Governor Abbott announces phase two to open Texas

AUSTIN: May 18, 2020 – Governor Greg Abbott today announced the second phase of the State of Texas’ ongoing plan to safely and strategically reopen Texas while minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Under Phase II, restaurants may increase their occupancy to 50%, additional services are included, suspended operations were modified, and a minimum standard for health protocols laid out by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Additionally, the Governor announced that public schools in Texas have the option to provide in-person summer school as long as they follow social distancing practices and minimum standard health protocols laid out by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Today, tomorrow, and every day going forward in one step closer to medical discerning that can treat and protect people from COVID-19—but that day comes, our focus is again keeping Texans safe while restarting their ability to get back to work, open their businesses, pay their bills, and put food on their tables,” said Governor Abbott on May 18.

By continuing to follow safe practices, we are slowing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting our most vulnerable. New more than ever, we need to work together as one Texas. I ask all Texans to continue following the guidance of our health and related medical professionals and do our part to protect public health. If we all unite in our mission, we will overcome this challenge.”

With this announcement, the following services and activities may open under Phase II:

Child Care Centers (May 18)

Managing and Personal Care Services (May 18)

Youth Clubs (May 18)

Bowling Alleys, Bingo Halls, Simulcast Racing, and Skating Rinks (May 22)

See Texas Opens, Page 8

Waste Pits Virtual meeting

30% Remediation Report on schedule

HIGHLANDS – The San Jacinto River Coalition and the citizen organization, THERA held its annual spring meeting on Tuesday via video instead of its usual in-person meeting.

The group had skipped the March meeting due to the scheduled wedding of its president, Jackie Young (now Young Medcalf). Then they were forced with the decision to continue with the meeting at the community center due to the financials of county facilities because of the Covid-19 lockdown. Unsurprisingly, Ms. Medcalf recorded a report which included news of the SJRRP Waste Play, the Superfund and even her wedding.

A major question on the minds of many of the Coalition is whether the Covid-19 lockdown has affected the schedule of remediation of the waste pits. Jackie Young Medcalf, THERA’s project manager, Gary Baumgarten, and experts that work in the field continuous to fear that there is no indication of a major delay in the milestones dates of the project, he said.

On their list of tasks is just beyond the north edge of the cap, where the storm Hannah caused erosion. The Texas Department of Transportation are repairing and extending the critical infrastructure that washed away, to protect the cap. The company is in charge of the on-site remedial repair work. The contract is scheduled to open under COVID-19 safety protocols laid out by the state and federal medical experts and do their part to protect public health. If we all unite in our mission, we will overcome this challenge.”

See Virtual Meeting, Page 3

Community Watch

Man captured, wanted for murder of woman floating in SJ River

CROSBY – Turner Chevrolet hosted the North Shore Rotary club as they held their drawing for 20 prizes at Turner Chevrolet live and in person.

Channelview – A man wanted in the murder of a woman found in the San Jacinto River in May 2019, led deputies on a pursuit and then ran to a nearby Holiday after a small pursuit. Tate fled and crashed his vehicle.

Tate was located after a few hours hiding in the water.

The Sheriff’s Office Medical Examiner recovered Ms. Tera Rose Hoseck’s body. Homicide investigators were in the 32-year-old Christopher Tate, 3500 block of the N. Sam Jacinto River in April of 2019, led deputies on a pursuit and then ran to a nearby Holiday after a small pursuit. Tate fled and crashed his vehicle.

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Houston Health Department and partners to offer more than a dozen free COVID-19 test sites week of May 18

HOUSTON - Houstonians will continue to be able to access an array of free COVID-19 tests at the Houston Health Department and its partner agencies over the course of May 18, focusing on vulnerable communities.

Texas Division of Emergency Management
The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the health department will open four drive-thru test sites at these locations:
- Milby Elementary School, 6110 East Houston Street, May 18-20
- Valdez Block No. 211, 500 Middle School, May 18-20
- H.C. Klein Elementary School, 9200 Tate Road, May 21-23
- John F. Kennedy Middle School, 5000 Washington Street, May 21-23

TDEM sites require appointments, obtained by calling 1-800-989-6612 or visiting testitexas.org. The site will open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until reaching its daily capacity of 300 tests.

United Memorial Medical Center
United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC) and the health department will continue to operate two drive-thru COVID-19 testing sites open to anyone, regardless of symptoms.
- UMMC site at 19231 Eastside Road, Houston, which opened May 7, will continue operations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 22-23.
- UMMC sites do not require people to have symptoms or pay a daily capacity of 250 tests each.

People seeking information about UMMC test sites can call 1-866-333-COVID or visit ummcscreening.com.

Houston Health Department Community-Based Sites
The health department continues to operate two free drive-thru COVID-19 community-based testing sites open to anyone, regardless of symptoms. Each site has a capacity for 500 tests per day and opens daily until capacity is reached. The centers require people to have symptoms.

- People needing information about community-based testing sites can call 1-866-333-COVID or visit houstontx.gov/covidtesting. The site will operate 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until reaching its daily capacity of 175 tests.

Federally Qualified Health Centers
The health department is also providing test kits, lab access and equipment to four local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) so they can expand their COVID-19 testing capacity. The center and phase 1A or B population can call to set up testing appointments at any FQHC site.

- El Centro de Corazón, 713-660-5855
- Avena Health and Wellness, 713-415-0037 and
- Lone Star Circle of Care at the University of Houston, 713-284-4122

FQHC patients pay what they can afford, based on income and family size, and are not denied services due to inability to pay or lack of insurance.

Houstonians should visit the HoustonH2Oncercare.org/COVID19 test site information and updates about the COVID-19 response.
By David Ellison

Commissioners Court Approves $30M Fund for Equitable Economic Relief for Vulnerable Residents

A $30 million COVID-19 Relief Fund for Harris County will help our most vulnerable residents pay for rent, food, medical care, child care and other basic needs.

The Harris County Coronavirus Relief Fund (HCRF) — which will be distributed equitably throughout the county — will provide $1,200 for households of one to four residents, and $1,500 for households of five-plus people. It is expected that between 20,000 and 25,000 households will benefit from the fund.

“The Coronavirus pandemic has created a health and financial crisis for communities and families across our county,” said Commissioner Robert Ellis, one of the commissioners who voted for the fund.

And it is our duty as public servants to make sure that our most vulnerable residents, who are already living paycheck to paycheck, do not lose any semblance of the middle class,” Ellis said.

Three weeks ago, Commissioners Court voted to tentatively approve $35 million for the fund. As the public health crisis continues, the need for relief grows. Increasing the fund to $30 million will allow the County to reach and help more people, especially those who are unemployed, ill or caring for someone who is sick.

“Not all job losses are equal,” Commissioner Ellis said. “Our food service, health care and retail workers – the backbone of our workforce, who are are already struggling to make ends meet – have been hit the hardest. Federal funding helps, but it is not enough.”

“‘The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act’ Federal Impact Payment to households is not enough to address the needs of our most vulnerable,” said Commissioner Rodney Ellis, who is sick.

“Unlike other programs, the $30 million will be managed by the Greater Houston Community Foundation, which already manages COVID-19 relief funds. The Foundation has the knowledge, capacity, values and community trust to ensure funds reach all residents with nonprofit, community-based organizations that serve vulnerable communities and through an accessible and user-friendly process.”

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Virtual Meeting, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

use in the waste pits. Their long-term goal, Judge says, is to continue work on re- sealing and relocation and removal of 12 to 14 feet, some areas of 12 to 14 feet. Some areas of the site have toxic materials.

Epidemiologists and public health experts say contact tracing is an essential component to effectively controlling fur- ther outbreaks. Hidalgo said that the team of “effective tracers” are diverse members of the Harris County community from college students to recently laid-off energy sector employees, the tracers will work with their fellow neighbors to identify how the virus might be spreading so that the region can be smarter and more efficient about isolation rules.

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Sellers Brothers Market, Uvalde Rd

Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd

Sellers Brothers Market, Market St

Market Street Feed Store, Market St

Post Office, Sheldon Rd

Capital Bank, I-10 E

Community Bank of Texas, I-10 E @ Freeport

HC WCID #36, Hollywood St

Galena Park Medical Clinic, Clinton Dr

Exxon King Fuel, Clinton Dr

Middleton Super Market, Clinton Dr

Pine Trails Community, Woodbend Dr

Bonfire Wings, Woodforest Blvd

Chevron, Woodforest & Uvalde

Water District #47, Woodforest Blvd

Sen. Sylvia Garcia office, in Woodforest Bank Bldg

Sellers Brothers Market, Uvalde Rd

Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd

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Memorial Day: Home by the American Legion

Every crisis has new heroes. During the 9/11 terrorist attacks, they were the first responders running into burning buildings and working tirelessly—sometimes working in their homes—to save others. Today’s honorees: our health care professionals, who are currently the most visible heroes in the Coronavirus pandemic, as they work in their homes to promote recovery. Last year, a joint team from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency discovered and later identified Cpl. Richard B. Gibson.

Cpl. Gibson was shot down during a mission over North Vietnam. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions, including covering his squad leader with his own body to protect him from enemy fire. Gibson was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during the battle.

On June 8, 1969, Sharon’s tour of duty ended. A strong and响亮的 transmission over the radio: "We need someone to carry our mail. Waffles, please take over for me."

"I am always ready and available," Waffles said.

There, at least, you had a family. The rest, a solo or seven days a week, a job. It was a 100-year-old job.

Her dedication was evident, as she treated every Vest Corps soldier who would return, be it injured or healthy, with the utmost respect and dignity. Waffles was a member of the American Legion.

Memorial Day, 2020

"You die, but your heart lives on as a child, if you’re lucky, and as a grandchild if you’re really, really lucky," said one of the soldiers.

\"Chatting with a Tree\" by Carrie Classon

"Has the fire passed over?" I ask. "Is there some comfort—and perspective—about the tree?"

"It’s a tough time for people," she says. "The times are uncertain. We’re not sure what will look like in a month or a year."

I walk by a lot of trees, but this one stands out. It’s not the most beautiful, but it is the only thing they know for certain that they can touch. Some days I am embarrassed and have a hard time saying that this tree cheers me up. I feel proud, but I feel like I am lying."

To say that this tree cheers me up is an exaggeration. Some days I am embarrassed to say that this tree cheers me up. I feel proud, but I feel like I am lying.

But some days I am embarrassed and have a hard time saying that this tree cheers me up. I feel proud, but I feel like I am lying.
Northside Baptist, Highlands Pastor Retires

Longtime Northside pastor, David R. Brumbelow, announced his retirement in mid-January. It is to be effective June 1, 2020. He lost Sunday as pastor will be Sunday morning, May 31, 2020 at 11am. A send off his home will be enjoyed immediately after the Worship Service.

T-Mobile donates $25,000 to Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation

T-Mobile donated $25,000 to Goose Creek CISD to help meet the needs of students during the COVID-19 crisis. Erika Foster, Goose Creek CISD Social Impact & Sustainability Director, accepted the donation at Bowie Elementary, shows her appreciation to T-Mobile for the $25,000 donation to the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation board. She appreciated as Goose Creek CISD faces the many challenges this situation has imposed on our district and our families.”

Happy 103rd Birthday to Mrs. Mamie Lewis

Mamie Lewis was born in Louisiana on May 15, 1917—making her the oldest living resident of Barrett Station at 103 years. Mrs. Lewis relocated to Texas with her husband and retired from Crosby ISD. Family, friends, and neighbors turned out by the dozens for her birthday and shout their birthday wishes to the town’s oldest resident.

PPE in Stock in Crosby!

Cubsicle - Contact Free Pick Up & Ground Shipping Available Call 281-462-1200

The Journey of a thousand miles begins with one step...-LaoTzu
Dear Rusty: I have been advised by my financial planner to start Social Security at age 62 due to my wife’s early retirement at age 61 (I am 65) and still employed, not on Medicare, and not taking Social Security benefits. My wife is 62, and the benefits your office offers will be paid to her at age 65. I understand that you hope to reach age 70 before starting your Social Security benefits. My income is currently $180,000, so you see this as a wise choice to start it now, at age 62. Signed, Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: Whether your wife should begin receiving Social Security benefits at age 62 depends upon whether her own benefit at age 70 would be more than she is entitled to on your earnings at her full retirement age (FRA). You may be able to estimate from Social Security that the benefit you are eligible to receive is higher than her own benefit early if she reaches age 70 (as you are). But if her benefit early or at age 70 will be the highest she can attain, then claiming yours at age 62 would be a good choice, but there are some things to consider.

First, if your wife claims benefits before age 65, she will receive a reduced benefit. Your benefit early would be reduced by 20% (20% for each year before your FRA). If you claim at age 62, you will receive a benefit that is reduced by about 30% (30% for each year before your FRA). The benefit early will be further reduced by 5% if claiming at age 60 (5% for each year before your FRA).

Second, if your wife is still working, she may exceed the annual earnings limit (as of 2020, the annual earnings limit is $18,240) and lose her entire Social Security benefit for the year she exceeds the limit. The earnings limit is calculated based on the amount of money your wife can make without reducing her benefit. For 2020, the annual earnings limit is $18,240. Any earnings above the limit will be subject to Social Security “earnings test.”

Third, if your wife’s Social Security benefits are greater than her FRA benefit, she may be entitled to a spousal benefit from you. In this case, despite claiming at age 62, your wife may still receive a benefit equal to half of your Social Security benefit if your FRA is 67 or higher. The spousal benefit will be reduced by 5% for each year before your FRA.

Fourth, if your wife is claiming early Social Security benefits, her benefits will be reduced by up to 30% for each year before the FRA. For example, if you claim early at age 62, you will receive a benefit that is reduced by about 30% (30% for each year before your FRA). The benefit early will be further reduced by 5% if claiming at age 60 (5% for each year before your FRA).

Fifth, if you claim early Social Security benefits, your benefit at age 70 will be reduced to less than 50% of the amount you would have received if you had claimed at your FRA. Taking your own benefit you are entitled to as your spouse’s “earnings test” which starts after she has reached her FRA.

Sixth, if your wife is claiming early Social Security benefits, she may be entitled to a spousal benefit from you. In this case, despite claiming at age 62, your wife may still receive a benefit equal to half of your Social Security benefit if your FRA is 67 or higher. The spousal benefit will be reduced by 5% for each year before your FRA.

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Call 713-266-3444

CEMETERY
PLOTS

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

Amber Waves
by Dave T. Phillips

The family of Ethel A. Darst is proud to announce the marriage of her daughter, Kimberly Darst to her fiancé, David Bybee, held March 30, 2020. Kim and David currently reside in San Antonio. The newlyweds give thanks to all who made the wedding day perfect.

R.B.D.
by Mike MacLeod

I NOW WANTED IT TO BE MURDER. BUT I WAS HAPPY OUR FIRST TIME TOGETHER. WHAT'S THE PUPPERS TOWN AMONG THE BIRDS?

The Spate
by Jeff Polkington

CAN YOU PICKLE SOME WHERE YOUeyer? WERE TO?

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Tinsley

1 2 3 3 4 4 5 5 6
4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6
5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1
6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2
2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4
3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5
4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6
5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1
6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2

HOCUS-FOCUS
by Wendy Nutting

FIND A DOG'S DIFFERENCES IN EACH BOX.

Trivia test by Bill Hogue

1. U.S. STATES: Which of the 48 contiguous United States has the largest land area?
2. TELEVISION: What city does SpongeBob SquarePants live in?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What color is cyan?
4. FOOD & DRINK: In beer styles, what does the designation BPA mean?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Which two countries share the longest border?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of alligators called?
7. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which famous author once wrote, “As full of spirit as the moon of May, and as generous as the sun in Midsummer”?
8. MOVIES: In the 2020 movie, what is the real name of the superhero in “Black Widow”?
9. BUSINESS: Which animal is featured in the Porsche logo?
10. HISTORY: What was the name of the dog who first orbited the Earth in a space vehicle?

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Used to inform the state’s hospitalization and positivity metrics—two metrics Moore, and Deaf Smith, Paso, Randall, Potter, and Hidalgo counties are experiencing surges in COVID-19 cases will have their occupancy limits subject to certain occupancy and health and safety protocols. For details and a full list of guidelines, openings, and relevant dates, visit wwww.gov.texas.gov/open toxins. Galena Park H.S. senior Alayna Cain-Matheny is a senior at Galena Park High School. She will be graduating as the district’s 2nd-ever student that is a member of the Galena Park FFA 10 years. Her brother Jordan Matheny Graduated in 2012 on the district’s last year to be a FFA member. Their sister, Jennifer Matheny (2014) as a high school member of the Galena Park FFA, planning to carry on in the family tradition after Alayna graduates this May 31.

Additional information will be provided at a later date. Sheldon ISD seniors prepare for virtual graduation

Bill Gates Scholarship
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

C. E. King High School seniors have continued to keep their spirits high as they have been busy preparing for a “virtual” graduation celebration set for May 31 (the original commencement date).

Also, Sheldon ISD has plans to host a traditional graduation ceremony for all seniors very soon at the new Sheldon ISD Panther Stadium. Additional information will be provided at a later date.

Bill Gates Scholarship
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Gates Foundation awarded a fourth Gates Scholarship to a Sheldon ISD senior. Congratulations to C. E. King High School senior baseball players Noe Balderas and Henry Williams for signing letters of intent to play at the collegiate level. Balderas will be attending LeTourneau University in Longview, and Williams will be playing at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

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