

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 8, NO. 25 (#330) THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

- City of Houston Pre-Screening 832-393-4220
- Harris County Ask a Nurse 713-634-1110
- Harris County Pre-Screening 832-927-7575 or readyharris.org
- Methodist Hospital Download mymethodist app.

William C. Palko Scholarship Fundraiser

The North Channel Area Chamber Foundation is having a casino night fundraiser on Friday, August 14th. Foundation Chairman, Bill Palko, would like you to join him and support the William C. Palko Scholarship fundraiser. Come for a great evening of fun, music, Vegas style gambling and a chance at great prizes from 7-11pm on Friday, August 14th at the Jacinto City Town Center. Corporate Sponsorships are available for \$650 and individual tickets are \$75. A corporate sponsorship includes food and drinks for eight people plus \$40,000 in funny money. An individual ticket includes food, drinks and \$5,000 in funny money.

There will be food, drinks, prizes, music and dancing. Extra measures will be in place to insure the safety of everyone's health and well being, such as more tables with less chairs and spaced apart throughout the room. There will be also hand sanitizer at each table. All food will be wrapped for individual consumption.

All proceeds go to the William C. Palko Scholarship. For more information call 713-450-3600.

Buckshot Jamboree music theater open

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

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.

County mandates masks; Governor refuses statewide order

As hospital admissions for COVID-19 continue to climb across the county, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo signed an order requiring businesses to generate, post, and implement health and safety policies which include, at a minimum, a requirement that workers, customers or visitors wear face coverings. The order took effect on Monday, June 22, 2020 and runs until Tuesday, June 30, 2020.

The order directs all commercial entities providing goods or services to require that all employees or visitors to a business premise wear face coverings in areas that involve any proximity to co-workers or the public. Face coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. Commercial entities must post the health and safety policy in a conspicuous location sufficient to provide notice to employ-



Judge Hidalgo wearing a mask. Harris County and Houston have issued orders requiring masks for businesses, employees and customers. Violating Businesses are subject to \$1000 fines.



Governor Abbott wears a face mask on Tuesday at a press conference, where he urged voluntary wearing of masks and social distancing, but refused to issue an order making them mandatory.

ees and visitors of all health and safety requirements.

"There's no magic wand government can wave to make this virus go away, but we can take steps to ensure that we provide our community with the guidance and tools it needs to fight back," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "This isn't just

See Mask Mandate, Page 6

LyondellBasell donates \$25,000 to Precinct2gether to help fight hunger in the Channelview and Northshore area

Houston, June 15, 2020 – Four Houston-area LyondellBasell (NYSE: LYB) sites have teamed up with Harris County Precinct 2 to fight hunger among vulnerable groups and promote early literacy. LyondellBasell's Channelview, La Porte and Bayport manufacturing sites and its Houston Refinery donated a combined \$25,000 to Precinct2gether.

The donation supports

Precinct2gether's COVID-19 Meal Distribution Expansion program and Read2gether, an affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library that sends free books to preschoolers to help prepare them for kindergarten.

"My office has worked tirelessly to lessen the impact of this pandemic through our extensive food and education programs which are funded through our non-profit -

Precinct2gether," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "I am grateful to LyondellBasell for their generous donation, which will enable us to sustain in part our food distribution program that is providing approximately three tons of food every week to Precinct 2 residents.

LyondellBasell recog-

See Fighting Hunger, Page 8

Early voting in Run-off starts June 29

HARRIS COUNTY – Voters are being asked to return to the polls on July 14, or earlier if voting in an Early Voting location or by mail.

Run-offs are scheduled on the Democratic ticket for US Senator, between Mary MJ Hegar and Royce West, and US Representative in District 10, Mike Siegel vs. Pritesh Gandhi.

For Railroad Commissioner, Roberto Alonzo is opposed by Christa Castaneda; for State Board of Education, Michelle Palmer vs. Kimberly McLeod.

Of major interest in this area are Democratic State Representatives, County Commissioners, and Constables.

In District 138, Akilah Bacy is opposed by Jennifer Rene Pool. In District 142, Harold Dutton Jr. is running against Jerry Davis. In District 148 Anna Eastman vs. Penny Morales Shaw.

For County Commissioner, Precinct 3, Michael Moore is running against Diana Martinez Alexander.

See Early Voting, P. 8

North Shore Football opens Aug. 29 vs. De La Salle

NORTH SHORE – Current plans are for the Mustangs to open the football season with a first, a game against a nationally recognized top team. The game will take place on Saturday, August 29 at Galena Park ISD field, unless the pandemic forces a change in the schedule or venue.

The game between two national Powerhouse teams would be telecast on ESPN network. The two teams have won 10 state championships, 6 for De La Salle in California, and 4 for North Shore.

The game would be part of a double-header, which would include Shadow Creek vs. Philadelphia's St. Joseph Prep.

Coach Jon Kay told the



North Channel Star, at a recent appearance at North Shore Rotary, the significance of this match-up is national attention to the North Shore team, and the increased possibility that the team's players would be recruited by the

NFL scouts.

If the California team is unable to make the trip to Houston, due to restrictions from the virus concerns, then the opening game would see North Shore play Shadow Creek at the GPISD stadium.

Shadow Creek is the Texas UIL Class 5A Division I State Champion in 2019. This year they moved to a 6A status.

St. Joe won the Pennsylvania IAA 6A title last year, and De La Salle is ranked 12th in the nation in MaxPrep's ratings.

De La Salle has won six state championships under coach Bob Ladouceur. They went 12 years without losing a game, winning 151 straight, which was memorialized in a movie, "When the Game Stands Tall."

Coach Kay said of the De La Salle team, "We were looking for a quality opponent to play and we certainly got that."

"They've got a national program for good reason,



COACH JON KAY

and the success that they've had there speaks for itself. It'll be a good opportunity for us to play a new opponent."

And to get some well-deserved national attention, according to his talk at Rotary.

San Jacinto River Coalition

Virtual Meetings keeping public informed

By Gilbert Hoffman
North Channel Star

The San Jacinto River Coalition normally meets every month on the first Tuesday, at a local community center. But since the Covid-19 lockdown mandated by Harris County, the community centers have been closed. To keep the community informed, SJRC/THEA director Jackie Young has been hold virtual reports that are available on the TxHEA.com website.

In her May Report, she discussed the importance of the I-10 bridge and roadway to commerce locally and throughout the nation. She said that TxDOT is planning on replacing the bumper structures that protect the columns sup-



Jackie Young Medcalf

porting the bridge. These columns were severely damaged twice last year by barge strikes. She said that TxDOT is planning a public meeting in the fall to inform the public and receive comments on the project.

In regard to the waste

pits, EPA is testing the crushed concrete and blocks that are part of the Cap cover. The idea is that they might be re-used as landfill after the toxic waste is removed, but only if they have no toxicity. As part of the study, they are also checking the quality of the groundwater, to know how to treat it during remediation.

The next step in remediation is for the engineers to present the 30% Design Package to the EPA for review and approval. At some point this will be made public, and THEA can review it to check what direction the process will be headed.

Jackie raised the question of the Sand Separation area, which has in general has not been part

of the remediation study. She said it has lower concentrations of dioxins, but need to be addressed as to how it will be remediated, too. She said that only 9 samples were taken in the area, and that more might be needed for a proper assessment.

Jackie emphasized that full remediation and removal of toxic wastes is essential, so that the river is "safe, for recreational or residential use, not just industrial use."

In the June Report, Jackie noted that weather authorities are expecting an active hurricane season, therefore threatening the waste pits with flooding and realignment of the riverbed.

The toxic waste was originally thought to be 12-14 feet deep, but recent

studies and probes indicate it might be as deep as 24-25 feet. The could seriously affect the cost and time for remediation, extending it from 2 years to 4 years, according to the EPA. This deeper removal will also require a design for the cofferdams that will take into account the hydrostatic pressure differences, wave action, and increased risk to the remediation workers. The goal is to remove all waste material until what is left is contaminated to less than 30 parts per trillion.

The Coast Guard originally was restricting barge traffic to daylight hours, due to the threat to the I-10 bridge, but that has now been modified to allow night traffic of one vessel under the bridge at a time.

COVID-19 is quickly spreading in our community - get tested now

New HCPH Mobile Locations Offer Free Testing June 22-27

Houston – Harris County COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths are continuing to increase. You can have the virus without having symptoms, but still infect others. This disease is very contagious so don't take any chances with your health or your family's. Get tested now. It's free and only takes a few minutes at any of Harris County Public Health's 6 drive through testing sites. Four sites change locations weekly to provide easy access to a variety of Harris County neighborhoods.

Sign up online at www.hcphtx.org, take the self-assessment and drive to the test site. Or call 832-

927-7575. To get tested the next day, call or register online after 2:00 p.m. Results are available in 3-5 business days. You must take the self-assessment to get an authorization code for a testing site.

Two stationary sites are in CyFair at the Ken Pridgen Stadium, 11355 Falcon Rd, Houston, TX 77065 and Pasadena, on the San Jacinto College Central Campus, 8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505. Stationary sites are open 6 days, Monday-Saturday. Mobile sites are open Monday-Saturday but closed one weekday.

Mobile locations for the week of June 22-27, Monday-Saturday are:

- Lone Star College – North Harris Campus 2700 Thorne Dr, Houston, TX 77073
Closed Tuesday, June 23
- Bay Area Community Center 5002 E NASA Pkwy, Seabrook, TX 77586
Closed Wednesday, June 24
- Hayes Elementary School 21203 Park Timbers Ln, Katy, TX 77450
Closed Thursday, June 25
- Lone Star College Tomball 700 Graham Dr, Tomball, TX 77375

Houston sets free COVID-19 testing schedule for week of June 22

HOUSTON - The Houston Health Department and its agency partners are announcing the schedule for sites offering free COVID-19 tests the week of June 22, 2020.

Texas Division of Emergency Management

The Texas Division of Emergency Management and the department will open five drive-thru test sites June 22-27:

- Willow Ridge High School, 16301 Chimney Rock Rd.,
- NRG Green Lot, 1 Reliant Park,
- HCC-Northeast Campus, 555 Community College Dr.
- HCC – South Campus, 1990 Airport Blvd., and
- Kingwood Park Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Dr.

TDEM sites require appointments, available by calling 512-883-2400 or visiting txcovidtest.org. The sites will open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

United Memorial Medical Center

United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC) will continue its weekday testing at a drive-thru and walk-up test site at the Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star, and a drive-thru site at Houston Community College-Southeast, 6815 Rustic.

The sites don't require appointments and offer testing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until reaching its daily capacity of 250 tests.

Other UMMC sites opening weekdays are:

- UMMC Tidwell, 510 W Tidwell Rd., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 - Forest Brook Middle School, 7525 Tidwell Rd, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 - Cullen Middle School, 6900 Scott St., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and
 - Griggs School, 801 Regional Park Dr., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- People needing information about UMMC test sites can call 1-866-333-COVID or visit ummcscrining.com.

Kroger

Kroger will offer testing at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center, 4014 Market Street, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 25-27. Appointments are available online at krogerhealth.com/covidtesting.

Houston Health Department & Community-Based Sites

The department operates two free drive-thru COVID-19 community-based testing sites open to anyone, regardless of symptoms. Each site has capacity for 500 tests per day.

Days of operation for the sites are Monday through Saturday.

People can call the department's COVID-19 Call Center at 832-393-4220 between 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive an access code and directions to the nearest community-based site.

Federally Qualified Health Centers

The health department is providing test kits, lab access and equipment to four local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) so they can expand their COVID-19 testing capacity. The centers and phone numbers people can call to set up testing appointments are:

- Spring Branch Community Health Center, 713-462-6565
- El Centro de Corazon, 713-660-1880
- Avenue 360 Health and Wellness, 713-426-0027

- Lone Star Circle of Care at the University of Houston, 346-348-1200, and

- Community Health Network, 281-816-3317.

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

The department and its agency partners may shift locations and schedules of test sites to better meet community needs. Houstonians can visit HoustonEmergency.org/covid19 for current Houston test sites and information about stopping the spread of the virus.

Information obtained through testing, treatment or services will not be used against immigrants in their public charge evaluation.

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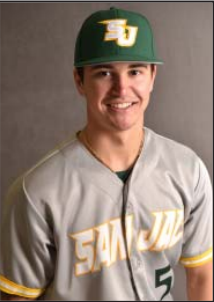
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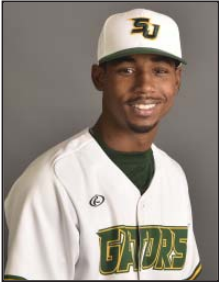
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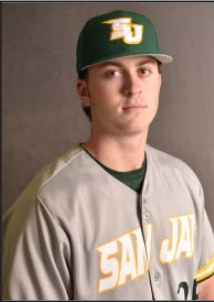
5 San Jacinto College players selected in 2020 MLB Draft



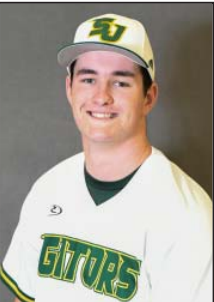
Adisyn Coffey



Alerick Soularie



Dane Acker



Luke Little



Mitchel Parker

HOUSTON, Texas — Five current and former San Jacinto College baseball players were selected in the 2020 Major League Baseball (MLB) First-Year Player Draft on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

Coming off a season interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, San Jac was 21-6 (.778) overall and 12-0 (1.000) in conference play by March 16, when the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) suspended all remaining athletic activity for the season due to the pandemic.

“The 2020 MLB Draft has proven to be another example of San Jacinto College’s commitment to consistently producing high-profile players into professional baseball,” said San Jac Baseball Head Coach Tom Arrington. “It’s

a reflection of our dominance in junior college baseball in player development. I am extremely proud and would like to congratulate our draftees, I wish them the best of luck and continued success in their professional baseball careers.”

Sophomore pitcher Luke Little (Matthews, NC/East Mecklenburg HS) was selected with pick 117 in the fourth round by the Chicago Cubs. The 6’8” left-handed pitcher had social media buzzing earlier this year as a viral video showed him hitting 105 MPH in a bullpen session. Little had 3 saves on the shortened season with a 2.0 ERA.

The reigning world champion Washington Nationals drafted Sophomore pitcher Mitchell Parker with pick 153 in the fifth

round, just a year after drafting San Jac teammate Jackson Rutledge in the first round of 2019. The lefty from Albuquerque, New Mexico (Manzano HS) finished the truncated season with a 1.19 ERA and 64 strikeouts in 30 innings pitched.

Former San Jac Gator Alerick Soularie (University of Tennessee) was selected in the second round with the 59th pick by the Minnesota Twins. Soularie was a right fielder for San Jac in 2018.

In the third round, The Chicago White Sox selected former San Jac pitcher Adisyn Coffey (Delta HS/ Arizona State/Wabash Valley College) with the 82nd pick.

With pick 127 of the fourth round, the Oakland Athletics selected RHP Dane Acker (Brenham HS/ Rice University), who pitched for San Jac in 2019.

Also garnering interest during the MLB Draft, San Jac RHP Brandon Birdsell declined several opportunities to be drafted, instead deciding to attend Texas Tech University as a draft-eligible sophomore in 2021 due to COVID-19 eligibility legislation.

For more information about San Jacinto College athletics, visit sanjacsports.com.

Channelview ISD Leader Honored as Principal of the Year Finalist

June 11, 2020--Anthony Aguirre Junior High Principal Eric Lathan was honored as a finalist for Middle School Principal of the Year for the 2019-2020 academic year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP).

TASSP is an association that consists of an estimated 5,600 secondary school administrators dedicated to helping students and overcoming the challenges in education.

“I know that my leadership is only as good as those people who have been there to guide me with their exceptional leadership and who thankfully possessed the foresight and motivation to provide an outstanding education for everyone under their tutelage,” said Principal Lathan.



Principal Eric Lathan

Lathan has been an educator for 24 years, including principal for seven. He credits his success as a

leader to his ability to think outside the box, and coming up with new innovative ways to educate. He pursued a career in education to help ensure students have the opportunity to be productive and autonomous citizens.

“We are incredibly proud of Mr. Lathan’s accomplishments,” said Dr. Don Beck, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education. “We are fortunate to have him leading one of our campuses and know he is making an important impact in education.”

Lathan was honored during the annual Jostens Night of the Stars in June. This year the event was hosted virtually due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

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Two COVID-19 deaths in Chambers County

Chambers County reports its first two COVID-19 related deaths.

The first decedent was a male, aged 70 to 80-years-old. The second decedent was a female, aged 40 to 50-years-old. Both had underlying health conditions.

In order to protect patient privacy, Chambers County Public Health is unable to release any additional information.

“We are deeply saddened to report this news and we offer our deepest heartfelt condolences to the families of these patients during this difficult time,” said Chambers

County Judge Jimmy Sylvia.

These deaths come after climbing numbers of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Chambers County.

“We continue to see an exponential increase in case counts in Chambers County and throughout the Region,” said Local Health Authority W. Clay Brown, MD.

“We continue case investigations on all of the positive cases in Chambers County and perform contact tracing to determine the level of possible exposure to others. This is an

important step in containing the spread of COVID-19 in our county,” added Mary Beth Bess, Director of Chambers County Health Services. “Those who have been given home isolation or quarantine instructions by Public Health due to a positive test or direct exposure to a positive case should abide by them. This protects your family, neighbors and coworkers by not potentially spreading disease in the community.”

See Covid Deaths, page 5

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JUNE 25, 2020

NORTH CHANNEL STAR
PICK-UP LOCATIONS

NORTH SHORE

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

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 Ctr, Keene St
Middleton Super Market, Clinton Dr
Exxon King Fuel, Clinton Dr
Galena Park Medical Clinic, Clinton Dr

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REV 01/2020



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – SSDI Denied; Will Claiming Early Hurt Spouse or Survivor Benefits?

Dear Rusty: I applied for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and was denied. So, because I turn 62 this month, I plan to file for my early SS retirement benefits. Since I've not worked a lot due to health issues I won't get much and I realize my benefit will be reduced by about 30% from my full retirement age amount, but we need the extra income to help with my medical bills. My husband is 57 and still works. Social Security will be our only retirement so he will be working for as long as he can. My question is, how will my early retirement affect any spousal benefits I might qualify for in the future? Or my widow's benefits if he should die before I do? Signed: Worried Spouse

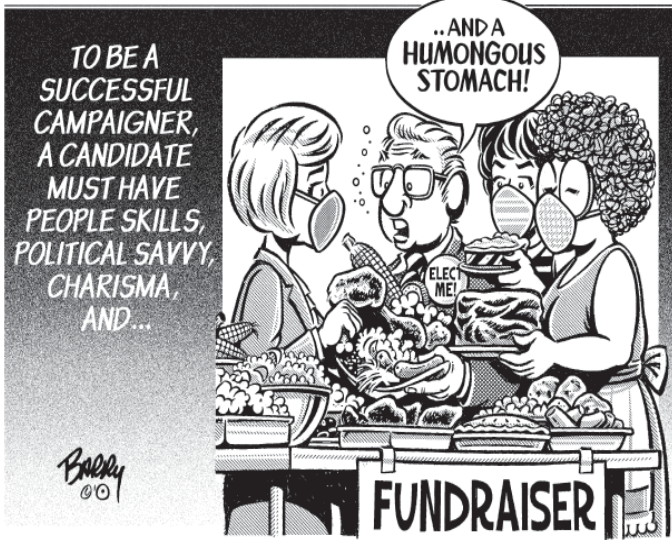
Dear Worried: Claiming your own SS benefit at age 62 will cause your spousal benefit to be less when your spouse benefit starts (when your husband claims). That's because your spousal benefit will be in the form of a "spousal boost" which will be added to the reduced SS benefit you will get by filing at age 62. The amount of your spousal boost will depend upon how old you are when your husband claims (which is when your spousal benefit kicks in). If you've reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 8 months, your spousal boost will be the difference between 1) your SS retirement benefit amount at your FRA (regardless of when you claimed) and 2) half (50%) of the benefit your husband is entitled to at his FRA (regardless of when he claims). At your FRA you get the full amount of the spousal boost; but taken before your FRA the spousal boost will be actuarially reduced according to the number of months prior to FRA it is taken. Since the spousal boost is added to the benefit you are already receiving, you claiming your reduced

benefits at age 62 means your spousal benefit will also be reduced. But your spousal benefit (while your husband is living) is entirely different from your survivor benefit if your husband dies before you.

As your husband's widow, provided you have reached your FRA you will get 100% of the amount he was receiving (or entitled to receive) at his death, instead of your smaller benefit from claiming at age 62. In other words, that you claimed your own benefit at 62 doesn't affect your survivor benefit. But if the survivor benefit is claimed before you reach your full retirement age it will be reduced due to claiming it early (the reduction is about 4.75% for each year early). Note that you do not have to claim the survivor benefit immediately; you may wait to claim until it reaches maximum at your FRA.

One final point: Statistically, about 2/3rds of all initial SSDI disability applications are denied. If you believe strongly that you've been unfairly denied, you can appeal that denial, even if you go ahead and claim your own SS benefit at age 62. To appeal the SSDI denial you should submit form SSA-561 – Request for Reconsideration, which you can find at this link: www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-561.html.

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Governor, education commissioner say schools will open in fall

AUSTIN — While COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, case counts, hospitalizations and deaths increased last week, more and more Texans ventured out of their homes with the deadly coronavirus showing no sign of abatement.

Gov. Greg Abbott recently renewed his COVID pandemic disaster declaration for all counties affected by the disease. Even so, Abbott and Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath on June 18 sounded a hopeful note, saying schools would resume normal operations in the fall. "It will be safe for Texas public school students, teachers and staff to return to school campuses for in-person instruction this fall, but there will also be flexibility for families with health concerns so that their children can be educated remotely, if the parent so chooses," said Morath, adding that detailed guidance would be issued soon.

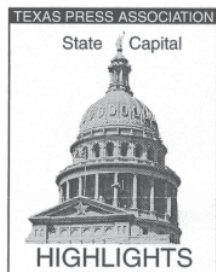
Texas State Teachers Association President Noel Candelaria reacted, saying teachers and other school employees "need to be directly involved in planning for the safe reopening of school facilities" and a rush to reopen schools puts at risk the health and safety of millions of Texas school children, educators, families and communities.

Cumulative figures posted June 21 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed some 111,601 people in Texas diagnosed with COVID-19 and 2,182 confirmed deaths resulting from the disease.

Meanwhile, Gov. Abbott and Dr. John Zerwas, University of Texas System executive vice chancellor for health affairs, on June 16 said the Lone Star State's hospital capacity can accommodate an uptick in COVID-19 cases. Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner John Hellerstedt and Texas Division of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd joined Abbott and Zerwas in making the announcement.

In related news, the governor's office on June 15 released a new public service announcement titled "Wear A Mask On And Off

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



The Field." In the PSA, Dallas Cowboys linebacker Jaylon Smith says: "I wear a face mask every single day on the football field to protect myself. Now I'm switching it up to a different mask to protect myself and others around me. As we open up Texas, it's crucial that we all do our part in this fight against COVID-19. So when you leave the house, make sure you wash your hands, make sure you practice social distancing, and last but not least, wear a mask. You be safe. Go Cowboys."

Juneteenth gains momentum

Protest marches in Texas and other states continued last week, following the May 25 killing of Texas George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

Marches in the Lone Star State and elsewhere incorporated the Black Lives Matter movement. The marchers also called attention to Juneteenth, the annual celebration that memorializes the June 19, 1865, announcement by Union Army Gen. Gordon Granger in Galveston that slavery was banned and all slaves were set free.

Until then, news of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, signed Jan. 1, 1863, and the fact that the war ended on April 9, 1965, had been withheld from the estimated 250,000 slaves then in Texas.

Gov. Abbott, in a June 19

Twitter posting wrote, "Today marks the 155th anniversary of the date that news of the Emancipation Proclamation arrived in Texas. We celebrate and recognize the freedom Juneteenth represents. Texas continues to stand for liberty for all."

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston, authored a resolution that was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on June 19. The legislation, cosponsored by 207 representatives, would make "Juneteenth Independence Day" a national observance. U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, offered a similar resolution cosponsored by 57 senators.

Paxton reacts to DACA ruling

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton expressed his disappointment with the U.S. Supreme Court's June 18 ruling to uphold the Obama administration's 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

The case, Department of Homeland Security et al. v. Regents of the University of California et al., was brought to the high court via the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Paxton said he looks forward to litigating the same issue, the constitutionality of the Obama administration's action creating the program, in a case now pending in a South Texas U.S. district court.

As of Dec. 31, 2019, some 107,000 Texans were counted by the federal government as DACA recipients, meaning they have applied and been cleared to reside in the U.S.

Jobless rate decreases

The Texas Workforce Commission on June 19 announced that in the month of May, the Lone Star State's unemployment rate dropped slightly to 13.0%, the first decrease recorded since March, when COVID-19 sent a robust economy on a downward trajectory.

During May, Texas added 291,000 private-sector positions led by the leisure and hospitality sector, followed by the education and health services sector and the trade-transportation-utilities sector.

Among Texas' Metropolitan Statistical Areas, the Amarillo MSA recorded May's lowest unemployment rate with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 8.5%, followed by the College Station-Bryan MSA with a rate of 8.6% and Abilene MSA with a rate of 8.9%.

"Texas businesses are opening their doors, taking precautions and working around the clock to serve all Texans," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"My Neighbors the Superheroes"

I think my next-door-neighbors might be superheroes.

They both work with computers (at least that's what they say) and then, every spare moment, they are off doing superhero type things.

My neighbor, Jason, runs 100-mile marathons. He's even done a few 200-plus-mile marathons. These are held in the mountains. He starts running before the sun is up, runs up a mountain all day, then runs down a mountain all night, then runs up another mountain the next day. He wears a headlamp so he can see the trail in the dark. Last weekend, Jason and a friend (who is probably also a superhero) left the house and ran 70 miles—for fun.

"He's crazy," Jason's wife, Allison, says.

I'm not sure Allison is in any position to judge.

Allison is tiny and she trains in their climbing shed. (Before I met these folks, I'd never heard of a climbing shed.) There is a window in the shed so I am not technically spying on her when I see Allison climbing up the wall. The wall starts out vertical and then it gets steeper until Allison is hanging upside down from her fingers like a spider. I don't think this is something ordinary human beings are supposed to be able to do.

Our superhero neighbors never seem to get grouchy or tired. They are always cheerful and helpful. I sometimes bring them desserts because I figure superheroes are too busy saving the world to have time for baking. Unlike normal people, they never seem to worry about calories—hanging upside down by your fingers burns up quite a few, I imagine.

Sometimes, I think it would be fun to be a superhero. I'm a writer and I started writing late in life so I figure I need to keep busy if I'm ever going to be any good. But the truth is, writing is easy—not because I am super disciplined or have any super talent. It's easy because I enjoy it.

Some days I do stare at the proverbial blank sheet of paper for a few minutes but that's okay. I look at the pine trees outside my window. I drink a little coffee. I remember how lucky I am to be able to spend time doing something that makes me happy. I think I'm probably as happy as Allison when she's hanging upside down or Jason when he's running up a mountain in the middle of the night.

The word "should" kills a lot of joy.

I know a lot of writers who found out they could write and so they decided they "should"—and that was the end of the writing. At that moment, writing became a chore. I know even more people who say they "should" exercise (or save the world) and they never get a moment of the joy Jason and Allison experience every day.

I admire what Jason and Allison can do but, more than that, I respect how much they enjoy it. When they said they were going to build a climbing shed I admit I thought, "How often will you use that?" Every day is the answer. Allison climbs in that shed every single day. Jason doesn't go running to win any prizes—although I'm sure he's happy when he does. He spends his free time running for superhuman distances because he loves it.

I'm sure, like me, they sometimes hesitate before they start. Maybe they even get discouraged. But then they do their superhero things—not because they should, but because being a superhero makes them really happy.

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

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THOUGHTS FROM
HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



God’s Calendar

SIX MONTHS. We have already hit the halfway mark of 2020. How unbelievable is that?

Someone said the most worthless thing they bought this year was a planner, because the year 2020 got hijacked and they'd not been able to use it. I kind of understand that. Most of us keep going about our daily responsibilities, but many of the events we use to mark the passing of the year have been canceled on us, or at least greatly modified. As a result, you may have had a point at which you glanced at the calendar on the wall and realized you'd forgotten to change months for a while.

But God's timetable is still progressing. His calendar pages are flipping, and it seems to be happening at an accelerated pace. He is still concentrating on building up His kingdom, and He's taking advantage of our current situation to do it. From what I'm seeing, God is using the pandemic to help Christians grow in areas we'd perhaps been overlooking. He's also using people's situations to open doors for ministry and discipleship. He is using the affairs of men to lead the whole world in one direction – the ultimate return of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ.

Because, you realize, that IS the ultimate goal. He is working towards the new Heaven and new Earth, and an eternity spent in close fellowship with His creation. There will come a day when believers will no longer dream of going to visit Israel; they will have ready access to the New Jerusalem. We won't have to long for the day when we will see loved ones who have gone on before us, because everyone who has accepted salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ will be in the same place. No more worry. No more sorrow. No more pain.

Anyone who has read Bible prophecy, even in passing, should realize that the closer we get to the return of Jesus the more likelihood there is that things will go downhill fast. Ultimately, there will be a one-world government complete with the Antichrist and the mark of the beast. Before the end, there will be a tribulation that will make this pandemic look like child's play. Those of us who know this need to be out there sounding the alarm, doing our best to reach every possible person before it's too late, before the Church is caught away, leaving the lost behind to endure the unimaginable.

Christians, let us not lose focus, not get distracted or drawn into fear by all that is going on around us. Instead, let us stand more firmly on the Rock of Salvation, and let us take heed to the words uttered over and over in the Old Testament. Let us be that watchman on the wall, keeping our eyes peeled, always ready to instantly respond at need.

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Book Club of Highlands celebrates 80th anniversary



Members of the Highlands Book Club pose for a photo, after receiving a Resolution commemorating the 80th Anniversary event from State Representative Briscoe Cain. The resolution is seen at the right.

Child injured at Crosby off-road park

CROSBY – A five-year old nearly drowned June 17 at Xtreme Off-Road Park on Gulf Pump Road.

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzales posted a Tweet on the social media Twitter stating, “Deputies are at Xtreme Off-Road Park located at 1999 Gulf Pump Road. A 5-year-old male went under water in a swimming pool area. The child was being transported to the hospital in serious condition.”

The incident was said to have happened about 8:30 p.m. and was called a near drowning.

Witnesses indicated that the incident was related to the slide located within the swimming area at Xtreme Off-Road Park.

According to the witness, the child slipped under the water after going down the slide that was very populated by other children at that time.

The child was transported to the hospital in serious but stable condition by Harris County Emergency Service District #5, the ambulance service for Crosby.

Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Kimberly Thomas described a family outing to the ATV park.

Harris County Sheriff's Deputies indicate that the incident remains under investigation.

BIBLE TRIVIA


by Wilson Casey—



1. Is the book of Matthew in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. During a famine, who set out with another man to find grass to feed his horses and mules? Abishag, Ahab, Abner, Agrippa
3. From Exodus 34, who was frightened of a man who came down a mountain with a shining face? Laban, Stephen, Aaron, Cornelius
4. At what city's public bonfire were books worth thousands of dollars burned? Ephesus, Derbe, Perga, Lystra

5. From Acts 5, who fell dead after lying about a property deal? Nehemiah, Shimei, Levi, Ananias
 6. Where did Lot meet angels? City gate, Field, Temple, Oak tree
- ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Ahab; 3) Aaron; 4) Ephesus; 5) Ananias; 6) City gate

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

Deuteronomy 4:19

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Two COVID-19 deaths,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Chambers County residents who have symptoms such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell or feel that they may have been exposed should call their primary care provider to discuss their options and only leave home to receive medical care. Health-related questions can also be directed to Chambers County Public Health at 409-267- 2731.

“We ask that everyone continue to do their part to reduce community spread by decreasing nonessential trips outside of the home, wearing face coverings or masks outside of the home and practicing social distancing, good handwashing and frequent cleaning of surfaces,” said Dr. Brown.

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


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

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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

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Through Other Eyes

I am not sure if this comes with age or if it is because of the age we are living in. Lately, I have found myself trying to look at more situations through many eyes. I am a 58-year-old female who grew up with both biological parents in the home. It was not until my parents had been married for 46 years that they divorced. While my father's parents remained married until death, my mother's parents divorced early in her life and both parents chose to remarry. There were some of my classmates who had stepparents or single parents raising them, yet for the most part, North Shore Class of 1980 had many similarities in the home. There were some Hispanic classmates as well as a few Black classmates and even several classmates of Asian descent. Most of us grew up without having to know about weekend and summer visitations much less about child support or lack of. When my children were in school, life in our community had taken some turns. I found myself among many who had not only married multiple times but divorced as well. Many of us experienced the pain in hearing children wanting to see the non-custodial parent on the weekends or being upset that there was not enough money to enjoy things that other classmates enjoyed. Another change was that my children were exposed to more classmates who had parents who had never been married to each other, many had parents who were incarcerated, and multiple race families were on the increase. Of course, each of these changes were

seen throughout each economic and education status in the North Channel Area. Flash forward to today and my grandchildren live in the community which has changed even more. Many of their classmates are from homes where they are the first generation born in America. Most of them have parents who work multiple jobs. Some of the children are being raised in multigenerational homes. Some of the children are being raised by parents of the same sex. Do we allow our children to go to those homes or do we prefer not to? Some of the children are being raised in homes with a strong relationship with God, some are being raised in the Muslim faith, while others are being raised in less mainstream religions. Some of their classmates have experienced homelessness. A large percentage of the children have a relative incarcerated. Do we force our opinions on the children that it is better to have no contact with an incarcerated parent than to keep in touch with the parent? So how do we as a community react to the changes? More important, how do we as individuals react? Do we expect our children to do as we say and not as we do? Do we take a proactive approach and expose them to a variety of opportunities such as those available from the Center for Healing, Houston Interfaith Ministries, PFLAG and support their inquisitive nature? I believe we pray more and look through the eyes of others more than ever before.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What are the Do's & Don'ts for marriage proposals?"



You've found the right person. You've found the right ring. Now you have to find the right moment to pop the question. So how do you make your proposal turn out flawlessly? We have plenty of tried-and-true tips to help you, but overall, it all comes down to just one thing: effort. Putting in real effort, thought and love into your proposal makes all the difference. Remember, your proposal doesn't have to change the world. It just has to show your partner that they mean the world to you. Here are a few tips that will help you along the way:

KNOW THE ANSWER
Your proposal should be surprising, but it shouldn't come directly out of left field. Before you pull a ring out, have a good idea how your partner will respond. "Will you marry me?" shouldn't be your first discussion on the subject.

RULES OF THE ENGAGEMENT (RING)
Here's where a little bit of effort goes a long way. The history of the diamond as an engagement ring first became popular in the 1930's, but the idea of an engagement ring has been around for centuries. If you're still deciding on a diamond engagement ring, consider doing some window shopping with your partner prior to making a purchase. If you want to keep things more secretive, talk to your partner's friends and family to get a feel for their taste. Another option is to use a stand-in ring for the proposal. Perhaps you can use their great grandmother's diamond engagement ring, and then take your partner shopping later. (A trusted jeweler can

tell you everything you need to know about how to buy a diamond and will take the time to help educate both of you).
PEACE-OF-MIND
Do your homework before buying the engagement ring. Most importantly, find a jeweler you trust. And, since you're making such a big investment, make sure you insure the ring as soon as you purchase it. Your knowledgeable jeweler should be willing and able to discuss this with you. One option is that you may be able to insure it for an additional cost under your homeowner's or tenants insurance policy.

ASK PERMISSION, NOT FORGIVENESS
Before you take a knee, take the time to speak with your partner's parents first. Asking permission is a tradition carried since the Roman times, and it's a great way to make a good impression on your future in-laws. Keep it Traditional
In an intimate setting, preferably one with family and friends waiting nearby, drop to one knee and let your heart do the talking. Then, Celebrate. You did it! Consider toasting your engagement with a night on the town, a glass of bubbly or a celebration with friends and family.

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com. If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

Mask Mandate,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the right thing to do for our health and safety, it's also good for business. We owe it to our community to ensure that those who do have to go out can have the confidence in knowing that the businesses they are patronizing are looking out for their customers, workers, and community as a whole." To support the development of health and safety policies, Harris County is making available a sample health and safety policy and additional guidelines for businesses. Businesses that fail to develop, post, and implement a Health and Safety Policy are subject to a \$1,000 for each violation.

EXCEPTIONS TO FACE COVERING ORDER

- You must wear a face covering at all times while in businesses or on commercial property, except:
- When eating or drinking;
- Face coverings should be worn to restaurants, but can be removed while eating/drinking.
- When you are exercising or doing physical activities; or,
- When wearing a face covering poses a mental, physical, safety or security risk (i.e. someone who has trouble breathing).

This week, Harris County ICU bed usage reached its highest level ever during the pandemic, and admissions continue to rise with an increasing rate. To help inform the public regarding the threat and action residents should take, Judge Hidalgo unveiled a public threat level system designed to help residents understand the threat level from COVID-19. The system, informed by the latest data from local health authorities, research institutions, and public health experts, informs a color-coded level indicator for residents displaying the level of COVID-19 threat. Consistent with the latest threat data, the current level of the advisory system is set to Level 2 (orange): minimize all contacts.

Mayor Turner expresses concern
Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said that

he thought we moved too quickly, too fast, in opening the city, county and state to normal operations. The number of confirmed COVID-19 positive hospital patients in Harris County and Houston has tripled since May 31, only a month ago. Turner at a press conference reported that the city had 1700 new Covid-19 cases to report since the previous day. Health professionals are concerned about having enough bed space and equipment to treat the increased numbers of cases, and have begun assigning adults to childrens' hospitals to free up space. Texas had 5000 new cases for the first time in one day last week, and expect this to increase again.

Abbott sees problem, but won't issue restrictive order
In an interview on Bryan television, Abbott stated that "The coronavirus is serious. It's spreading." He acknowledged that action should be taken, but that it needed to be voluntary, not mandatory. "To state the obvious, COVID-19 is now spreading at an unacceptable rate in Texas, and must be corralled."

"There remain a lot of people in the state of Texas who think that the spread of COVID-19 is not a challenge," he said. Dr. Anthony Fauci, nationally known infectious disease expert and an advisor to the president, told lawmakers in Washington last week that "the next couple of weeks are going to be critical" in Texas and other states that are trying to curtail an alarming spike in new cases. Both Abbott and Fauci have emphasized that the simple wearing of face masks, washing hands often, and keeping a social distance away from others are effective means to curtail the virus. In spite of this, Abbott has not wanted to issue a mandatory order for these measures, but did allow local governments to implement them within businesses, as done by Harris County. Abbott said "Closing down Texas again will always be the last option."

NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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An Important update on Medicare

Find out how it can affect you.

Important changes to the federal Medicare program became effective at the beginning of the year. As a result, retirees in your state may be eligible for coverage with new options.

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Early Voting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the Constable races, Precinct 2 has Chris Diaz vs. Jerry Garcia; Precinct 3 Sherman Eagleton vs. Ken Jones; and Precinct 5 Randy Newman vs. Mark Alan Harrison.

On the Republican run-off ticket, US Representative race in District 18 has Robert Cadena vs. Wendell Champion; and in a much watched race, District 22 has Troy Nehls vs. Kathleen Wall.

For Sheriff on the Republican ticket, Paul Day is running against Joe Day. Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5 has Russ Ridgway vs. Mike Wolfe.

Early voting will start

June 29 through July 2, from 7am to 7pm.

On July 5, polls are open 10am to 7pm. On July 6 through July 9, polls are open 7am to 7pm. On July 10 polls are open 7am to 10pm.

On Election Day, July 14, polls will be open from 7am to 7pm.

A reminder that this year you may vote at any location, not just the one in your area.

If you voted in a particular party in May, Democratic or Republican, you must vote in the same party in the run-off. If you did not vote in May, you may choose either party to vote.

Fighting Hunger,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nizes that #WeAreInIt2gether.”

“Our fence line neighbors are important to us, and it is an honor to join Precinct2gether in continuing to serve those who are at-risk and help the children in our community,” said Mike VanDer-Snick, LyondellBasell’s senior vice president of Americas Manufacturing. “During these uncertain times, food insecurity is very real for many of our community members as is the need for a little diversion for our children in the

form of a good book. We hope our donation helps to ease some of the challenges our neighbors are facing.”

According to Precinct 2 officials, the need for these programs is greater than ever as individuals and families from the area struggle amid the coronavirus pandemic. Precinct2gether has more than doubled its usual homebound meal deliveries and they are also distributing sack lunches at parks and community centers three days a week.

With Read2gether, a free book is mailed every month to any registered child in Precinct 2 from birth through age five. LyondellBasell’s donation will support this service expanding in the Channelview and Northshore area.

All four LyondellBasell sites are located in East Harris County and have a long history of collaboration with Precinct2gether. LyondellBasell employees from all of the sites have contributed hundreds of volunteer hours over the years in support of Precinct2gether’s senior and youth programs. Additionally, both the Bayport and Channelview sites co-host annual senior citizens

Christmas parties with Precinct2gether.

LyondellBasell is committed to helping fight the COVID-19 virus and helping communities deal with its impacts. In addition to supporting food banks around the world in communities where it operates, many products that LyondellBasell makes are being used to fight the pandemic. From products that provide filtration in face-masks, to breathable films for protective suits, medical syringes, medical test kits, soaps, disinfectants, and many other products, LyondellBasell is on the front lines against the virus.

WE NEED YOUR TRADES



2020 BLAZER
\$5,000
OFF MSRP



2020 SILVERADO CREWCAB
\$10,000 OFF

PRE-OWNED CARS START UNDER 6K

2020 TRAX
\$17,923
OR
0% FOR 72 MONTHS





PRE-OWNED SUBURBAN
UNDER \$15,000

TURNER

CHEVROLET
Crosby, Texas
281-328-4377
#OurPeopleMakeTheDifference

2020 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab, STK#LZ106357, MSRP: \$50,805, \$2,590 dealer discount, \$5,500 Factory rebate, \$1,000 bonus cash, \$1,000 DPA through GM Financial, must finance with GM financial with approved credit. \$40,715 Final Price. 2020 Chevy Blazer STK#LS662712, MSRP: \$35,635, \$1,750 dealer discount, \$3,250 Factory rebate, \$30,635 Final Price. 2020 Chevy Trax STK#B023311, MSRP: \$22,790, \$1,367 dealer discount, \$3,500 Factory rebate, \$30,635 Final Price. 2019 Chevy Suburban STK#9R168791 sale price \$14,991. 2006 Ford Focus sale price \$5,991 plus TT&L and doc fee of \$150 must take from dealer stock plus TT&L and doc fee of \$150 must take from dealer stock, see dealer for details offer ends 06/30/2020

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