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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.

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 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. Schools and students lives were changed once it became known the highly contagious decease 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

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.

ship.
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.

SAFELY SEEING NEW AND EXISTING PATIENTS IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Driver License offices to reopen by

additional safety measures enacted

appointment only with limited services,

Harris County Judge extends stay-athome order to June 10

and public-facing services companies should desig-

nate a safety monitor to

oversee these guidelines.

one should have to decide on being sick and putting food on your table," Hidal-

go said.

"In Harris County, no

During the press confer-

order conforms with Gov. Greg Abbott's order, "I'm

staying aligned with the

Hidalgo also stated that

she does not want to send the wrong message to the

community and that the virus can still spread with-

out proper social distanc-

"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.

begin operations with lim-

ited occupancy or regula-

tions to protect the health

29th, water parks can open

but must limit their occu-

pancy to 25% of normal op-

Components of these water

See Phase II Opening,

Beginning Friday, May

limits.

and safety of Texans.

erating

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

"No construction worker should appear at work sick because they fear re-taliation," Hidalgo said. "No restaurant worker should work without a face covering."
When it comes to man-

ufacturing and construc-tion 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

AUSTIN - Governor

Greg Abbott today issued

a proclamation expanding

additional services and ac-

tivities that can open un-

der Phase II of the state's

plan to safely and strate-

gically open. With this

proclamation, water parks,

recreational sport pro-

grams for adults, driver

education programs, and

food-court dining areas

within shopping malls can

Governor Abbott

announces additional

services and activities that

can open under Phase II

Public Safety (DPS) will begin reopening driver license (DL) offices by appointment only and with limited services. The reopening of DL offices ence, Hidalgo assured the will happen in a phased approach, in order to allow DPS to keep very much committed to customers and our staff $_{\text{\tiny J-H_{S}}}$ angled with the parameters he issues," she said. as safe as possible, while also adhering to new safety guidelines and

AUSTIN – On Tuesday, May 26, at the direction

of Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Department of

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

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 re-

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 Tex-as 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 appoint-ments 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 appoint-ments 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 be-come available throughout the phased reopening plan. customers will be able to book appointments through DPS' website www.dps.gov/DriverLi-

Phased Reopening Plan Phase 1

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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 gettogether. 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 home-owners 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. Qualify-ing 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

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 pock ets of hardworking fami-lies."

Luis F. Garcia, CPA Attorney at Law 13364 Woodforest Blvd Houston, TX 77015 713-999-8006

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> > Kathy Seydler, Office Manager

LyondellBasell Channelview site donates protective equipment to Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital



The first week fo 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 Method-

ist 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 work-

ers 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 ap-

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

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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

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Pine Trails Community, Woodbend Dr

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, $\operatorname{Mercury}\operatorname{Dr}$ 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 Exxon King Fuel, Clinton Dr Galena Park Medical Clinic, Clinton Dr

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

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PAGE OPINION



Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

Ask Rusty – What will my Wife's Survivor Benefit Be?

Dear Rusty: I am a 68-year-old retired male and had planned on waiting to collect Social Security benefits beginning at age 70. My wife is currently 53 years old. When I die, would my wife's spousal benefit at her full retirement age be equal to what I would be receiving at age 70 or be reduced? Also, 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 as your widow will depend upon two things - the amount you were receiving (or were eligible to receive) at your death, and the age at which she claims her survivor benefit as

If you were receiving

an increased benefit because you waited until age 70, your wife's benefit - if she has reached her full retirement age - will be 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death. If she hasn't vet reached her full retirement age when she claims her survivor benefit (she could claim as early as age 60) the benefit will be actuarially reduced according to the number of months prior to her full retirement age (FRA) that she claims it. The amount of reduction for claiming her survivor benefit before her FRA is 0.396% for each full month earlier, which is 4.75% per year earlier than her FRA, to a maximum of 28.5%. And for clarity, your wife isn't required to take the survivor benefit immediately upon your death; she can wait until the benefit reaches 100% at her full retirement age, if desired and if financially feasible.

If your wife is also eligible for a SS benefit

and you die before she reaches her FRA, she will have the choice to take either her own Social Security benefit or her survivor benefit from you. If her survivor benefit will be her highest possible benefit, she would have the option to take her own SS retirement benefit from her own work record 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 smaller survivor benefit first and delay taking her own SS benefit until it reaches maximum at age 70 and switch to her own benefit at that time. The goal is for her to get the highest possible benefit for the rest of her life.

on her own work record

Finally, if you were to die before you started collecting your increased Social Security benefit at age 70, your wife would still have the same options, but her survivor benefit amount would be based upon the amount you were eligible to receive at your death, even though you were not yet collecting. In other words, all those delaved retirement credits (DRCs) you are now earning (and will continue to earn until you are 70) will not be lost – the benefit you have earned up to the point you die will be what your wife's survivor benefit is based upon.

This article is intended for information purposes only and $does\ not\ represent\ legal$ or financial guidance. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/ programs/socialsecurity-advisory) or email us at



State of Texas enters second phase of reopening plan

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on May 18 allowed restaurants to increase occupancy to 50% and relaxed his earlier executive orders that limited certain other public activities over the last two months to reduce the spread of COVID

Reopenings, Abbott said, must adhere to restricted occupancy levels and minimum standard health protocols laid out by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Notably, public schools have the option to provide in-person summer school so long as they follow social distancing practices and health protocols laid out by the state health department. Classes may begin as soon as June 1.

"I ask all Texans to continue heeding the guidance of our state and federal medical experts and do their part to protect public health. If we all unite in our resolve, we will overcome this challenge," Abbott said.

The full list of guide-lines, openings and relevant dates is available at gov.texas.gov/opentexas.

Certain counties where there are surges in COV-ID-19 cases will have their beginning date of Phase II delayed until May 29. Those Amarillo-area counties where a spike in cases has been confirmed in-clude El Paso, Randall, Potter, Moore and Deaf Smith. Governor's Surge Response Teams are at work in those Panhandle counties to increase test-ing, maintain hospital capacity and ensure that COVID-19 is contained and mitigated.

Cumulative figures posted on May 21 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed that some 52,268 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 1 440 deaths resulting from virus pandemic had been

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

Budget cuts ordered Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov.

Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen on May 20 sent a letter to state agencies and institutions of higher education directing each of them to submit a plan identifying savings to reduce general revenue-related appropriations by 5% for the 2020-2021 two-year budget

cycle.

The three highest-ranking state officials urge agencies and institutions of higher education to pursue cost-saving strategies that will not affect the state's response to COVID-19, such as forgoing capital expenditures that can be deferred, avoidable travel expenditures and administrative expenses that are not mission criti-cal, and keeping unfilled any open positions that are not essential to Texas' COVID-19 response. According to the letter,

certain agencies and activities are exempted from the directive "given the importance of the state's response to COVID-19 and the continuity of critical government functions."

TSTA:

It's too early
The Texas State Teachers Association, in a May 20 news release, said June 1 is too early to reopen school buildings for sum-mer school classes and demanded that the state and local school districts agree to enforce a detailed list of safety requirements for school campuses before reopening buildings to stu-dents and school dents

pandemic continuing to of their costs.

rage across Texas, the health and safety of stu-dents, educators and our communities need to remain our first priority," said TSTA President Noel Candelaria. "The pandemic has struck in the vast majority of Texas' 254 counties and more than 1,200 new cases were reported yesterday. Fourteen people died of COVID_19 in Dallas County alone, a

daily high for Dallas." Candelaria said TSTA is demanding adequate supplies of protective gear for everyone in every school workplace, steps that must be taken to enforce social distancing and sanitation practices and strong enforcement. "Half hearted enforcement will endanger students and educators and our members will not stand for it on their campuses," said Candelaria.

Child care

funding is cut
The Texas Workforce
Commission on May 19 announced the phase-out of a \$200 million emergency program to subsidize child care for Texas' essential workers.

Subsidies were put in place to assist both essential workers and child care centers during limited enrollment. With Texas re-opening, essential workers who are already on the subsidized plan will continue to receive child care for the three-month period they were initially approved for under the pro-

Effective June 1, the Texas Workforce Commisgs to stu-school guirement for parents receiving financial assis-With the COVID-19 tance to pay for a portion



"Biscuits and Gravy"

All of a sudden, there are painted rocks along my path

This has been going on for a while, I guess, but I never saw them in my neighborhood. Now, however, someone has more time on their hands, or a desire to reach out, or has lost their mind in isolationwhatever the reason-and little painted stones are appearing everywhere.

When I saw the first one, I didn't think much of it. I think it was a Star Trek logo (I won't swear to that). It was black and gold and looked kind of space age. Then I saw a rainbow Then it registered. "Oh. Someone is leaving painted rocks!"

Then I saw a watermelon and several flowers and a few inspirational savings. When I got home, I googled it. Yup. People were painting rocks. It's a thing

One website reminded rock painters, "this activity is about gifting and not expecting to find a rock or get recognition when yours is found."

I like that. You paint a rock, you never know what it will do how many people will see it, where it will end up. Once it's out of your hands, it has a life of its own.

Right now, there is someone out there who painted a small, rectangular rock with flowers in two shades of blue and a bright green center. It's a very nice rock. I should know. I put it in my pocket, took it home, and I'm looking at it (and writing about it) right now. I'm guessing the person who painted it did not expect there would be a newspaper column written about it and that's exactly why I like the idea so much.



Because I never know how what I do or say will affect another person. Social media has made it a lot easier to have a lot bigger effect on a lot more people in a lot less time. This is frequently not a good thing.

Yesterday, this was brought home to me when I made a less-than-complimentary comment about someone's photo of biscuits and gravy

I immediately regretted it. In no time flat, there was a spirited discussion about the merits of biscuits and gravy going on that I never intended I did not want to be the Great Enemy of Biscuits and Gravy. didn't want to go to battle against all the Biscuit and Gravy Champions. I stood zero chance of ever persuading anyone that biscuits and gravy might not be the Very Best Thing in the Whole World and probably, as a result of my thoughtless comment, half a dozen folks were cooking up biscuits and gravy that night because they'd forgotten how much they liked them.

(Can we at least admit that biscuits and gravy are not the most photogenic food? Okav. never mind.)

So now I'm thinking, instead of trying to set anyone straight on biscuits and gravy ever again, I'm going to try to leave the equivalent of a painted rock. I try to say "hello" when I meet someone. I always compliment everyone's dog because I figure no one can be told too many times they have a beautiful dog. (And, for the record, all dogs are beautiful.)

I try to leave behind something positive and try not to worry where my painted rock ends up. I'm going to hope that someone will find it-like I found this one-and think. "Wow! I really like two shades of blue with a bright green center!'

And I'm keeping my opinion on biscuits and gravy to myself. Till next time,

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





PAGE LIFESTYLE

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 Dy-lan 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. Graveside service will follow at Sterling-White Cemetery, 11011 Crosby Lynchburg Rd, Highlands, TX 77562.

In lieu of flowers, dona-tions 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 anniver-saries, but the Crosby couple's latest marriage milestone was observed in a truly unique fashion. With Edwin, 80, hospi-

talized at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital for treatment of a non-COV-ID-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 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 every-thing together."



Bonita and Edwin Slusser

the Slussers lived in Channel View for many years facility in 2002, while Bobefore moving to Crosby in nita is retired following a

Married in Clover Leaf, 1996. Edwin retired from Pasadena's Georgia Gulf facility in 2002, while Bocareer with Aramco. The couple have three children, Grant, Suzanne and Ka-

lynne.
"She (Bonita) is the love

of my life," Edwin said. Edwin adds that the hospital staff provided ex-cellent 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 pa-tients, 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 fo-

cused on protecting pa-tients 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 Loredo III, GCCISD board president; Blanca Capetillo, Highlands Elementary principal and Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD superintendent.



BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ezekiel in the Old or New Testament or

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? echem, 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

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 Loredo 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. Our promise to you is to always provide excellent

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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

16,957 POSITIVE 413 DEATHS 6,803 RECOVERED

TEXAS

57,014 POSITIVE 1,540 DEATHS 35,292 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

1,676,401 POSITIVE 98,787 DEATHS 379,157 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

5,555,691 POSITIVE 348,541 DEATHS 2,271,268 RECOVERED

COVID-19 RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON

832-393-4220

HARRIS COUNTY

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713-439-6000 PRE-SCREENING

HARRIS COUNTY 832-927-7575 readyharris.org

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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-feet 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.

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

ty 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



Idahlia 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 Avala's police department had to provide traffic control and was assisted by a large turnout of Precinct 2 deputies along with Con-stable Chris Diaz (Mayor Diaz's husband). Graduates of Furr High School ioined 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 mem bers of the city council and wave and shout congratulations 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 se-

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

Continued on Page 8

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

dollars to purchase it. Here is the short explanation I used.

our new cheapened

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

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 DOL-LARS TO PURCHASE THE SAME COMMOD ITIES TODAY AND TOMORROW THAT YOU COULD PUR-CHASE 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 con-vinced 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

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

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Proposal forms may be found on the Barbers Hill ISD website. Questions on accessing the RFP may be directed to Kim Kunk at 281-576-2221.

Sealed proposals are to be returned to the BHISD Administration Building on or before 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with proposers as deemed advisable or necessary.

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Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

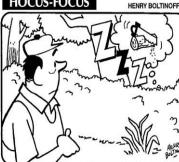


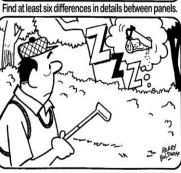
that each row across, each column down and numbers from one to nine

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY! © 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS





Differences: 1. Tree is added. 2. Hat is different. 3. Plant is missing. 4. Club is added. 5. Vest is different. 6. Nose is rounder.

clowns; 9. Lucille; 10. Tennessee (Memphis) 5. "Kramer vs. Kramer"; 6. Panther; 7. Seafood; 8. A fear of

1. Peeling skin; 2. Lurch, the butler; 3. 28; 4. Barcelona, Spain; Trivia Test Answerst

by Dave T. Phipps

King Crossword ACROSS Dallas cager,



8 Poolroom

supply

9 A Gershwin

brother

16 Insurance

20 Tussaud's

cern

24 Otherwise

medium

fraud factor

Posting Date May 25, 2020

opponent 52 Singer 31 Check 32 Calendar pgs. DiFranco 33 Pageant win- 53 "Little ner's address Women' woman

briefly

supply

12 Expert

17 Tardy

tool

26 Pitch 29 Irritate

34 Scepter top-54 Agrees silently 11 The girl 55 Banned bug 35 Fido's foot 36 Insertion mark

37 Ran 39 Scull tool 40 Mentalist Geller 41 Eaves dropper?

45 Deserve 48 Played in water

50 United nations

6 4 2 1 9 8 5 7 3 3 1 2 6 4 2 8 8 8

9 7 1 7 9 8 6 8 4

2 8 9 4 7 6 1 8 2

1 6 7 3 5 4 9 1

2 2 4 8 1 6 3 5 7

7 9 2 6 8 9 2 4 1

9 1 2 8 9 7 8 6 7

6 8 8 1 7 4 9 9 7

Answer

Solution time: 27 mins.

ANSWRTS

— King Crossword —

Meekiy Sudoku

3 Couturier Wang 4 Give

5 - alcohol

killer

1 Numbers

course

2 Liniment tar-

DOWN

25 Mi. or km aet (on) 27 Juno's counterpart

6 Compass pt. 28 Barbecue 51 Twistable treat 7 He loved Aida entree

29 Promise

capital 33 Breaker of 10 Performance Ruth's record 35 Apiece

32 Midwestern

36 Chocolate sources 38 Intuitive feel-

23 Barber's con- 39 Lubricated 42 African nation 43 Give tempo-

rarily 26 Walked hard 44 Fix manuscripts

45 Recede 46 Heady quaff 47 Deteriorate

49 Paid athlete

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by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANATOMY: What is a more common name for the medical condition called desquamation? 2. TELEVISION: Who uttered the catchphrase "you rang?" in the sitcom "The Addams Fami-

3. GAMES: How many dominoes are in a standard set?

4. GEOGRAPHY: In which city is the Basilica de la Sagrada Familia located? 5. MOVIES: Actress Meryl Streep won her first

Academy Award for which movie? 6. LITERATURE: What kind of creature was Bagheera in "The Jungle Book"?

7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the primary ingredient of bouillabaisse, a type of stew?

8. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition called coulrophobia?

9. MUSIC: What is the name of blues guitarist B.B. King's Gibson guitar?

10. U.S. STATES: In which state is Elvis Presley's estate (Graceland) located? © 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.



Graduates Parade,

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 achieve ment. She was thankful for getting to participate and to be able to congratulate

FROM THE EYES OF A GRADUATE:

Idahlia Garza, a Jacinto City resident and Galena 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. Leav-ing 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 life-time 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





State Representative Ana Hernandez and Victor Trevino III waving to graduating seniors.

tears. I was so overwhelmed with the amount of support from the com-munity. 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.



Drive by – wave by parade in Jacinto City with hundreds of parade vehicles circling the city with police sirens wailing and citizens waving along the 3 miles parade route.



Galena Park High School Principal Kimberly Martin provided the parade route decorations

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

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

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

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