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 goodbyes were exchanged.

Photos by Allan Jamail

By Allan Jamail & Kimberly Martin

Jacinto City, TX. Saturday, May 23, 2020 – For Jacinto City's officials hosting 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 normal.

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. The world as we knew it was quickly changed once it became known the highly contagious disease was being passed from 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 home.

See Graduates Parade, Page 6 and 8

SAFELY SEEING NEW AND EXISTING PATIENTS IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY

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

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

“Construction work or other work that involves being sick and putting food on your table,” Hidalgo said.

When it comes to manufacturing businesses, they are expected to provide 15 minute breaks at least every four hours. Another rule for manufacturing and construction workers is to cover their nose and mouth when they are talking.

As for public-facing workers, they must limit their occupancy to 25% of normal operating limits.

Rules for public-facing workers include up to one hour to take care of hygiene responsibilities. According to Hidalgo, manufacturing businesses and public-facing services companies should designate a safety monitor to oversee these guidelines.

“Hidalgo said, “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 signed the order confirming with the county’s health director, “We’re very much committed to starting aligned with the parameters he issues,” she said.

Hidalgo also stated that she does not want to send out proper social distancing.

“We have to remember, even though this is a long running disaster – unfortunatley, we’re all tired – the virus is still out there and it does spread from close contact,” she said.

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

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott announced Tuesday a new appointment system to begin reopening driver license offices.

The system, which has been in the works for several months, will take effect in all 19 Texas driver license offices. The appointment solution allows customers to book appointments for a specific date and time up to an entire month in advance.

According to the governor, customers will receive a confirmation email when it’s time to come inside to complete their transaction.

Limited Service Offerings

All DL offices begin their phased reopening, services will be limited to customers who currently do not possess a Texas DL, CDL, learner permit or ID card. These offices will provide limited services beginning May 29, 2020. Customers who currently do not possess a Texas DL, CDL, learner permit or ID card will need to schedule appointments for an ID card.

Phase 3: offices in DPS’ North and Southeast 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 will begin scheduling appointments for a Texas ID card.

Phase 4: will allow customers to schedule an appointment for all DL offices for a Texas ID card, learner permit or ID card (CDL), as well as those who are in need of a driver test, can begin scheduling appointments in these three regions.

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

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) offices will begin reopening driver license (DL) offices by appointment only and with limited services. The phased reopening 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 protocols.

When it comes to the virus, it is still out there and it does spread from close contact,” she said.

For more information and a look into the new appointment system, customers can visit dps.gov/appointments.

The appointment solution allows customers to book appointments for a specific date and time up to an entire month in advance. Customers will receive a confirmation email when it’s time to come inside to complete their transaction.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**HARRIS COUNTY & PCT. 2**

**Property Tax Relief via increased Homestead Exemption for seniors & disabled homeowners**

Plan goes into effect for next year’s 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 disability. The increased Exemption now applies to qualifying homeowners; those 65 years of age or older with homes valued up to $286,250.

The plan was passed by a vote of 5-0. It eliminates county property tax liability for owners of homes 65 years of age and older, as well as disabled homeowners, and disabled military veterans, with homestead valuations of $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 effect for next year’s tax bills.

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia said “Meaningful tax relief is coming to Harris County seniors and people living with disabilities. This population is particularly valuable during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this will help them. It shows the state of prioritization because of the approved appraisal in Harris County. We are 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 11, 2020) – With hospitals seeing shortages of personal protective equipment, LyondellBasell’s Channelview Complex once again up to the challenge to help those who help us all. The Channelview Complex donated more than 550 surplus protective overalls it had on hand to Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

The Complex donated these items last week. The protective overall overalls were surplus supplies allocated to 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 Baytown facility. The suits are also ideal for use in a healthcare setting.

“With healthcare workers being in short supply of PPE, we felt this donation would be a long way in helping protect those who are serving for the community,” 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 can be there for them. The Houston Methodist staff were appreciative of the gift.

“We are truly grateful for this donation of PPE,” said Laura Terry, administrative director of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. “We are beyond grateful for them and LyondellBasell who recognizes the challenges our industry is facing and step up to lend a hand.”


**North Channel Star Pick-Up Locations**

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North Channel Clinic, 25115 North Channel Dr.

Crawfish Shack, 21460 Market St.

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Dear Reader:
I am a 63-year-old retired male who has planned on waiting to collect Social Security benefits beginning at age 70 (I was born in 1954) and am currently 53 years old. When I die, would my wife’s Social Security benefit at her full retirement age be equal to what I would be receiving at age 70 or if I were to die before 70 and before collecting Social Security, what would be my wife’s survivor benefit at her full retirement age? Signed: Older Husband

Dear Older Husband:
Your wife’s survivor benefit at your full retirement age will depend upon two things – the amount you were earning (or were eligible for a SS benefit) at the time you died, and the age at which she claims her survivor benefit as a widow.

If you were earning an income equal to or greater than your full retirement age, she would be entitled to collect a survivor benefit. If you haven’t yet reached your full retirement age, she has the option of taking her survivor benefit at any age equal to or greater than your FRA, or if your own benefit at age 70 would be more than her survivor benefit from you, she could take the smaller survivor benefit first and delay taking the larger survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at her FRA. Or, if her own benefit at age 70 would be more than her survivor benefit from you, she could take the survivor benefit first and delay until it reaches maximum at age 70, and then take her own benefit at that time. The goal is for her to get the highest possible benefit for the rest of her life.

Finally, if you were to die before you reached your increased Social Security benefit at age 70, your wife would still have the same options, but her survivor benefit or benefit at that time would be based upon your and her own increased Social Security benefit. She is eligible to receive at any age, but even though you have not yet reached your 70th birthday, all of these decisions can be made at any time prior to your death provided that she claims them prior to her full retirement age 66 2/3.

The full list of guidelines, rules, and regulations is available at your local Social Security office, and you can also contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213.

At this time, I am writing to express my gratitude to the millions of workers who are now working to assist both essential workers and everyday Americans during this unprecedented time. If you continue your work, you are helping to keep us all safe and secure.

Sincerely,
Older Husband
BAYTOWN — (May 22, 2020) — Edwin “Ke” Shusser and with, Bonita, have celebrated their marriage aniversary but the Crosby couple are also celebrating a truly unique fashion.

With Edwin, 80, hospitalized in Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital for treatment of a non-COVID-19 related condition, the couple organized a ‘drive-by’ celebration for the couple’s 62nd anniversary. The nursing staff provided a cake, cake and signs and invited Bonita, “79, to visit to participate in the crowd gathering at Edwin’s patient room. They also organized for other people virtually on FaceTime and played the Shusser’s song, ‘George Strait’s All My Livin’ in Texas’ during the celebration.

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

Goose Creek CISD Selects Teachers of the Year

Elementary Teacher of the Year
Maribeth Canina (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 Loredo III, GCCISD board president; Blanca Capodeto, Highlands Elementary principal and Dr. Randall O’Brien, GCCISD superintendent.

Secondary Teacher of the Year
Jacinth “Jackie” Scales from Goose Creek Memorial High School (second from right) is congratulated for being named Goose Creek CISD’s Secondary Teacher of the Year by (from left) Agustin Loredo III, GCCISD board president; Susan Jackson, Goose Creek Memorial High School principal and Dr. Randall O’Brien, GCCISD superintendent.

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

Crosby couple celebrates 62nd anniversary at HMB

Bonita and Edwin Shusser

Married in Cleve Leaf in Chan- nelview for many years before moving to Crosby in 1996. Edwin retired from Pasadena’s Georgi Gulf facility in 2002. While Bonita is retired following a career with Armani. The couple have three children, Grant, Suzanne and Re- becca.

“She (Bonita) is the love of my life,” Edwin said. Bonita adds that the hospital staff provided a “wonderful and unique celebration” during the COVID-19 pandemic. Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has implemented a number of precautions to ensure patient and visitor safety during the cleaning and housekeeping practices, adhering to state and federal guidelines and offering remote check-ins.

“Everything has focused on protecting patients and making sure everything is clean. They have taken very good care of us and my family.”

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. In the book of Enocion in the Old or New Testament or another? a. Yes b. No c. New?
3. How did God make the world in six days, as all He created? a. He commanded it to be made b. He made it with His words c. He made it with His hands d. He made it by His power
5. 27,000 men were killed when what city’s walls fell on them? a. Jericho b. Sechem c. Aberdeen d. Zechariah e. Seth

ANSWER: 1. b, 2. a, 3. d, 4. b, 5. c

“2 Timothy 1:7”

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
ASK DIAMOND JIM

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

Just got off the phone with Bill. Sam’s fun. Both own a similar investment in silver coin. Sam is really mad at Bill. He thought his gold was in holding “and wanted to sell for a brief appreciation”. Bill has located to hold his investment so would demand 18% and Sam... and so silver went up to $40-50 in the short term. I told him to sell again, this time, don’t. We need to see how it goes and possibly even up. Let’s not get carried away, you know what I mean.

If you have questions pertaining to watches, diamonds, precious metals, gemstones, coins, precious metals, gemstones, or other items you feel are related to your personal or financial situation, please contact your financial advisor or subject matter expert.

Thank you for reading Diamond Jim’s column and continuing to support your North Channel Star Newspaper.

Diamond Jim is a pseudonym created by a former executive broker of NTR Metals. He’s never been rich and he never will be.

If you have questions pertaining to watches, diamonds, precious metals, gemstones, coins, precious metals, gemstones, or other items you feel are related to your personal or financial situation, please contact your financial advisor or subject matter expert.

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*HOUSTON CITY OF HOUSTON* 6,803 RECOVERED

*HOSPITAL BAYTOWN* 2,271,268 RECOVERED

*COVID-19*

*Texas*

16,957 POSITIVE 803 DEATHS 6,083 RECOVERED

*HOSPITAL BAYTOWN* 1,540 DEATHS 35,295 RECOVERED

*1,876,841 POSITIVE 98,787 DEATHS 375,137 RECOVERED*

By Lewis Spearman

**CROSBY** – On May 28 at about 11:00 a.m. Alicia 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 by her by Rotarian Wynn Ogren. It wasn’t the only raffle to be there that day, her son had ordered a new Chevy Taos. Mr. Adams says she had purchased four ticket to the good cause in total, from two Mr. Ogren and two from a Lady at Jacinto City Cafe.

According to Lowell Everett, “It was a surprise how successful the COVID-19 related raffle was after 2019’s pandemically produced digital lottery. Our customers, friends and family really bought into this raffle because it offered them a chance to have a new vehicle for a fraction of the cost of buying it.”

Graduates, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**Graduates**

Crosby High School graduate, Ana Hernandez was on the wave and shout congratulated and her family. It’s just a shame that it was over so fast that she was able to socialize a bit with fellow students. She considers this her senior prom and really enjoyed it. She’s looking forward to the senior prom but knows that it may have to be postponed due to the pandemic.

Lowell Everett hands the keys to a new Chevrolet Colorado to Alicia Adams, the Rotarian who sold her the ticket, Wynn Ogren stands nearby at Crosby Turner Chevrolet’s dealership.

**ASK THE EXPERT**

She still gets a standing ovation from her #1 fans! And that’s the news that says her future is brilliant.

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She still gets a standing ovation from her #1 fans! And that’s the news that says her future is brilliant.
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always walked into school NRG with my sister Acelia one thing I was excited take place, oh how sad. The main event and it couldn’t the time came for of the that each one of us put in work, sweat and dedication out the year. To see all the getting to see everyone’s up with as kids and then fellow peers that you grew across the stage with your girl and you watch it in the dreamt about it as a little of high school. I mean I posed to be the best year 2020. Senior year is sup-school year. It has been a months which then led to school which turned to ed off my missing weeks of ing not only toilet tissue everyone while they look ing for home orders. There were some sites and states that were shut down. A great sense of fear flew across we had to stop going not only toilet tissue out of stock but also as machine, cleaning supplies, water food...etc but once the parade started and I started seeing the crowd I started throwing rolls and the looks on their faces were priceless. The parade was a suc-cess! It was a once in a life-time opportunity. It was such an amazing feeling to see, proud parents and grandparents all walking and the accomplishments through-out the year. To see the hard work, sweat and dedication that each one of us put in for 12 years and then when the time came for the main event and it couldn’t take place at all. The feeling about was to walk into the NRG with my dear family. Since 1st grade we always walked into school together, I was always more nervous than her but I never showed it. And loving able to take that first step and now 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. I knew after COVID-19 struck it was like a panic mode turned on with the stay at home orders. There were some sites and states that were shut down. A great sense of fear flew across everyone while they were stopping not only toilet tissue out of stock but also as machine, cleaning supplies, water food...etc but once the parade started and I started seeing the crowd I started throwing rolls and the looks on their faces were priceless. The parade was a suc-cess! It was a once in a life-time opportunity. Even though it was not how I expected to graduate, I was truly happy of all the accomplishments I took the time to get here. Also with the great support of my family putting me to not give up when I had a bad day! I know it would be a victory for my bat-tie belongs to the Lord,” Idahlia concluded.

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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 States Dinner and the parade started and I started seeing the crowd I started throwing rolls and the looks on their faces were priceless. The parade was a suc-cess! It was a once in a life-time opportunity. Even though it was not how I expected to graduate, I was truly happy of all the accomplishments I took the time to get here. Also with the great support of my family putting me to not give up when I had a bad day! I knew it would be a victory for my bat-tie belongs to the Lord,” Idahlia concluded.

Buck Sloan celebrates 95 years with Parade

State Representative Ana Hernandez and Victor Trevino III waving to graduating seniors. (yes, it still fits) and went on to enthrall all of the music stars. Buck was invited to speak at several assemblies, a boy scout event, a senior luncheon in Pasadena and a celebration at a church. At the church, Buck was honored at a United States 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. At the church, Buck was honored at a United States Dinner and was on several other stages, including a radio program where he sang some of the many WWII songs he has written.

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