

Jacinto City hosts historic graduation parade



Graduating seniors from Galena Park and Furr High School line up after the parade for a photo. Tears flowed as caps tossed in the air when hugs and goodbye's were exchanged.
Photos by Allan Jamail

By Allan Jamail
& Kimberly Martin

Jacinto City, TX. Saturday, May 23, 2020 – For Jacinto City's officials having a graduation parade just a couple of months ago wasn't planned nor could it ever have been imagined, but since the COVID-19 virus struck nothing's been a resemblance of normalcy.

Scientists have estimated the deadly virus entered the United States as early as November or December of 2019 but it didn't hit home to schools across the

nation until mid-March while many of the students were home for Spring Break. Schools and students lives were changed once it became known the highly contagious disease was being passed on human to human. Studies revealed an infected person even without virus symptoms were spreading the germs as easy as talking to one another by "voice-droplets" transmitted in the air. Schools, churches, sporting events brought a halt to large gatherings as it still is today.

The long awaited graduation ceremonies planned

for years by high school and college students were no longer allowed. Graduates wouldn't be able to walk across a stage to receive their diploma or say goodbye to their classmates after years of friendship.

The Galena Park School District's graduates, parents and family members were saddened as all others schools were by the sudden turn of events. Soon people began devising ways to safely celebrate milestones from

See *Graduates Parade*,
Page 6 and 8



L – R: Luisa Banda Perez, parade organizer, City Council members Allen Lee, Carmela Garcia, Chief Joe Ayala, Constable Chris Diaz, Mayor Ana Diaz, Councilman Jimmy Rivas, State Representative Ana Hernandez and Victor Trevino III.

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Harris County Judge extends stay-at-home order to June 10

HOUSTON, Texas – Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo extended the Harris County's 'Stay Home, Work Safe' order until June 10 with new set of rules.

"No construction worker should appear at work sick because they fear retaliation," Hidalgo said. "No restaurant worker should work without a face covering."

When it comes to manufacturing and construction workers, some of the rules include that companies should provide 15 minute breaks at least every four hours. Another rule includes allowing breaks for to take care of hygiene needs.

Rules for public-facing service workers include rest breaks once an hour to take care of hygienic responsibilities.

According to Hidalgo, manufacturing businesses

and public-facing services companies should designate a safety monitor to oversee these guidelines.

"In Harris County, no one should have to decide on being sick and putting food on your table," Hidalgo said.

During the press conference, Hidalgo assured the order conforms with Gov. Greg Abbott's order, "I'm very much committed to staying aligned with the parameters he issues," she said.

Hidalgo also stated that she does not want to send the wrong message to the community and that the virus can still spread without proper social distancing.

"We have to remember, even though this is a long running disaster - uncomfortable, we're all tired - the virus is still out there and it does spread through close contact," she said.

Governor Abbott announces additional services and activities that can open under Phase II

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today issued a proclamation expanding additional services and activities that can open under Phase II of the state's plan to safely and strategically open. With this proclamation, water parks, recreational sport programs for adults, driver education programs, and food-court dining areas within shopping malls can

begin operations with limited occupancy or regulations to protect the health and safety of Texans.

Beginning Friday, May 29th, water parks can open but must limit their occupancy to 25% of normal operating limits. Components of these water

See Phase II Opening, Page 6

Driver License offices to reopen by appointment only with limited services, additional safety measures enacted

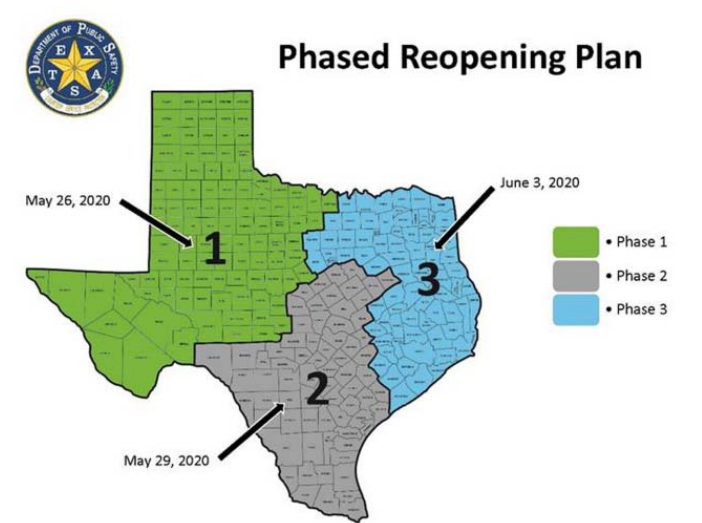
AUSTIN – On Tuesday, May 26, at the direction of Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will begin reopening driver license (DL) offices by appointment only and with limited services. The reopening of DL offices will happen in a phased approach, in order to allow DPS to keep customers and our staff as safe as possible, while also adhering to new safety guidelines and social distancing practices in place due to COVID-19. Appointment availability will be rolled out in phases, with the first phase of appointments becoming available on Friday, May 22, at 1 p.m.

Services Available By Appointment Only

A new appointment solution, which has been in the works for several months, will take effect in DL offices as they reopen. The appointment solution allows customers to book appointments for a specific day and time up to six months in advance. DPS is moving to appointments only as part of our efforts to provide additional convenience and reduce the time Texans spend waiting in line at DL offices.

Within the new online appointment system, customers can walk through the available appointment options, schedule appointments on a specific date and time, receive appointment confirmations, set up a reminder, and reschedule or cancel an existing appointment. Once customers schedule their appointment, they'll receive a confirmation email to bring with them to their appointment.

Upon arrival at the DL office, customers can check-in with their smart device or by using the kiosk inside the office. Due to social distancing requirements related to COVID-19, we are asking that customers wait in their car after checking in. Customers will receive a text message when it's time to come inside to complete their transaction.



ceive a confirmation email to bring with them to their appointment.

Upon arrival at the DL office, customers can check-in with their smart device or by using the kiosk inside the office. Due to social distancing requirements related to COVID-19, we are asking that customers wait in their car after checking in. Customers will receive a text message when it's time to come inside to complete their transaction.

Limited Service Offerings, PHASED REOPENING

As DL offices begin their phased reopening, services will be limited to customers with appointments only who are seeking a first-time Texas DL, commercial driver license (CDL), learner license or identification (ID) card, as well as those who need to take a driving test. These

will be the ONLY services available at DL offices during these initial phases of reopening.

Phase 1: Offices in DPS' Northwest and West Texas regions will reopen with limited services beginning May 26, 2020. Customers who currently do not possess a Texas DL, CDL, learner permit or ID card, as well those who are in need of a drive test, can begin scheduling appointments in these two regions on May 22 at 1 p.m.

Phase 2: Offices in DPS' South and Central Texas regions will reopen with limited services beginning May 29, 2020. Customers who currently do not possess a Texas DL, CDL, learner permit or ID card, as well those who are in need of a drive test, can begin scheduling appointments in these two regions on May 26 at 1 p.m.

Phase 3: Offices in DPS'

North and Southeast Texas regions will reopen with limited services beginning June 3, 2020. Customers who currently do not possess a Texas DL, CDL, learner permit or ID card, as well those who are in need of a drive test, can begin scheduling appointments in these two regions on May 29 at 1 p.m.

Phase 4: will allow customers to schedule an appointment for all DL office transactions anywhere in the state and is expected to begin midsummer. DPS will announce details on this phase at a later date. Extension for expiration dates will remain in effect until phase 4 is implemented.

As appointments become available throughout the phased reopening plan, customers will be able to book appointments through DPS' website www.dps.gov/DriverLicense/.

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

COMMUNITY NEWS

Astros at Crawfish Shack



Popular Astros baseball players Josh Reddick, and George Springer, got their Memorial Day crawfish dinners from Crosby's number one rated Crawfish Shack. Owners Dan and Jen Meaux welcomed them as they delivered several coolers of crawfish and "the fixins." Crosby's Crawfish Shack reputation for great food has become well known around Houston. Reddick was quoted "Thanks to the Crawfish Shack for catering our Memorial Day get-together. Everything was cooked to perfection and it was delicious." (Photo courtesy of Josh Reddick)

HARRIS COUNTY & PCT. 2 Property Tax Relief via increased Homestead Exemption for seniors & disabled homeowners

Plan goes into effect for
next years' tax bills

Harris County, TX — TODAY, Harris County Commissioners Court passed an expansion of the Homestead Exemption for seniors, disabled veterans, and homeowners living with disabilities. The increased Exemption now applies to qualifying homeowners with homes valued up to \$286,250.

The plan passed by a vote of 5-0. It eliminates

county property tax liability for seniors 65 years of age and older, as well as disabled homeowners, and disabled military veterans, with homes valued at \$286,250 or less. Qualifying homeowners would save at least \$500 next year (and annually going forward) on their property tax bills. The plan takes effects for next year's tax bills.

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia said "Meaningful

tax reform is coming to Harris County seniors and people living with disabilities. This population is particularly vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this will help them. It also stems the tide of gentrification because of rising appraisal values in our historic neighborhoods. I'm proud to be the first Commissioner since 2008 to submit this and put money back into the pockets of hardworking families."

LyondellBasell Channelview site donates protective equipment to Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital



The first week of May, 2020, LyondellBasell representatives took protective personal equipment to Houston Methodist Hospital in Baytown.

Baytown, TEXAS (May 15, 2020) – With hospitals seeing shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) around the country, LyondellBasell's Channelview Complex saw an opportunity to help those who help us all. The Channelview Complex donated more than 500 surplus protective coveralls it had on hand to Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

The Complex donated the items last week. The protective coveralls were excess supplies allocated for a turnaround at the complex. The unused PPE

were general purpose full body protective suits which are typically used for confined space entries at the manufacturing site. The suits are also ideal for use in a healthcare setting.

"With healthcare workers being in short supply of PPE, we felt this donation could go a long way in helping to protect those who are caring for the sick," said Chris Cain, site manager for LyondellBasell's Channelview Complex. "Rather than have them sit on a shelf, we were glad to send these items where they are needed the most.

It's important that we do all we can to support our healthcare workers during these times and this is one small way we hope to help."

Hospital staff were appreciative of the gift.

"We are truly grateful for this donation of PPE," said Laurie Terry, administrative director of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. "We are blessed to have the support of companies like LyondellBasell who recognize the challenges our industry is facing and step up to lend a hand."



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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

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

SHELDON

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

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
Galena Park Library, Keene St
United Comm. Credit Union, 16th St
Galena Park Community Crt, Keene St
Middleton Super Market, Clinton Dr
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OBITUARIES

Nelda Ruth Powell Merryman

Nelda Ruth Powell Merryman, 59, of Crosby, TX was suddenly called home Friday, May 15, 2020. She was born July 14, 1960 in Baytown and moved to Crosby in 1980.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clark and Judy Powell; maternal grandparents, Roy and Eunice Mullinax; paternal grandparents, W.P. and Anna Clemetta Lamb, and Virgil Paul Powell; and two special pastors' wives who were her namesakes, Nelda Ruth Brumley and Nelda Ruth Gardner.

Survivors include her loving husband of 40 years, Darrell Merryman; daughters and sons-in-law, Kimberly and Travis Staudt, Jennifer and Andrew Franklin, and Kathryn and Melvin Butcher Jr; grandsons Aiden, Tyler and Dylan Franklin; sisters and brothers-in-law, Carla Powell, Janna and D.L. Sims, Deana and William "Mange" Lewellyn; aunts, Gail Stewart, Linda Bostic and Joyce Mullinax; many nieces and nephews along with their families; and special family friends.

Visitation will be held at Navarre Funeral Home, 2444 Rollingbrook Dr, Baytown, TX 77521 on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 from 6 to 8 p.m.



Service will be held at Central Baptist Church, 1800 King St, Baytown, TX 77520 on Thursday, May 28 at 10 a.m. with Rev. Beau Rosser officiating. The pallbearers will be nephews, Jeremy Lewellyn, Jayme Lewellyn, Caleb Sims, Jeffrey "Bo" Lewellyn, Elijah Sims, and sons-in-law Andrew Franklin, Melvin Butcher Jr and Travis Staudt. Grave-side service will follow at Sterling-White Cemetery, 11011 Crosby Lynchburg Rd, Highlands, TX 77562.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be mailed to Central Baptist Church of Baytown or to Second Baptist Church of Highlands.

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Crosby couple celebrates 62nd anniversary at HMB

BAYTOWN — (May 22, 2020) — Edwin "Ed" Slusser and wife, Bonita, have celebrated their share of wedding anniversaries, but the Crosby couple's latest marriage milestone was observed in a truly unique fashion.

With Edwin, 80, hospitalized at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital for treatment of a non-COVID-19-related condition, his care team organized a celebration on May 20 to mark the couple's 62nd anniversary. The nursing staff provided a cake, cards and signs and invited Bonita, 79, to visit to participate in the small gathering in Edwin's patient room. They also arranged for other family members to join in virtually via FaceTime and played the Slusser's "song," George Strait's "All My Ex's Live in Texas" during the celebration.

"It was really great," Edwin said. "They did a great job of putting everything together."



Bonita and Edwin Slusser

Married in Clover Leaf, the Slussers lived in Channel View for many years before moving to Crosby in 1996. Edwin retired from Pasadena's Georgia Gulf facility in 2002, while Bonita is retired following a

career with Aramco. The couple have three children, Grant, Suzanne and Kallynne.

"She (Bonita) is the love of my life," Edwin said.

Edwin adds that the hospital staff provided excellent care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has implemented a number of precautions to ensure patient and visitor safety, including screening all patients and essential visitors when entering our facilities, requiring all patients, visitors and employees to wear a mask, implementing social distancing in waiting rooms and elevators, elevating cleaning and housekeeping practices, adhering to strict visitor policies and offering remote check-in.

"Everybody has been focused on protecting patients and making sure everything is clean. They have taken very good care of me and my family."

Goose Creek CISD selects Teachers of the Year

Elementary Teacher of the Year

Maribel Cancino (second from right) from Highlands Elementary is congratulated for being named Goose Creek CISD's District Elementary Teacher of the Year by (from left) Agustin Loredó III, GCCISD board president; Blanca Capetillo, Highlands Elementary principal and Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD superintendent.



Secondary Teacher of the Year

Jaclyn "Jackie" Scales from Goose Creek Memorial High School (second from right) is congratulated for being selected Goose Creek CISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year by (from left) Agustin Loredó III, GCCISD board president; Susan Jackson, Goose Creek Memorial High School principal and Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD superintendent.



All Campus Teachers of the Year will be honored at a June meeting of the Goose Creek CISD board of trustees.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ezekiel in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who had 900 iron chariots and made 20 years of life unbearable for the Israelites? Tobiah, Pilate, Sisera, Absalom
3. How did God evaluate His work after six days, as all He made was ...? Heavenly

divine, Righteous sake, Thine image, Very good

4. Who was the father of Apostles James and John? Zacchaeus, Zebedee, Zebulun, Zechariah
5. 27,000 men were killed when what city's walls fell on them? Sechem, Sodom, Aphek, Jericho
6. Who burned his son alive as a sacrifice? Achan, Ahaz, Moses, Shimei

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Sisera; 3) Very good; 4) Zebedee; 5) Aphek; 6) Ahaz

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

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ROMANS 8:18

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

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
-- 1 JOHN 4:18

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.
--2 Timothy 1:7

ASK THE EXPERT

COVID-19

Cases as of
May 26, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

19 COUNTIES

16,957 POSITIVE

413 DEATHS

6,803 RECOVERED

TEXAS

57,014 POSITIVE

1,540 DEATHS

35,292 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

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98,787 DEATHS

379,157 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

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2,271,268 RECOVERED

COVID-19

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Buckshot Jamboree to reopen May 30

The popular country music venue Buckshot Jamboree, featuring Buck Sloan and his band, will re-open for performances on Saturday, May 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Shirley Sloan reports that cleaning rules and social distancing will be observed as requested by the County. She also reports that even at 95 years old, Buck loves to perform and looks forward to entertaining his loyal fans.

The music hall is at 7414 Hartman, Houston 77049 of the Old Beaumont Highway.

Phase II Opening,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

parks that have video arcades must remain closed. Starting Sunday, May 31st, recreational sports programs for adults can resume, but games and similar competitions may not begin until June 15th. Driver education programs can resume operations immediately.

Food-court dining areas within shopping malls can also immediately resume operations, but malls are encouraged to designate one or more individuals who are responsible for ensuring health and safety practices are followed, including: limiting tables to six individuals; maintaining a six-foot distance between individuals sitting at different tables; cleaning and disinfecting tables between uses; and ensuring no condiments or other items are left on tables between customer uses.

Minimum standard health protocols outlined by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) are recommended and located on the Open Texas webpage.

Rotary raffle nets Adams a new truck



Lowell Everitt hands the keys to a New Chevrolet Colorado to Alice Adams, as the Rotarian who sold her the ticket, Wayne Oquin stands nearby at Crosby's Turner Chevrolet dealership.

By Lewis Spearman

CROSBY – On May 26 at about 11:30 a.m. Alice Adams came to Turner Chevrolet to claim her brand new Chevrolet Colorado that she had won with a raffle ticket from North Shore Rotary club, sold to her by Rotarian Wayne Oquin.

It wasn't the only reason to be there that day, her son had ordered a new Chevy Tahoe.

Ms. Adams says she had purchased four tickets to the good cause in total, two from Mr. Oquin and two from a lady at San Jacinto College.

According to Lowell Everitt, "It was a surprise how successful this raffle was after COVID-19 brought us from hosting a gala dining and auction affair as we always have, to a 20

prize give away raffle.

"We worked with every body so that a lot of the companies that purchased multiple meals could convert to raffle tickets. Some companies, just to support the Rotary, buy 50 to 60 meal tickets to give to customers and employees. In total we raised over \$147,500 in a twenty prize raffle.

"I had figured we could subsist if we could make \$125,000. Before COVID-19 we would have about \$115,000 in corporate sponsors. The great thing is we are going to have a Rotary Budget of about \$250,000 so we can keep doing the things we need to do for this community including scholarships, bike give-away at Christmas and our various senior assistance programs."

Graduates Parade,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Idahila Garza tossing rolls of toilet tissue (Read below; FROM THE EYES OF A GRADUATE)

birthdays to funerals by keeping a safe distance of 6 feet apart and wearing a mask. Parades called "wave by's and drive by's" became prevalent across the nation giving communities ways to help students celebrate.

Jacinto City's Mayor Ana Diaz said she was contacted by graduate Ana Banda's mother, Luisa Banda Perez about the possibility of having a parade so the students and families could celebrate. The City Council approved the parade, City Manager Lon Squyres began planning the event which had never been done before, and Chief of Police Joe Ayala's police department had to provide traffic control and was assisted by a large turnout of Precinct 2 deputies along with Constable Chris Diaz (Mayor Diaz's husband). Graduates of Furr High School joined in with the Galena Park 2020 Class.

Mayor Diaz said, "The parade was the idea from Luisa and her hard work and organizing the students to come participate that made the event the success it was." Mayor Diaz said, "I was saddened for the students and families to not have the normal graduation ceremony and I felt the city should do everything it could to give them the best parade possible. It made me feel good to be able to stand on the parade sideline with members of the city council and wave and shout congratu-

lations as each graduate came past the city's congratulatory banner. Our city has a big heart; it's always given a helping hand to a good cause."

Councilwoman Carmela Garcia purchased book markers with fitting Bible verses on them for officials to give each passing student. Verses Jeremiah 29: 11- "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Another, Matthew 5:16 - Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Parade organizer Perez said, "Despite everything with COVID-19, this 2020 year the mess got real for these graduating students, it's been very sad for graduating seniors. I'm so thankful the city allowed me to organize this parade to celebrate the graduating seniors. It's been a blessing and a privilege to serve for my community. I'd like to thank Mayor Ana Diaz, Police Chief Ayala and his department and Constable Diaz and his deputies for their help with this historic parade. I hope the city will make this an annual event for graduating seniors."

State Representative Ana Hernandez was on hand and said she was saddened the deserving gradu-

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ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "Cheap dollars? Expensive dollars? What does it all mean?"



I just got off the phone with Bill, Sam's son. Both own a sizeable investment in silver coins. Sam is holding his silver...but Bill was thinking his dad was wrong in holding... and wanted to sell. After a brief "dissertation", Bill has decided to hold his investment as would Diamond Jim and Sam...and see if silver will go to \$40-\$50 in the short term. I told him it might happen...and again, might not. However, Bill would never hear the end of Sam's telling him "I told you so!" In my humble opinion, the worst that could happen is that Bill will continue to own real money...that will more than likely be worth more "money" than the cheap dollars for which he is contemplating trading it. Worst case scenario is that he can always sell it...probably for more than the current "value"...because of anticipated future demand PLUS the fact that it will take more of our new cheapened dollars to purchase it.

Here is the short explanation I used.

The government just printed and spent (gave away) \$3 trillion...and is attempting to spend (give away) another \$2-3 trillion. The government has no money, so they are printing money with no value...putting it into circulation...and devaluing the money all of us already own and worked for...to the tune of \$6 trillion!!! And, to be clear, again, the government has no real money (backed by gold and/or silver). What they print is fiat money. Fiat money gives central banks greater control over the economy because they can control how much money is printed, the value of the money, and the interest on the money. So the \$6 trillion simply dilutes what little value you already had in the dollars you already earned that were already in circulation.

Now for the reality of how it affects each of us. After another round of printing presses being cranked up, your money has just been reduced in value

again...in other words, ALL of your fiat money...not only previously earned money but also the newly printed money recently given away by the government some of which YOU received... is now cheaper because it has been diluted by trillions of dollars put into circulation! SO...IT WILL TAKE MORE CHEAP DOLLARS TO PURCHASE THE SAME COMMODITIES TODAY AND TOMORROW THAT YOU COULD PURCHASE YESTERDAY FOR LESS!!! Silver will go up...not because it actually will "go up" (although it may go up in real value due to demand)...but because your fiat money in dollars became less valuable causing you to need more of those cheap dollars to purchase the commodities. Simple, huh? Watch the price of eggs. . .bacon. . .bread. . .skyrocket! Don't blame the stores. Blame your own government bureaucrats and politicians!

THAT loss of value in your dollar is due to nothing more than theft of your "store of value" for your work and effort that you were convinced by your government you had been given in the form of that fiat dollar. But it is nothing more than a hidden tax that no one sees. It used to be called "inflation". But bureaucrats and politicians and global bankers now call the erosion of the value of our dollar "quantitative easing". How do you like losing your money by government theft? But the word does have a cool ring to it, doesn't it?

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 jmmills@pineforestjewelry.com

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Graduates Parade,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ates didn't have their traditional graduation ceremony, but she felt the fantastic parade provided something positive which would provide a lifelong memory of their achievement. She was thankful for getting to participate and to be able to congratulate them.

FROM THE EYES OF A GRADUATE:

Idahlia Garza, a Jacinto City resident and Galeana Park graduate in an interview after the parade said, "I plan to attend San Jacinto Community College and then transfer to the University of Houston to get my bachelors degree in Secondary Education."

“COVID-19 came at us with a big hit, first it started off my missing weeks of school which turned to months which then led to canceling the rest of the school year. It has been a challenge for the class of 2020. Senior year is supposed to be the best year of high school. I mean I dreamt about it as a little girl and you watch it in the movies. Getting to walk across the stage with your fellow peers that you grew up with as kids and then getting to see everyone's accomplishments throughout the year. To see all the work, sweat and dedication that each one of us put in for 12 years and then when the time came for of the main event and it couldn't take place, oh how sad. The one thing I was excited about was to walk into the NRG with my sister Acelia Garza. Since 1st grade we always walked into school

together, I was always more nervous than her but I never showed it. And being able to take that first steps into the NRG was going to be our last walk together and COVID-19 took it away.”

TOSSING TOILET TISSUE:

During the parade I chose to throw toilet tissue to the bystanders to add a little bit of humor into it. Because of the pandemic once COVID-19 struck it was like a panic mood turned on with the stay at home orders. There were some cities and states that were shut down. A great sense of fear flew across everyone while they rushed to the store. Leaving not only toilet tissue out of stock but as well as napkins, cleaning supplies, water, food....etc , but once the parade started and I started to see the crowd I started throwing rolls and the looks on their faces were priceless.

"The parade was a success! It was a once in a lifetime opportunity. It was such an amazing feeling to see, proud parents and friends cheering me along the way. During the parade I did end up shedding a few

tears. I was so overwhelmed with the amount of support from the community. Even though it was not how I expected to graduate, it has truly been a blessing. I'm very proud of the accomplishments it took me to get here. Also

with the great support of my family pushing me to not give up when I had a bad day. I knew it would be okay because I was going to see a victory for my battle belongs to the Lord," Idahlia concluded.



All Photos by Allan Jamail

Buck Sloan celebrates 95 years with Parade



**BIRTHDAY PARADE FOR
BUCK SLOAN SAT. MAY 31**

BUCK SLOAN WILL BE
96 YEARS ON JUNE 1,
2020.

Buck is a World War II hero having won many medals including the Purple Heart and the very prestigious French Foreign Legion Medal of Honor. Last year, at age 95, he went to Belgium for the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, which he fought in. In Belgium, he was honored at a United Nations Dinner and was on several other stages, including a radio program where he sang some of the many WWII songs he has written.

Last Memorial Day, Buck was invited to speak at several assemblies, a boy scout event, a senior luncheon in Pasadena and a celebration at a church. He donned his old uniform (yes, it still fits) and went off to enthrall all of the participants. After he spoke at each event, he sang one of his war songs. At the church, Buck was interviewed by a 10 year old WWII buff who asked amazing questions. Buck was delighted to meet this young man and answer his questions. Buck was also honored last June, at a golf tournament in Atascocita for veterans, where they

flew him in to the 1st tee in
a helicopter.

Buck also hosts a weekly country music show THE BUCKSHOT JAMBOREE, (which will reopen on May 30th, after the quarantine is lifted) where he plays the guitar, fiddle and almost any other instrument. This is a weekly show, Saturdays 6 – 9 pm, featuring local talent. We have 4-6 singers each week and along with the 4 band members, they do 4-5 old country or gospel songs. If you're lucky, you might even get to see Buck and his wife, Shirley, do a jitterbug! Buck is also a member of the Oklahoma Country Music Hall of Fame and the Bandera Hall of Fame and has played with many famous country music stars.

We will be having a parade for Buck on Sunday afternoon, May 31st. We will meet at the Jamboree, 7414 Hartman about 2:45 and leave there promptly at 3:00 p.m. to drive around the block to honk, yell, wave and smile and wish him a very happy 96th birthday.

For more information:
Emily Dennis
Emiden1845@aol.com
832-444-5000



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