long he persisted in this charade—and I don't know if his wife will be writing into the newspaper or not—but I'm pretty sure this is exactly the kind of behavior the advice columnists would advise against.

For my part, I'm feeling mighty grateful. Last night, Peter was snoring. I let him snore.

Till next time,

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

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Couple Finds Joy in Service

Serving others is a way of life for Brenda and Ricky Clem, so it's no surprise that they sprang into action making masks during the stay home order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Ricky Clem retired as band director at Ross S. Sterling High School in 2016 after 32 years of teaching and began serving on the Goose Creek CISD board of trustees the next year. Brenda Clem retired in 2010 after 35 years as a teacher and three as a reading specialist, but she worked at the Sterling Band Hall and has been tutoring reluctant readers at Travis Elementary for nine years. Since they married nearly 24 years ago, they have had many opportunities to help others, both in and out of schools.

"There's a huge blessing in the giving," Ricky Clem said. "People always say they appreciate us, but we are rewarded by doing things for others."

To date, the couple has created and distributed 542 protective masks in various sizes and patterns, some of which have been mailed to friends and former students. This includes 144 of the 500 masks ordered by Chambers County Fire Marshal Ryan Holzaepfel. The rest of the masks will be completed when the new order of elastic comes in this week.

The project required leaving the house, which they aren't doing much these days, to buy 25 yards of fabric and 25 yards of lining. It didn't take long for them to perfect a system.

"He cuts the fabric and lining and passes them to me. I put them together and sew the side seams, insert the elastic and pass them back to Ricky," Brenda Clem said. "He irons them, making the pleats, and I topstitch them."

Ricky Clem finds that cutting the masks is easier using an Olfa Mat and a rotary cutter, which looks like a mini pizza cutter, since he can cut through several layers of fabric. Surprisingly, he learned to sew and quilt, taking classes at The Pin Cushion, where she worked when they first met, but she prefers to do the sewing. It takes about 10 minutes to complete a mask, but they usually



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Brenda Clem waits for husband Ricky to iron down the pleats on a mask so that she can topstitch it. The Clems have made hundreds of masks, asking only for a donation of \$5 or more for Relay for Life.

don't work on one at a time.

"This has done a great job of keeping us both entertained, and we enjoy doing it together," Brenda Clem said.

The Clems don't charge for the masks and they provide the materials, but they ask for a \$5 or more donation for each one, which goes to Relay for Life. They market jewelry, needlepoint items, baby blankets and other articles at craft shows through Clems' Creations to increase their Relay for Life donation.

Their interest in cancer research began in 2005, when they both realized that no member of their family had ever been touched by cancer. They decided to pay it forward by raising money for Relay for Life. Since then, Ricky Clem's grandmother and uncle have passed away due to cancer, and his aunt, who also was diagnosed with the disease, is recovering, so working to help find a cure is even more important to them. They have donated \$15,000 to Relay for Life since they started this mission.

In addition, the Clems cook several times a week, taking meals to an elderly neighbor. They also take lunch nearly every week to the staff at the office of a local veterinarian, who has

been experiencing health problems. Another favorite service project is volunteering at The Nutcracker Market for the Houston Ballet, wearing the elaborately decorated Band Shaksos (hats) they created.

Life for the two has not always been perfect, but they look for the positive in every situation. Thirteen years ago, due to an infection in her bloodstream, Brenda Clem was hospitalized for 111 days, and her husband spent 110 nights at the hospital with her. They celebrated milestones with the hospital staff - 50 days, 100 days - just to make it fun. While she now uses a walker and scooter, she is determined not to let those things define her. The two travel together, cruising and flying, and rarely miss a chance

to be out and about doing something!

Shortly after she left the hospital, they came across a statement, which has become a mantra for them. "We plan, God laughs, and success is learning to accept Plan B," has become the way they live their lives, and she wears a necklace bearing those words, giving her the opportunity to share their faith when anyone asks about it.

"Ricky and I have a strong faith, and it was strengthened 13 years ago when I was so ill and didn't know if I would live," Brenda Clem said. "We realized that every day is a blessing from God, and our job is to use that blessing and to show our faith in Him through our works."

Anyone wishing to order masks may email brndajclem@aol.com.



with Slim Randles

Like a doctor removing something important, Herb Collins gently peeled the wrapper back from the root ball and tenderly placed the baby tree in the hole. Then he stood and walked around it to see which way he should align it. Actually, looks pretty good just the way it is.

So he took his bucket of mixed sand and compost and began sprinkling it down onto the roots and then packing it in gently with his fist.

Every few minutes he'd stop and read the directions again. When he ordered the tree, the nurseryman had written back "Are you sure?" Well, that made ol' Herb laugh. Yes, he was sure. He's always sure this time of year.

He was still chuckling to himself when Janice Thomas walked along the sidewalk.

"Hi Herb," said the high school art teacher. "What is it this year?"

"Papaya, Janice. Nice healthy one, don't you think?"

Janice took a close look at the little dark green tree.

Papaya. "Isn't that a tropical tree?"

"Sure is," he said, tucking more dirt around the roots. "I have to read the instructions carefully to get this right."

Janice thought

carefully before speaking. "Papayas sure taste good, Herb."

"Sure do. Wouldn't it be nice if this lives long enough to produce fruit?"

"But you're not expecting ..."

"Of course not. The first nippy day in autumn will turn this little guy belly up."

He looked up and smiled at Janice's consternation.

"You know that banana tree almost made it to Christmas last year. That was my best so far. We'll see how this little guy makes out."

Each year Herb plants something in the front yard that has no chance at all of being there the following spring. He's done it for years. It gives the neighborhood something to look at and talk about, and it's fun.

"You know, Herb, if you're looking for fruit, a cherry tree will produce ..."

"I'm not looking for fruit, Janice," he said, gently. "I'm looking for glory. Glory!"

He laughed. "Where's the glory in planting something that will grow here? Anyone can do that. But a papaya? Ha! There's glory in that."

Brought to you by "Home Country with Slim Randles." Check your local classic country music station for broadcast times.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Joshua in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the collective name of the first five books of the Bible? Pentimento, Pentateuch, Pensione, Pequod
3. From Genesis 3:24, who/what guards the Garden of Eden? Roaring lions, Armed angels, Golden rams, God Himself
4. What animal did God provide Abraham to sacrifice in place of Isaac? Dove, Calf, Ram, Camel
5. From Joshua 14, to whom did Joshua give a blessing? Jacob, Caleb, Esau, Himself
6. In the Bible, how many men are named "Dodo"? 1, 2, 3, 4

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Pentateuch; 3) Armed angels; 4) Ram; 5) Caleb; 6) 3

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

MATTHEW 6:28,29

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PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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LOVE NEVER FAILS
1 Corinthians 13:8

Northside Baptist, Highlands open

Northside Baptist Church of Highlands is meeting for Worship each Sunday at 11am. They are also practicing social distancing and even the doors are left open. Those present are asked not to shake hands or hug, but they are friendly! They have been told to trust the Lord, and wash their hands.

Pastor David R. Brumbelow and Singer Gene Littlejohn invite everyone to attend. Northside is located at 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, TX 77562; nsbhighlands.org.

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ROMANS 8:18

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ASK THE EXPERT

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What does it mean to be an 'American'?"



This is one of the most thought-provoking questions that anyone has ever asked. It's also one of the most subjective to answer, meaning that the answer you receive will depend upon the person you ask. I will answer your question as only I can ... from my personal perspective. So, thank you for asking.

I have been alive for many years and I've seen a lot, some good and some bad. I've seen many innocent people slaughtered in the name of "religion". I've watched as hundreds of thousands of people die in war at the direction of political leaders worldwide. And, here at home, I have seen the civil rights of people destroyed by those claiming to be in "power" and having the "authority" to do so. I've watched people waste money and food while others suffer with hunger and illness in this country.

None of this is American.

I cherish the principals of Liberty and Freedom upon which our country was founded. I have read and reread the Constitution, The Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence more than anyone I know. The Constitution guaranteed "We the People" a "Republican form of Governance", not a "Democracy", not an "Oligarchy", and certainly not what we

have evolved into today.

Look, during my life I've come to the aid of several disadvantaged people in order to stand up for and protect them against a "Government" which would otherwise consume them. I have exhausted time and money to gladly assist others who seriously needed someone's help at the time. I love the country of morals and ethics that I grew up to know as a young man, when Respect was not a song but was an absolute requirement of one's character. I still get goosebumps when I hear the National Anthem or when I say the Pledge of Allegiance. And I take great pride in my home State of Texas.

This is just a small part of what it means to me, to be an American. Thank you for asking.

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.



Fraud And Coronavirus



Don't let fraudsters take advantage of the health crisis to cheat you out of your money.

(NAPSI)—The warning bells are ringing. From regulators, law enforcement agencies and consumer organizations around the globe, the message is clear: Fraudulent schemes related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have arrived, and they are coming in many forms, from investment fraud to fake CDC emails to phishing scams.

Job loss, financial strain, and social distancing are conditions that present fraudsters with an opportunity to pounce. A study by the FINRA Foundation, the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust, Stanford, and the Federal Trade Commission found that social or physical isolation can increase anyone's susceptibility to schemes.

In times like these, it can be difficult to separate fact from fiction. Now is the time to move slowly, pay attention to details and not make rash decisions. Dramatic news coverage of viral outbreaks and pandemics can be an opportunity for scammers to pump inaccurate information into the marketplace to try to manipulate markets and investors. Following these hints can help you keep your money and personal information safe:

Tips for Avoiding Coronavirus Scams

1. Ask and Check. Before you make any investment decision, ask and check to verify information about any individuals you are dealing with and any investment product you are considering. You can use FINRA BrokerCheck, a free online tool, to get information on brokers and investment advisers.
2. Be skeptical. If an unknown company becomes the subject of press releases, emails, and promotional materials hyping the company and its products to cure the latest pandemic, hit pause. Be wary if you are flooded with information over a short time, especially if the communications only focus on the upside with little or no mention of risk.

3. Read a company's SEC filings. Check the SEC's EDGAR database to find out whether the company files with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Verify these reports against promotional information put out by the company or third-party promoters. Exercise caution if they don't align. And be suspicious of solicitations to invest when products are still in the development stage, where no actual products are on the market, or if the company's balance sheets only show losses.

4. Question companies new to the "cure" market. Changes to the name or business focus of a company to capitalize on pandemic fears may be a sign that a company is engaged in, or the subject of, a potential fraud. These changes can turn up in company press releases, Internet searches and, if the company files periodic reports, in the SEC's EDGAR database.

5. Run it through the Scam Meter. Before you make any investment decision, the FINRA Scam Meter can help you tell if an investment you are thinking about might be a scam.

Reliable Resources on Scams and Coronavirus

- Fortunately, there are a number of resources that provide accurate, unbiased information to help you spot and avoid coronavirus-related scams:
- FINRA
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Federal Trade Commission
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- Better Business Bureau

Learn More
For further ideas on how to protect your money, or to file a complaint or a tip, visit www.FINRA.org/LearnMore.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Delayed Dreams (Part 3)

Almost as soon as I thought about using the phone, paramedics had the young man loaded on a stretcher and as Pastor Rudy tried to calm the funeral guests, the young man sat up on the stretcher. Something like this can only be described as "a God thing". As hard as it was to get the crowd back under control and proceed with the service, I kept telling myself that God is all about delayed dreams. As we drove to the cemetery, I started to pick up my cell phone and call the number, yet I knew the first conversation would not be one that I would want to cut short. The graveside service was full of flowers, loved ones and it seemed to last forever. Just as soon as I could, I started walking to my car, yet suddenly, Pastor Steven's son asked me if I would take some of the potted plants back to the church. To myself I thought, "Can this take any longer?" but of course, I could not say no.

A few minutes later, as I arrived at the church, so did the food for the reception and I found myself having to accept the delay.

After what seems an eternity, I finally left and headed to my house. Once home, I changed clothes and said a little prayer. As I called the number, I finally began to think of what I was going to say. I started thinking that maybe he would not be as excited to hear from me

as I was to talk to him. "Hello?" It was him. I instantly recognized the voice. "May I speak to Jim please?" "This is Jim. How may I help you?"

"Jim, as in James xxxxxxxx, Jr.?" Yeah, how may I help you? I cannot begin to tell you how many times I have tried to locate you. I have searched obituaries, online groups, ancestry websites. He stopped me and said "Wait, I think I know this voice. Is this Charlie?"

From there, we laughed for hours and shared stories and promised to keep in touch. For the first few months, we touched base at least once a week. He told me stories of his work in Chicago, while trying to live two lives-- one of a university administrator and one of an addict trying to overcome a lifetime of pain. I would entertain him with stories of being a single mom who had faced adversity after adversity.

We would reminisce over the time we had spent together decades ago. It almost felt like that was different people and a different life.

June came and so did news that nobody wants to hear "Charlie, I went to the doctor for several tests and today, I received word, it's cancer. I know I can count on you to pray. Please."

Governor to open State,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

force, Abbott said he was issuing an executive order loosening the restrictions he previously put in place on non-essential surgeries.

Abbott also announced he was letting retail outlets re-open Friday, April 24 to offer "retail-to-go" — meaning the outlets can make deliveries to customers' cars outside their location or to customers' homes.

Abbott then said he's allowing state parks to re-open Monday, April 20, but with a few requirements for visitors.

Visitors have to wear face coverings, they have to keep a 6-foot distance from people outside their group, and there can't be gatherings larger than five people.

Finally, Abbott announced that all Texas schools will remain closed through the end of the school year. The closure applies to all public and private schools and institutions of higher learning.

Abbott promised to have another announcement April 27 about additional steps to re-open Texas.

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CEMETERY PLOTS

Two plots at San Jacinto Cemetery valued at \$8,150. Will sell both for \$4,000 +\$150 transfer fee. Call 281-452-0833 for further information.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE, located at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532, will hold a public sale at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the 2th day of May, 2020, at the above address to sell for cash only the contents of Stall F-16, Frances Williams and J-30, Donna Brown, in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is house hold items and etc.....

LEGAL NOTICE

Proposals for Construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 Phase 2 to serve the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 in Harris County, Texas will be received online at www.CivCastUSA.com until 2:00 P.M. local time, May 14, 2020. A NON-MANDATORY BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held by teleconference on May 7, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. To participate in the pre-bid meeting call 1-346-248-7799, meeting code 945 3057 7733. Each bid must be submitted and accompanied by a Bid Bond, duly executed, in the amount of not less than five (5%) percent of the bid.

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 is proposing to expand an existing Wastewater Treatment Plant currently serving portions of the District. The project includes furnishing and installing a new digester and aeration basin, and necessary appurtenances and piping, to deliver a complete and in place wastewater treatment plant.

This project is eligible for CWSRF funding, therefore, the following requirements apply:

- This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).
- Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for Bid (IFB) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are expected to be funded in part by financial assistance from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees are or will be a party to this IFB, RFQ, or any resulting contract.
- The awarded contractor will be required to supply Payment and Performance Bonds upon award of the project.
- This project is subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of P.L. 113-76 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. All iron and steel products for construction, alteration, maintenance, or repairs incorporated in these plans must be produced in the United States.
- "Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified Applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60."
- This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "fair share policy", which includes EPA-approved "fair share goals" for Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women Business Enterprise (WBE) firms in the Construction, Supplies, Equipment, and Services procurement categories. EPA's policy requires that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to Minority Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise firms. Although EPA's policy does not mandate that the fair share goals be achieved, it does require applicants and prime contractors to demonstrate use of the six affirmative steps. The current fair share goals for the State of Texas are as follows:

CATEGORY	MBE	WBE
CONSTRUCTION	12.94%	8.72%
SUPPLIES	9.68%	9.34%
EQUIPMENT	7.12%	5.39%
SERVICES	10.84%	5.72%

- Equal Opportunity in Employment – All qualified Applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or handicap. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 33 in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance.
- Right to reject any and all bids.
- All laborers and mechanics working on the work site and employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund shall be paid wages as described in the section, Mandatory David-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.
- Any contracts in excess of \$2,000 for construction, alteration or repair (including painting and decorating and funded under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs shall include the Mandatory David-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from www.CivCastUSA.com: Search Harris County MUD No. 50 Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 Phase 2. **Questions deadline is May 11th at 10:00 AM.** Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, and plans for this project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

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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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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Crosby's rodeo, concerts cancelled but auction, cook-off still on for now

CROSBY – According to a letter from the Crosby Fair & Rodeo Board the entertainment and rodeo has been cancelled for this year but the livestock auction is still to be held.

According to Gene Hicks a board member, the Cook-Off is still to be held and the performing act “Bag Of Donuts” from New Orleans is still to play for one of the two nights. Of course, this too is subject to change based on developments of the COVID 19 struggle and governmental regulation.

A letter dated April 21, To our community: These past few months have been a very disappointing time, to say the least. We are deeply saddened that it has affected Crosby Fair & Rodeo, as well. With the continuous spread of COVID-19, the board has decided to suspend the rodeo and entertainment for the June 2020 show. The LIVESTOCK SHOW IS STILL ON AS SCHEDULED. This was a very hard decision and please know that we are as just



Scheduled to play for the Crosby Fair & Rodeo Cook-Off in early June.

as disappointed as you. The board is working every day to ensure that the exhibitors get rewarded for all the time & effort put forth on their projects. We know that this has been tough on everyone, but we will get through this and look forward to getting back to normal at some point. We will keep everyone updated on any future announcements. Sincerely, Crosby Fair & Rodeo Board of Directors.

Currently, the Cook-Off is scheduled for June 5 and 6 with a pack up day of Sunday, June 7. Then Wednesday, June 10, the Livestock auction is to be held. Generally, this is a massive gathering of most of Crosby with bidders and family all present. Directors plan for moving the livestock auction to the Rock N C Arena, a more spacious and temperature controllable setting.

Some light in the tunnel for the future.

METROLift to deliver groceries to families in need



Pictured from left to right, METRO's Senior Director of Contracted, Paratransit and Micro Transit Services, Art Jackson; Executive Director, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Gabe Cazares; Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner; and Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo

METROLift is partnering with the city of Houston, the Houston Food Bank, Walmart and Sam's Club to make sure no family goes hungry during the COVID-19 crisis. Today, the city announced the program to deliver groceries to those in need.

Thanks to a \$30,000 do-

nation from Walmart, beginning Friday, April 24, METROLift will make 500 grocery deliveries each week. The agency is proud to support this worthy cause while the city and county's "Stay Home" order remain in effect.

Anyone interested in signing up, or learning

more about the program can call 832-394-0814 or go to the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Website: houstontx.gov/disabilities/

The Houston Food Bank is America's largest food bank in distribution, leading hunger relief in 18 southeast Texas counties.

Recovery Czar,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the University of Houston School of Law and has served in the Texas Legislature since 2009. Rep. Walle serves on the Business and Industry Committee, serves as Vice Chair of the Land & Resource Management Committee, and serves on the Federalism & Fiscal Responsibility Committee.

“While we are in the midst of a public health crisis, it is critical for our decision-making to be driven by data and the judgment of our public health experts on how those decisions impact the people of the greater Houston region,” Rep. Walle said Monday. “We need to work together on an inclusive recovery that responsibly ensures the health and economic well being of the people of Harris County. We need to save lives, and also save livelihoods.”

Rep. Walle will work with a wide variety of regional stakeholders in this effort, including private sector, philanthropy, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, and local governments.

The goals of the effort will be to build a relief and recovery effort that is:

Inclusive: Ensure a widespread recovery including every sector of society and geographic area including small businesses, workers (including undocumented workers), food



Last Monday, during a press conference, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, left, appointed State Representative Armando Walle, right, to lead COVID-19 county relief and recovery effort.

distribution, and access to education.

Fast: Acknowledging a full recovery will take years, take action to alleviate red tape or other obstacles in the way of progress.

Coordinated: Facilitate a coordinated effort to leverage state and federal recovery resources, maximize local and regional resources, and work with city and regional governments to achieve results.

House District 140, which Rep. Walle represents, includes portions of north Houston and unincorporated portions of north Harris County, including parts of the Northside and Aldine communities. After those areas were hit hard by Hurricane Harvey in 2017, Walle champi-

oned a bill requiring the Health and Human Services Commission to coordinate with county judges to more rapidly deploy Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits during a disaster. During the 86th Texas Legislative Session, Walle also authored and passed a bill that established a grant program to help food banks respond to increased demand after a disaster.

Rep. Walle is currently a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, serving as Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Article III (public and higher education) and as a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State Infrastructure, Resiliency, and Investment.

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