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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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CHANNEL CURRENTS

COVID-19 Cases as of May 5, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

11,142 POSITIVE
271 DEATHS
3820 RECOVERED

TEXAS

32,879 POSITIVE
911 DEATHS
16,090 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

1,192,119 POSITIVE
70,115 DEATHS
187,180 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

3,628,824 POSITIVE
254,430 DEATHS
1,184,499 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.

Local Free Food programs serve Pct. 2

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2 – Harris County Precinct 2 has three programs to distribute food to those that need it on a first come first serve basis.

The first thing to know is that most of the Harris County Community Centers have been closed unless there is a special program going on at one of them. For example who knew they were testing for Covid-19 at the Crosby Community Center last weekend? The only centers still open are those that are centrally located within Precinct 2 such as Barrett Community Center, and J.D. Walker Community Center. They are servicing Highlands and



Constable Sherman Eagleton and deputies gave away brisket tacos last Thursday at Frank's Collision Repair just South of US 90 on FM 2100. The barbecue was cooked right outside the shop.

Crosby and Huffman, to obtain food in the drive through programs.

Free Food Programs include the Senior Homebound Food Distribution Programs where about 300 meals are taken to the resident's home a day if the senior registers online or by telephone and they are accepted.

"Secondly, we are doing what we call brown bag lunches at Community Centers on Mondays and Wednesdays and at our three parks on Tuesday and Thursdays on a weekly basis," said Frida Villalobos, who heads the programs for Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

"On Fridays we are offering 'Free Hot Meals' at our Community Centers.

We are contracting with local restaurants at the five community centers. So, each community center is offering 200 meals, so each business gets the opportunity to bid for the project and then they bring the food and families can come on a first come first serve basis and they get their meal," concluded Villalobos.

The registration website is hcp2.com and the telephone number for those lacking internet is (713) 274-2222. Also on social media on the Precinct 2 page, there is constant updating for changes and opportunity.

**See Free Food
Continued on Page 8**

As Governor Abbott expands opening of businesses, virus deaths increase

Health officials want more testing, more tracking

HARRIS COUNTY – Two new sites for testing of the COVID-19 virus opened last week and this week, as health officials said that more tests are required to combat a rise in the count of affected persons and those who have died.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has led the effort for the last two months to get more test sites, and she was present



Sheila Jackson Lee, right, announces the seventh free drive-thru virus testing site, with the cooperation of UMMC, United Memorial Medical Center. The site is at Griggs Primary school, 801 Regional Park Drive, in the Greenspoint area. No screening is required, this is a drive-thru or walk-thru site. Speaking at the opening is Aldine superintendent LaTonya Goffney.

for the opening of these two sites, along with Dr. Joseph Varon, the president of UMMC, the United Memorial Medical Center, who has been providing the medical personnel and tests for these free sites.

While the medical profession is calling for more test sites, and warning that the virus pandemic is not contained or under control, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has expanded his order to open businesses to the public. On Tuesday, May 5th he added hair and nail salons, wedding venues, tanning salons, swimming pools, and on May 18 office buildings

and gyms may open, with appropriate restrictions on distances. The order also allows non-essential manufacturing to open.

Abbott originally said that Phased openings would depend upon the rate of infections and deaths from the virus decreasing, but data from last week indicates that Harris County and the state of Texas had its highest number of deaths since the epidemic started. The governor did not comment on his decision to enlarge the opening of businesses,

**See COVID-19 VIRUS,
page 8**

Fish Fry without Fish? Rotary will hold raffle for prizes

NORTH SHORE – The Rotary Club has announced that although they had to cancel the in-person Fish Fry due to Covid-19 restrictions, nevertheless they will hold their Prize Raffle, and proceeds will benefit scholarships and community projects. Their statement: "The 45th annual fund raiser will not include crawfish, catfish, or a live auction. We have incorporated many of our nicer auction items and included them as prizes for our raffle.

We will have a grand prize of either a Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck or a Camaro. The choice will be made by the winner of the raffle.

Other prizes include a whole hog, a side of beef, each cut and wrapped from animals purchased at auctions from local FFA students. Houston Livestock & Rodeo packages, Texan tickets with hotel accommodations, vacation packages, gift cards, and many more. Twenty prizes to be drawn.

Tickets can be purchased from any Rotarian or purchased via Pay-Pal by going to URL: nsrotaryfishfry@gmail.com or Contact President Elect Lowell Everitt @ leveritt@everittind.com.



North Shore Rotary's top prize in their Annual benefit Fish Fry is a 2020 Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck or a Chevy Camaro, courtesy of Turner Chevrolet in Crosby.

You may Pay by Check: Mail to PO Box 1152 Channelview, Texas 77530.

For more information: info@northshor Rotary.org

The drawing will be held at Turner Chevrolet at 2:00 PM on Saturday May 16, 2020. It will be shown live on Facebook Live by going to Rotary Club of North Shore Facebook page. The drawing will also be presented via a Zoom meeting. Check the Rotary Facebook page for ID to enter the meeting.

Sheldon ISD C. E. King High School Class of 2020 Valedictorian, Salutatorian announced

C. E. King High School Valedictorian – Sofia Garcia Bucio

Sofia Elizabeth Garcia Bucio is the Valedictorian for the C. E. King High School Class of 2020.

While at C. E. King High School, Sofia was part of the Sheldon Early College Program where she was a member of the National Honor Society (three years); KHS volleyball team (three years); Earth, Space and Science Club Secretary (one year – also a member for two years); Vice-President of Community Service for FCCLA (one year – also a member for two years); ECHS Ambassador (two years); and a member of the Environmental Club (one year). She was also "Student of the Month" her freshman and sophomore years and has always been an Honor Roll student.

Sofia plans on attending The University of Texas at Austin and will major in Biochemistry.

She is the daughter of Elizabeth Bucio.



Sofia Garcia Bucio - C. E. King High School Valedictorian

C. E. King High School Salutatorian – Yuleima Zamora

Yuleima Zamora is the Salutatorian for the C. E. King High School Class of 2020. She was born in Houston and has grown up in this area her entire life.

After attending Ravens ECA, Sheldon Elementary, Null Middle School and C. E. King High School, Yuleima was selected to participate in the Early College High School Program at KHS. Upon graduation, she will also be receiving her Associate's Degree from San Jacinto College.

Throughout her high school career, Yuleima has been part of many clubs/activities including National Honor Society, soccer, TRIO Talent Search, Early College Ambassadors, and church choir.

Her future plans include staying home and attending the University of Houston where she will major in Biochemistry. She also said this degree will help her pursue a career in dentistry – as her goal is to help as many people as she can.

Yuleima currently resides with her parents and a younger sister.



Yuleima Zamora- C. E. King High School Salutatorian

Virtual and in-person DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS

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Precinct 3 finds jacked cars



The Precinct 3 Constable's Office located a series of vehicles and equipment reported stolen in Channelview on Monday morning. Deputies recovered 4 stolen vehicles and a mini excavator this morning (only 3 pictured) in the Sheldon / Channelview area. Deputies are investigating to see if these auto thefts are connected. These are expected to be related to an organized crime operation and have not yet been determined to relate to a chop shop interdicted in McNair early this week.

Pct. 2 provides free Brown Bag Lunch



Every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, Harris County Precinct 2 distributes free lunch for all ages in a drive-thru style and on first come, first serve basis. This week distribution will be at Cloverleaf Park, 825 Beacon St., Houston, 77015; Baytown Soccer Park, 4700 Village Ln., Baytown, 77520 and at Bay Area Annex, 16603 Buccaneer Ln., Houston, 77062.

GCCISD to hold virtual graduation ceremonies

Goose Creek CISD will hold virtual graduation ceremonies for the four high schools this year due to social distancing guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The events will take place during the dates and times originally scheduled and will include traditional aspects of graduation ceremonies as well as some creativity, such as allowing seniors to personalize the slides that will be shown as their names are announced.

IMPACT Early College High School's virtual graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 21. Virtual graduation ceremonies will be Saturday, May 23, for the other three high schools - Ross S. Sterling High School at 10 a.m., Goose Creek Memorial High School at 2:15 p.m. and Robert E. Lee High School at 6:30 p.m. The ceremonies will be streamed at www.gccisd.net.

"While this is not the way we planned to end the school year and celebrate our Class of 2020, I want



Paola Santos, a graduating senior from IMPACT Early College High School, who also is receiving an associate degree from Lee College, is a proud member of the Class of 2020.

Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

them to know how proud we are of their accomplishments as well as of their resilience and understanding as they face the disappointment of not having the opportunity to participate in several of their rites of passage as seniors. As always, the safety of our students and their families, as well as that of our staff, is our top priority,"

said Dr. Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent. "After meetings with principals and senior leadership teams and with input from students, we decided to take a creative approach to honoring our seniors with virtual ceremonies, senior videos, and yard signs to make graduation a positive experience they will remember."

Initial lifelines for Harris County Small Businesses have arrived

First cash distributions have been made to applicants to Harris County Small Loan Program that was championed by Commissioner Garcia

Harris County, TX — Today, May 5, 2020, Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia, along with program administrators from Houston-Galveston Area Council are proud to announce that the first set of cash disbursements have been made to successful applicants to the Harris County Loan Program.

The Program was developed by Commissioner Garcia's office and approved by Commissioners Court on April 7th. Less than 4 weeks later, money

in the form of forgivable loans has begun flowing to qualifying applicants.

The first batch of businesses have already received or will receive their loans shortly. These loans can be forgivable if certain conditions are met. In total, around more than 600 local small businesses are expected to receive loans.

"I am extraordinarily pleased with how fast we've gotten these lifelines into the hands of our local small businesses," Commissioner Garcia said. "For a program to be designed from scratch to money in bank accounts in less than a month exemplifies the strong leadership local government has taken dur-

ing this pandemic. We've proved that we are often the best option to move most quickly to respond to residents' needs. I also want to thank the fine folks at Houston-Galveston Area Council for stepping up and acting fast for the people of Harris County."

"We're moving as quickly as possible to navigate the applicants through the underwriting and review process, and to get funds distributed to these businesses that are in dire need," said Omar Fortune, program manager of the Houston-Galveston Area Local Development Corporation.

Maximum Tax Savings



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Houston man gets significant sentence after multiple Metro PCS robberies

HOUSTON – A 20-year-old resident of Houston has received a major federal sentence following his convictions on four counts of aiding and abetting interference with commerce by robbery and three counts of brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, announced U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Patrick.

Jamal Tyrea Allen pleaded guilty Jan. 31, admitting to four robberies that occurred in April 2018 and the related firearms offenses.

Today, U.S. District Judge Keith P. Ellison ordered Allen to serve a total of 48 months for his role in the robberies. He also received an 84-month sentence for the first firearms charge and another 168 months for the subsequent brandishing charges to be served consecutively to each other and the other term imposed. The total 25-year prison sentence will be immediately followed by five years of supervised release.

On or about April 9, 2018, Allen entered the Metro PCS located on Long Point Road in Houston where he pointed a pistol at an employee. He took money from the register and demanded to know where iPhones were located. The employee said they were out, and Allen eventually fled with the cash.

Five days later, he entered



another Metro PCS on Woodforest Boulevard and again pointed a firearm at another employee, demanding iPhones. When the cashier said he did not know where they were, Allen chambered a round into the firearm and continued making demands. He found the phones, then fled with them as well as stolen cash.

Allen robbed another Metro PCS April 24, 2018, where he also made violent threats. He walked into the Little York Road location, pulled out a handgun and pointed it at a female employee, stating "You need to find me money or I am going to kill you." When she informed him they did not have any iPhones, he got increasingly angry and threatened to kill her. She gave him money from the cash register while he was still pointing his firearm and making death threats.

Finally, on April 27 the same year, he arrived at Metro PCS on Airline Drive and made similar demands and threats. There, he pointed a firearm to the head of an employee, saying he was not playing and that he would shoot him. Once a second cashier entered the lobby, Allen made them get money from the cash register and forced both to the store's back room at gunpoint.

After leaving the store, law enforcement stopped Allen, found the money and iPhones in the car and took him into custody.

He has been and will remain in custody pending transfer to a U.S. Bureau of Prisons facility to be determined in the near future.

The FBI and Houston Police Department conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jill Stotts is prosecuting the case.

Houston Symphony brings live performances into Houston homes via livestream recital series

HOUSTON (April 27, 2020) – This week, the Houston Symphony launches its new Living Room Series—hour-long livestream recitals by the world-class musicians of the Houston Symphony, Friday nights at 8 p.m.

Streamed online via a private link to ticket holders, each livestreamed recital spotlights an individual Houston Symphony musician, and in some cases, musician members of their household, performing at home.

"The Houston Symphony is made up of 88 incredible musicians," said Houston Symphony Executive Director, CEO, and holder of the Margaret Alkek Williams Chair John Mangum. "Since we can't perform live in Jones Hall, we thought a series of live, online recitals would be a great way to enjoy their artistry and creativity. These intimate home performances will allow audiences to get to experience them in a way that you can't in the context of our orchestral concerts."

These recitals reflect the personalities of the individual musicians, bringing the audience into their homes to hear performances curated by them. This lends the Living Room Series a colorful and wide variety to its programming. Each concert also features remarks by that week's musician, and concludes with a Q&A from audience members.

Principal Keyboard Scott Holshouser kicked off the series on Friday, May 1, performing a recital from his home along with his son, vocalist Sean Holshouser. The evening's program includes music from Chopin, Mozart, Schumann, Debussy, and an improvisation on Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue.

Houston Symphony Principal Clarinet Mark Nuccio is up next on May 8. He'll perform a transcription of Bach's Chromatic Fantasy for Piano, two short pieces by Debussy, and several solo clarinet showpieces in an homage to Richard Strauss. Nuccio selected pieces from different regions of the world in hopes that the audience may be inspired to pair their favorite wines, spirits, or cuisine with each piece.

May 15, Principal Cello Brinton Averil Smith is joined by his pianist wife and frequent collaborator Evelyn Chen, and his vocalist daughter Calista, for a selection of short works inspired by the recordings of the legendary cellist Emanuel Feuermann. Composers on the program include Albéniz, Sarasate, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Handel.

And on May 22, Associate Principal Viola Joan DerHovsepian is joined by her husband, Houston Grand Opera Orchestra Bassist Erik Gronfor, as

well as their violinist daughter Clara in a program that includes works for solo viola from the Baroque to the Romantic periods, as well as a duo for viola and bass, and several short pieces for the family trio.

Each week's performance is now on sale for \$10 online at houstonSymphony.org, and those who purchase tickets will receive a private link to enjoy the live performance in the comfort of their own home. The Symphony encourages fans to consider purchasing multiple tickets to share as gifts for concert-goers to remotely enjoy with family and friends.

The Houston Symphony invites people to follow their social media pages and visit houstonSymphony.org/listenathome for daily, free content updates including musician videos, blogs, archival audio and video performances, and more.

Houston Symphony Living Room Series
Additional dates to be added

- Friday, May 8, 8 p.m.
Mark Nuccio, Principal Clarinet
- Friday, May 15, 8 p.m.
Brinton Averil Smith, Principal Cello
- Friday, May 22, 8 p.m.
Joan DerHovsepian, Associate Principal Viola

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$2.6 Billion in April

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.58 billion in April, 9.3 percent less than in April 2019, the steepest decline since January 2010.

The majority of April sales tax revenue is based on sales made in March and remitted to the agency in April. Widespread social distancing requirements were not in place across much of the state until late March, meaning the impact of those measures affected only a portion of sales tax remittances in April. Next month's remittances likely will show steeper declines compared to a year ago, as the effects of both the shuttering of businesses related to COVID-19 and plummeting oil prices were manifest throughout April.

"State sales tax collections declined as a result of efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19 through business closures, crowd limits and stay-at-home orders adopted in the state, as well as a precipitous drop in worldwide demand for oil," Hegar said. "The steepest declines in tax remittances were from businesses most quickly and dramatically affected by social distancing: restaurants, performing arts venues, mov-

ie theaters, theme parks and fitness centers, as well as department stores and boutique retail shops. However, those losses were, to a degree, offset by increases from big-box retailers, grocery stores and online vendors. Remittances from oil- and gas-related sectors also fell significantly as oil and gas exploration and production companies slashed capital spending in response to the crash in oil price."

Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections. It can also be a lagging indicator of economic slowdowns. The recession associated with the financial crisis more than a decade ago began in December 2007 and lasted 18 months, but Texas did not see significant sales tax declines until early 2009. While the effect on sales taxes from the current economic contraction has been more immediate, the impact of rising unemployment and contracting economic activity in many parts of the state's economy, including oil and natural gas exploration and production, likely will act as a drag on sales tax revenue for many months.

The effects of the March economic slowdown and falling oil prices were more evident in other sources of revenue in April 2020. Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$164 million, down 45 percent from April 2019, the largest monthly drop on record in data going back to 1983;
- motor fuel taxes — \$284 million, down 12 percent from April 2019, the steepest drop since 1991;
- natural gas production tax — \$67 million, down 48 percent from April 2019;
- oil production tax — \$191 million, down 45 percent from April 2019;
- hotel occupancy tax — \$24 million, down 63 percent from April 2019, the deepest drop in data going back to 1990; and
- alcoholic beverage taxes — \$57 million, down 55 percent from April 2019. Declines were driven by mixed beverage gross receipts and sales taxes, both of which were down more than 58 percent. Excise taxes on beer were up 16 percent from April 2019, while wine excise taxes were up 9 percent from April 2019.



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MAY 7, 2020
NORTH CHANNEL STAR
PICK-UP LOCATIONS

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

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

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

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

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Sheldon ISD Transportation
HCA Houston 24/7, Beltway 8

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

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REV 01/2020



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

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty – Should My Wife Take Her Social Security at Age 62?

Dear Rusty: I have been advised by my financial planner to start my wife's social security benefits at the age of 62 (she is now 61). I am 65 and still employed, not on Medicare, and not taking social security benefits. My wife's benefits are much less than mine. I hope to wait until age 70 before starting my benefits. My income is currently \$160,000. Do you see this as a wise choice to start my wife's SS benefits at age 62? Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: Whether your wife should start her benefits at age 62 depends upon whether her own benefit at age 70 would be more than she is entitled to as your spouse at her full retirement age (FRA). You can get these estimates from Social Security. If her own benefit would eventually be higher than her spousal benefit from you, she can wait to get her own higher benefit at age 70 (as you are). But if her benefit as your spouse will be the highest she can attain, then claiming her own benefit before you claim yours could be a good choice, but there are some things to consider if she does that:

First, if your wife claims at age 62 (or any age before her FRA), that will mean that her eventual spousal benefit when she claims it (when you claim your SS) will be less than 50% of the benefit you are entitled to at your full retirement age. Taking her own benefit earlier than her FRA will mean her spousal benefit from you will be reduced to less than half of your FRA benefit amount, even if that spousal benefit starts after she has reached her FRA.

Second, if your wife is still working, by claiming her own benefit before her FRA she will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits the amount of money she can make without SS taking back some of her

benefits. For 2020, the annual earnings limit is \$18,240 (changes annually) and SS will take back benefits equal to half of any earnings which exceed that amount. The earnings limit becomes less severe during the year your wife reaches her FRA and goes away entirely after she reaches her FRA, but if she works while collecting early SS benefits the earnings limit could affect her benefits.

Third, your wife's Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income (assuming you file "married-jointly"). Taxation of your wife's Social Security benefits will be determined based upon your combined income if you file your taxes as a married couple. At your combined earnings level, up to 85% of your wife's SS benefits will become part of your taxable income.

I'm not suggesting you not follow your financial planner's advice; I only want to make sure you're aware of all the factors involved when benefits are claimed early. Sometimes, a wife claiming at age 62 is a prudent choice as your financial planner has suggested. But sometimes understanding the above factors may lead to a different strategy.

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



Governor's order reopens many businesses on limited basis

AUSTIN — An executive order issued by Gov. Greg Abbott to reopen in-store retail shopping, dine-in restaurants, movie theaters, museums, libraries and more took effect May 1 and will continue through May 15.

As Texas, the rest of the United States and the world's nations seek to balance cries for increased commercial activity — and the jobs that result — while also containing the spread of the deadly influenza-like virus, COVID-19, Abbott's order allows most venues to operate at up to 25% of their total listed occupancy with certain other conditions applying.

For example, shopping malls may operate at up to 25% of their total listed occupancy. However, their food-court dining areas, play areas and interactive displays and settings must remain closed.

Abbott's order, in accordance with guidelines issued by White House and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reminds Texans that schools remain closed to in-person classroom attendance by students through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Meanwhile, teachers and staff are encouraged to continue to work remotely from home if possible but may return to campuses to conduct remote video instruction and perform administrative duties under strict terms required by the Texas Education Agency. Also, private schools and institutions of higher education are urged to establish similar terms to allow faculty and staff to return to campuses to conduct remote video instruction and perform administrative duties when it is not possible to do so from home.

Notably, the order does not prohibit people from accessing essential or reopened services or engaging in essential daily

activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential or reopened services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing or engaging in physical activity like jogging, bicycling or other outdoor sports, "so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household."

The complete executive order is available at gov.texas.gov.

Cumulative figures posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services at noon on May 3 showed that some 31,548 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 867 deaths had been confirmed as resulting from the influenza-like virus.

PBS, TEA launch initiative

The Texas Education Agency and PBS television stations on April 21 announced a joint initiative to air educational programming each week in each of Texas' 10 PBS viewing areas during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The programming commenced statewide on April 20 through the "At-Home Learning Initiative" that preempts regularly scheduled weekday programming with grade-level-appropriate programming divided into three age groups: Pre-K through 3rd grade, 5th through 8th grade, and high school.

"This joint initiative between TEA and PBS stands to benefit all students as they work each day to navigate uncharted waters and continue to do their best to learn and grow as students and individuals," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

Revenue total decreases

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on May 1 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.58 billion in April, an amount 9.3% less than the amount reported in April 2019, marking the steepest decline since January 2010.

The majority of April sales tax revenue is based on sales made in March and remitted to the state comptroller in April. Next month's remittances likely will show steeper declines compared to a year ago because of the shuttering of businesses related to COVID-19 and plummeting oil prices throughout April, Hegar added.

Benefits may continue

The Texas Workforce Commission on April 30 issued new guidance to unemployment claimants concerning their eligibility for unemployment benefits should they choose not to return to work due to COVID-19.

The TWC said Texans can continue to receive unemployment benefits throughout the COVID-19 response if they choose not to return to work for certain reasons, including:

—At High Risk: People 65 years or older are at a higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19;

—Household member at high risk: People 65 years or older are at a higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19;

—Diagnosed with COVID: Individual has tested positive for COVID-19 by a source authorized by the State of Texas and is not recovered;

—Family member with COVID: Anybody in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 by a source authorized by the State of Texas and is not recovered and 14 days have not yet passed;

—Quarantined: Individual is currently in 14-day quarantine due to close contact exposure to COVID-19; and

—Child care: Child's school or daycare closed and no alternatives are available.

Any other situation will be subject to a case by case review by TWC based on individual circumstances.

SNAP online is approved

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission on April 23 received federal approval to conduct a pilot program that would allow Texans to purchase groceries online using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Officials said the statewide pilot program is expected to start by May 18.



"Small Containers"

Every Mother's Day, I have a terrible time finding a card that remotely reflects the relationship I have with my mother.

My mom is in her eighties now and we have always had a good relationship, free of drama and never short of love. My mother has always been a wonderful role model. But the cards available all have paragraphs of gooey prose that in no way communicate what I want to say to my mother.

I want a card that says my mother has good habits.

This sounds a little dull—and my mother is not at all dull. She is a woman with many and varied interests. She is an enthusiastic biker, quilter, camper, and reader. She is a wonderful baker, a great entertainer, a funny and interesting conversationalist, and a spiritual woman. To say that her good habits are the thing I admire most sounds like damning with faint praise. But more and more, I realize how important good habits are and how much I have benefited from her example.

My mother puts things in small containers.

Whether it is a box of precisely the right size to store leftovers for a future meal, a small satchel for a weekend's worth of clothes, a tiny vase for a single flower, or a little tin for a few small homemade cookies—everything is contained in a small, practical container. From this habit, I learned not to waste. I learned that quality was much more important than quantity. I learned that just the right amount is usually as good as a large amount—and often better.

I don't have a single recollection of my mother saying any of these things, but I have more memories than I can count of instances where she stored what was needed, made use of what was available, and made something beautiful on a small scale.

My mother does things immediately.

She does not talk about walks she is going to take later—she puts on her shoes. She doesn't complain how the house needs cleaning. She cleans. She does not delay or procrastinate. She starts to do whatever she thinks should be done and (usually before I am aware of it) she is doing the thing I would still be contemplating.

I don't remember any lectures about the evils of procrastination but I remember her looking at the clock and saying, "I have 30 minutes before I start dinner, I'm going out for a walk!"

My mother has nice rituals.

Every day she reads a devotional in the morning, she writes in her diary, she exercises. Every evening she has one glass of wine with cheese and crackers and keeps current on the news. She sets a table, even if there are only two people eating. She sends cards, even though she is on Facebook. She volunteers, keeps up with friends, calls her daughters (at least one of whom has been known to go off for long periods of time without much communication) just to say "hello."

My mother never said anything to me about creating rituals in life, but I learned from her how comforting it is to have things done repeatedly and with care. I learned how valued people feel when an effort is made to treat every meal, every gathering, as if it is worthy of fresh flowers.

I never found the card I wanted. I never found a card that said, "Thanks for good habits and fresh flowers and keeping things in small containers."

Maybe that's okay. I'll tell her next time I see her.

Till next time,
Carrie

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

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How To Make Mother's Day From Anywhere

(NAPS)—For many Americans, this May 10 will be a Mother's day like no other. Some families have been home together for weeks and developed a new appreciation for all their mother does. Others are unable to see their mothers person due to social distancing or just because of time, finances and distance. Fortunately, in all cases, there are ways to show Mom how much you care.

If You're Together

If the lady in your life has been working from home, on the front lines as an essential worker, home schooling and housekeeping, while keeping everyone healthy and happy, you can show you know all the effort that takes with a great gift. For example, Dads, kids and others can offer to take on her chores for a week. Give her a home spa day: do her nails, style her hair. Make dinner. Bake cookies. Create a hand-made card full of heartfelt sentiments, popsicle stick jewelry box or clay bowl. One such lets her learn flower arranging through a live-streamed workshop from 1-800-Flowers.com and Alice's Table.

If You're Apart

Keep in mind this advice: "At its core, gift-giving is the practice of turning feelings such as love, warmth, appreciation and pride into physical keepsakes," writes Mara Leighton on Businessinsider.com. "It's one of the too few opportunities to convey to loved ones just how much we really love



You can plan for a virtual Mother's Day celebration May 10.


them."

One way to do that is to send flowers. You can quickly and easily order her favorite blooms at any time, though earlier is better to ensure ontime delivery. Consider a lush, healthy plant and give mom an opportunity to flex her green thumb. What's more, scientists say plants add oxygen to the room and having greenery around may reduce stress.

You can also give her a gift that keeps on giving to children everywhere. This Mother's Day, 1-800-Flowers.com, Inc. will contribute \$1 (up to \$50,000) to the nonprofit No Kid Hungry for everyone who shares a Mother's Day note of thanks and a photo. No Kid Hungry ensures kids nationwide get the meals they need during school closures—and beyond. Share your #Thankful-forMom story at 1800Flowers.com/thankful-for-mom.

Happy Mother's Day

Loved and not forgotten



Adeline Davis Otto Veo Crane Bowen Barbara Otto Bowen Cheryl Bowen-LaGrone


Mothers's Day Greetings

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Pauline Booher Hoffman Gladys Otto Booher

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...flower boxes or pots for our Moms.




Kids: color stuff in!



Happy Mother's Day!

I love Mother's Day! I was wondering how this lovely holiday for moms began, so I went to the library to do research to find out. I searched web sites on the computer. I found beautiful books full of stories and pictures. To find out what I learned about Mother's Day read my clues below, then fill in the crossword puzzle.

I made a funny card for my Mom!



1. Mother's Day is a time to honor a mother, _____ or even a special aunt.

2. Soon after the death of her mother (in May 1905), a woman named Anna Jarvis urged people to support the idea of a national _____ for moms.

3. Anna wanted people to show respect for _____ and to give thanks for all the work that mothers do for us.

4. She gave out her mother's favorite _____, the white carnation, a custom that spread to many states.

5. Her home _____ of West Virginia was the first (in 1912) to have an official Mother's Day celebration.

6. On May 9, 1914, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson declared the first _____ Mother's Day to honor mothers whose sons had died in war.

7. Mother's Day is celebrated on the second _____ in May (U.S., Canada).

8. A beautiful, historic building in West Virginia was named The International Mother's Day Shrine and Museum. They hold teas and programs to promote the _____ of mothers (and other women) to our country.

9. Businesses promote the _____ of cards, flowers, jewelry and other gifts for Mother's Day.

10. Although it is nice when children give a gift, it is even more special when they take the _____ to write a letter or to do something special with their moms.

11. Often families attend religious services, have picnics or do _____ get-togethers or calls.

12. Can you _____ a breakfast, write and decorate a card or plan an activity for your mom's special day?

motherhood family 9 holiday

8 12 national 10 state 5

11 3 6 time make

4 2 buying contributions

1 Mommy? grandmother Sunday

Do You Know...?

Sometimes we wear a white carnation to honor a mother who has died and a red or pink carnation for a mother who is still living.

Things Moms Do For Us!

Oh my gosh! If I listed all the things our moms do for us I'd have to list a **billion bajillion** things.

When we are tiny newborns our Moms feed us, comfort us, diaper us, rock us to sleep, burp us, walk us, sing to us and keep an eye on us all day long. Gee, how tiring must **that** be?

Now we are older and go to school, but moms still do so much for us. Here is a list my friends and I put together.

1. _____ the beds

2. _____ for groceries

3. _____ us to the dentist

4. _____ to our fears

5. _____ us to practices and lessons

6. _____ our sports team

7. _____ for the school sale

8. _____ holes in our favorite clothes

9. _____ us to feed the dog

10. _____ supplies for school

11. _____ money for a rainy day

12. _____ our homework

13. _____ for us at our games

14. _____ us how to cook

15. _____ our favorite T.V. show

16. _____ vegetables or flowers

17. _____ the floors

18. _____ the windows

19. _____ the bills

20. _____ the laundry

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E. remind
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G. listen
H. shop
I. coach
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K. watch
L. mop
M. save
N. cheer
O. check
P. fold
Q. plant
R. pay
S. teach
T. wash

2. Then find and circle the word in the puzzle.

DOG FOOD

N C H E C K X G T P S C H M B V E W O
I H A I M T W X E E A S M U G A Y U B
M J G E P X P Z A G A Z N Q C F E O Q
D E K J U Z S F C W R O I R O O D H F
F R N S Q V P R H C I S F E B L B L W
D H E D H G F E N P A A Y M A D A A B
R V C A F O Y E P T U V U I K J K G V
P P L Q B O P H Y A U E A N Y H E M B
W A T C H O N C N W Y G D D V I M A B
V G Y N B J F E M C D T N A L P V K H
Y O L U J T K W H O N F L C I F D E K
N T D U T A W H A V P K T O P A R M Z
D H W T T V M N B E U R C U P U I Z X
N Z Y T N V M L T H P C O A C H V J U
P L I S T E N E R J C I M B J C E A V

A Precious Gift!

Moms give us many gifts: love, care, energy, money. They also give us a gift of something they can never get back for themselves. It is one of the most precious gifts they can ever give us:

we watch it every day,
we use it,
it flies by,
once we spend it, we can never get it back...

Color Key:
P = Pink
Y = Yellow

Mothers spend their _____ on us.

TIME

A Precious Gift!

Happy Mother's Day!

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Y O L U J T K W H O N F L C I F D E K
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D H W T T V M N B E U R C U P U I Z X
N Z Y T N V M L T H P C O A C H V J U
P L I S T E N E R J C I M B J C E A V

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I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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

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What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later
ROMANS 8:18

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D H E D H G F E N P A A Y M A D A A B
R V C A F O Y E P T U V U I K J K G V
P P L Q B O P H Y A U E A N Y H E M B
W A T C H O N C N W Y G D D V I M A B
V G Y N B J F E M C D T N A L P V K H
Y O L U J T K W H O N F L C I F D E K
N T D U T A W H A V P K T O P A R M Z
D H W T T V M N B E U R C U P U I Z X
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F R N S Q V P R H C I S F E B L B L W
D H E D H G F E N P A A Y M A D A A B
R V C A F O Y E P T U V U I K J K G V
P P L Q B O P H Y A U E A N Y H E M B
W A T C H O N C N W Y G D D V I M A B
V G Y N B J F E M C D T N A L P V K H
Y O L U J T K W H O N F L C I F D E K
N T D U T A W H A V P K T O P A R M Z
D H W T T V M N B E U R C U P U I Z X
N Z Y T N V M L T H P C O A C H V J U
P L I S T E N E R J C I M B J C E A V

ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



It Has Happened

As of May 1, restrictions have been lifted and we begin one more stage of learning a “new normal”. Some of the people I know were jumping with joy and had made reservations for their favorite restaurant for Friday night dinner. I noticed several couples ready to dine at local businesses while some chose to drive across town. On the other hand, there were those who felt it was way too soon to get out and about. They either cooked dinner or perhaps ordered “contact-free delivery” to be safe.

Yet our world changed, and I do not think we will ever go back to how we previously did things. I cannot tell you how much I wish I had invested money into plastic used as shields in businesses, or even in stock of elastic. Many individuals spent time making masks for their family and friends. Then they realized they could sell them and now many will continue to sew other projects. I have talked with many people who have taken their children to fish or to go crabbing. Several friends broke out board games and taught their children how to be successful at Monopoly and Scrabble. I read about friends who set up a tent in the back yard to show their children a new adventure.

One report said that more phone calls were being made in the past few weeks than on holidays. People were picking up the phone to call others. Many said it was because they needed to hear a voice. Many of us found ourselves learning about teleconfer-

ence calls (and how to turn off the camera to hide our hair).

Birthdays, anniversaries and other celebratory events took new themes. Easter 2020 was the one that affected me as I did not receive one hug. I normally attend two church services with many friends and can count on hugs and an enjoyable lunch. This year, it was three church services viewed on-line and a grilled cheese sandwich for lunch. Being single suddenly has not been as enjoyable as in the past. Unfortunately, many friends have lost loved ones during this time. It is almost unbelievable that funerals have had to be limited to 10 guests. I am not sure which was the hardest, knowing I had a friend in ICU who I could not visit or hug one last time, or not being able to attend his funeral. Many of the seniors that I talk with weekly have reported higher anxiety or depression with staying home as well as missing the funeral of a friend.

With May, the community typically is busy with the North Shore Rotary Annual Crawfish Boil and Catfish Fry. This event which draws several thousand people each year (and many hugs) had been altered to be a prize drawing event for those who have purchased raffle tickets. Hard to imagine that it will be next May before we all celebrate the community event which has become a huge tradition for many, but this is a part of the “new normal”.

An emergency is still an emergency

BAYTOWN — (May 1, 2020) — Emergencies are still emergencies—even during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you're experiencing concerning symptoms that require immediate medical attention, don't let your fear of catching COVID-19 keep you from heading to the emergency room.

During a pandemic, it's easy to let fear and anxiety take over to the point that you may push the rest of your health to the side. But it's crucial that you take acute illnesses as seriously as the coronavirus. Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital provides the following information on seeking emergency care during the pandemic.

The Emergency Room is Safe

If you have anxiety or fear about going to an emergency room right now, you're probably not alone. But whether it's through the efforts of our ER doctors and nurses or our housekeeping staff, you can rest assured that Houston Methodist Baytown's Emergency Department is safe. Practices such as isolating contagious patients and thoroughly disinfecting rooms, workspaces and surfaces are regular practices for us, but we are being even more vigilant in these efforts now.

Houston Methodist Baytown, as well as all Houston Methodist Emergency Care Centers, are also taking additional precautions to keep patients and staff safe, including:

- during an emergency. A medical emergency is a rapid onset of serious, debilitating or painful symptoms that have the potential to impact your life, limbs or bodily function.
- Symptoms that require immediate medical attention include:**
- Abdominal or stomach pain accompanied by nausea and vomiting
 - Bodily trauma, especially to the head or spine
 - Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher that persists
 - Headache accompanied by fever and confusion
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - Severe shortness of breath
 - Stroke symptoms, including face drooping, arm weakness, difficulty talking, dizziness, blurred vision, intense headache and confusion
 - Severe burns
- If you're experiencing any of these symptoms, seek emergency care as soon as possible. Some serious symptoms, such as chest pain and those associated with stroke, are time sensitive, and the risk of losing function or even your life increases the longer medical attention is delayed. In these events, consider calling 911 so you can receive immediate medical attention.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for May?"



MAY BIRTHSTONE IS EMERALD

May birthdays fall right in the heart of spring, and the emerald is the perfect gem to symbolize and celebrate this month. Prized for its brilliant and beautiful green color, the emerald is often favored by the rich and famous to wear as statement pieces for big events.

But this beautiful gem is just at home in an unassuming pendant as it is in an ornate tiara.

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word “smaragdus,” means, quite literally, “green” in Greek.

Like aquamarine, emerald is a variety of beryl, a mineral that grows with six sides and up to a foot in length. Emerald color can range from light green (though there is some argument whether these very light beryls are truly emeralds) to a deep, rich green. Emeralds are also like aquamarine in that the way the color is presents itself in jewelry depends on a good cut by a skilled gemologist.

The deeper or more green an emerald, the more valuable it is. The rarest emeralds will appear to be an intense green-blue. Emeralds are found all over the world, including Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

The emerald was mined in Egypt as early as 330 BC, but

some estimate that the oldest emeralds are 2.97 billion years old. Cleopatra is perhaps the most famous historical figure to cherish emeralds. She even claimed ownership of all emerald mines in Egypt during her reign. The Egyptians used emeralds both in jewelry, and in their elaborate burials, often burying emeralds with monarchs as symbols of protection.

Like other gemstones, the emerald was believed to have many mystical powers that accompanied its beauty. There were those who thought the emerald could cure stomach problems, control epilepsy and stop bleeding. Maybe due to its soothing green color, it was also thought to be able to ward off panic and keep the wearer relaxed and serene.

Today, emerald is a symbol of loyalty, new beginnings, peace and security, making it not only a beautiful gem to wear, but also a meaningful gift to be treasured by the receiver. It is still widely prized by the rich and famous, with Elizabeth Taylor's famous emerald pendant selling for \$6.5 million in 2011.

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.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice of Draft Federal Operating Permit

Draft Permit No.: O1543

Application and Draft Permit. Owens Corning Roofing and Asphalt, LLC, 8360 Market Street Rd, Houston, TX 77029-2418, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Federal Operating Permit (herein referred to as Permit) No. O1543, Application No. 30233, to authorize operation of the Houston Roofing and Asphalt Facility, an Asphalt Shingle and Coating Materials Manufacturing facility. The area addressed by the application is located at 8360 Market Street Rd in Houston, Harris County, Texas 77029-2418. 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 the application. You can find an electronic map of the facility at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.771666&lng=-95.279444&zoom=13&type=r>. This application was received by the TCEQ on March 26, 2020.

The purpose of a federal operating permit is to improve overall compliance with the rules governing air pollution control by clearly listing all applicable requirements, as defined in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10). The draft permit, if approved, will codify the conditions under which the area must operate. The permit will not authorize new construction. The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and has made a preliminary decision to prepare a draft permit for public comment and review. The executive director recommends issuance of this draft permit. The permit application, statement of basis, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, First Floor, Austin, Texas 78753; the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk St Ste H, Houston, Texas 77023-1452; and at <https://www.gbmcassoc.com/newsroom/public-notice>, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The draft permit and statement of basis are available at the TCEQ Website:

www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tvnotice

At the TCEQ central and regional offices, relevant supporting materials for the draft permit, as well as the New Source Review permits which have been incorporated by reference, may be reviewed and copied. Any person with difficulties obtaining these materials due to travel constraints may contact the TCEQ central office file room at (512) 239-2900.

Public Comment/Notice and Comment Hearing. Any person may submit written comments on the draft permit. Comments relating to the accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness of the permit conditions may result in changes to the draft permit.

A person who may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the permitted area may request a notice and comment hearing. The purpose of the notice and comment hearing is to provide an additional opportunity to submit comments on the draft permit. The permit may be changed based on comments pertaining to whether the permit provides for compliance with 30 TAC Chapter 122 (examples may include that the permit does not contain all applicable requirements or the public notice procedures were not satisfied). The TCEQ may grant a notice and comment hearing on the application if a written hearing request is received within 30 days after publication of the newspaper notice. The hearing request must include the basis for the request, including a description of how the person may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the application area. The request should also specify the conditions of the draft permit that are inappropriate or specify how the preliminary decision to issue or deny the permit is inappropriate. All reasonably ascertainable issues must be raised and all reasonably available arguments must be submitted by the end of the public comment period. If a notice and comment hearing is granted, all individuals that submitted written comments or a hearing request will receive written notice of the hearing. This notice will identify the date, time, and location for the hearing.

Written public comments and/or requests for a notice and comment hearing should be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/

and be received within 30 days after the date of newspaper publication of this notice. 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.

A notice of proposed final action that includes a response to comments and identification of any changes to the draft permit will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments, a hearing request, or requested to be on the mailing list for this application. This mailing will also provide instructions for public petitions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to request that the EPA object to the issuance of the proposed permit. After receiving a petition, the EPA may only object to the issuance of a permit which is not in compliance with the applicable requirements or the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 122.

Mailing List. In addition to submitting public comments, a person may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Chief Clerk for this application.

Information. For additional information about this permit application or the permitting process, please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Public Education Program, MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or 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 for Owens Corning Roofing and Asphalt, LLC by calling Ms. Katrina Cheshire at (713) 670-3102.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Covid-19 Testing,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

except to note that Texas has one of the lower per-capita death rates in the nation.

Last week Abbott had issued an order that restaurants, retail stores, malls, movie theaters, museums and libraries, and churches were allowed to open, but had to observe a 25% occupancy limit.

The press conference also proposed four methods for high schools to hold graduation ceremonies in lieu of traditional indoor assemblies.

The seventh drive-thru free public site opened last week at the Griggs Primary School in the Greenspoint district, at 801 Regional Park Drive. This site is run by UMMC, or United Memorial Medical Center, and will remain open as long as there is a need, said Jackson-Lee.

During a press conference in front of the school on May 1, Congresswoman Lee said “I am thankful to Aldine ISD to allow us to go into neighborhoods where no testing has come,” Lee said. “Greenspoint has not had free accessible testing and we are delighted to start testing there because All of Houston should be tested. It is imperative that we continue increasing testing opportunities at a rapid rate.”

Testing is free and open to all individuals seeking to get tested, with or without symptoms. No preregistration is required. Testers may be asked for proof of identification or medical insurance; however, neither is required to complete the testing.

The screening is designed to quickly test as many people as possible. A health care professional in protective gear will screen community members from their car. Anyone who tests

positive will receive a call from the Harris County Health Department.

For more information visit www.ummcscreening.com or the Harris County Health Department, 713-634-1110 for Ask A Nurse, or 713-439-6000 for information on mobile test sites.

County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced last week that four Harris County Public Health (HCPH) mobile units will provide drive-through testing for COVID-19, adding up to 400 tests per day to the county’s current testing capacity at two permanent sites, one in Baytown and one in Katy. 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 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 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.

DETAILED LIST OF TEST SITES:

Please note that some testing sites are private and costs may vary at each site; there are 3 sites that are entirely free.

1. Legacy Northline: 5598 A-1 North Freeway | 832-548-5000 (Sliding scale fee)
2. Legacy Santa Clara: East End - 5616 Lawndale | 832-548-5000 (Sliding scale fee)
3. Vecinos Clinic at Denver Harbor: 6402 Market St | 713-674-3326 or 713-695-4013 for pediatric care (Cost for mandatory screening varies; test is free)
4. Mi Doctor: 5230 Aldine Mail Route; call or text 1-888-776-5252 or call 281-598-3300 (Will bill insurance; \$165 without insurance)
5. Walgreens (starting tomorrow, Friday April 17th): 101 W. Southmoore Ave, Pasadena (Free testing)
6. Walgreens, 14531 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77082
7. Goose Creek ISD Stallworth: 2102 E Archer Rd, Baytown, TX (Free testing)
8. Forest Brook Middle School: 7525 Tidwell Rd (Free testing)

Texas Renaissance Festival sets new pricing for 2020 season

First of its kind ticketing model yields no surprises at checkout

Todd Mission, TX (April 28, 2020) – For the first time in the Texas Renaissance Festival’s 46-year history, the festival will offer “What you see is what you pay” pricing for 2020 online ticket sales. This new pricing means that festival patrons can expect no surprises (no fees or taxes added on) at checkout. “We are looking forward to a wonderful 46th season at The Texas Renaissance Festival, and we are proud to kick off our pre-season ticket sales with our discount season pass event followed by the Sale of the Century in July that feature up front and transparent pricing,” said Texas Renaissance Festival General Manager Joe Bailey.

Discount 2020 Season Passes – On Sale May 1 – 31, 2020

Season passes are a convenient and economical way for patrons of the Festival to enjoy each of the nine themed weekends of the 2020 season. The tradition of offering discounted season passes in the

spring will continue with a few changes for this year.

2020 Discount Season passes will be on sale online from May 1 – 31, 2020 only. During this special discount window, the TRF Festival season pass will be \$259, a 20% discount from the regular price of \$323. Camping can also be added at a 16% discount for \$150 (regular price \$180). Regular priced Season Passes will be available starting June 1.

Sale of the Century – July 18, 2020

Due to the current climate surrounding COVID-19 and following the recently announced stages of re-opening of public areas in the state of Texas as recommended by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Renaissance Festival management has decided to delay the popular Sale of the Century that will now take place on July 18 starting at 8 a.m.

A limited number of General Admission tickets (100,000) will go on sale online and will be available until quantities run out.

The price for this year’s Sale of the Century is \$18 per ticket with no additional fees or taxes for adult General Admission. “We are offering the lowest price on Adult General Admission tickets for the season through the Sale of the Century,” said Bailey. “We increased the volume this year so more of our patrons can take advantage of these savings and enjoy the festival this fall,” he added.

In addition to General Admission tickets, Camping admission will be offered for \$20 (regularly \$35), Preferred Parking for \$10 (regularly \$20) and Valet Parking for \$20 (regularly \$40).

For more information and to purchase your TRF Season Pass or Sale of the Century tickets, visit www.texrenfest.com/tickets-season-passes.

This year the Texas Renaissance Festival will continue its annual tradition of donating a portion of the proceeds from the Sale of the Century event to the Society of Samaritans of Magnolia, Texas.

Free Food in Pct. 2,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This Friday, there is to be a back pack filled with food distribution for the first 200 at the San Jacinto Community Center in Highlands.

Otherwise, the five locations of Community Centers are J.D. Walker Center at 7613 Wade Road for McNair and Highlands, Barrett Station Center at 11901 Mulberry Street for the Barrett Station Community, Crosby and Huffman. The Grayson Community Center is to service North Shore and

Channelview. The North East Community Center and East Harris County AC at 7340 Spencer Highway near Pasadena are the other two Centers. These have brown bag lunches for the larger community on Monday and Wednesday from Noon until 1:30 p.m. on a first come until supplies are exhausted basis.

Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at Noon until exhausted of 200 lunches, Baytown Soccer Park at 4700 Village Lane,

Bay Area Annex at 16603 Buccaneer Lane and Cloverleaf Park at 825 Beacon Street are the three park locations.

The I.T. May Community Center is closed until further notice.

The Senior Meals Program is for those that would normally be served meals by the Community Centers.

The other programs are on a first come first served until supplies are exhausted basis. Where once the supply was 250 to 300 meals, now it is 200.



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