

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
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## CHANNEL CURRENTS

SATURDAY



### COVID-19 RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON

832-393-4220

HARRIS COUNTY

713-634-1110  
ASK A NURSE

MOBILE TESTS  
713-439-6000

PRE-SCREENING

HARRIS COUNTY  
832-927-7575  
readyharris.org

METHODIST  
HOSPITAL BAYTOWN  
Download mymethodist app.

MD MEDICAL  
1-888-776-5252

### UPDATE North Shore Mustangs Football

The Athletic Department of Galena Park ISD has announced that the first game of the season will be on Friday, Aug. 28 at 7pm vs. Shadow Creek played at North Shore HS. The previous game with De La Salle has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 concerns.

### Brown Bag Lunches Suspended

Harris County Precinct 2 has suspended its brown bag lunches until further notice. At this time, the Be a Champion food events have not been suspended but the Precinct advises to check social media pages for live updates.

### Buckshot Jamboree now 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.

## COVID-19 SPREAD CONTINUES

# Harris County raises threat level to 'Severe', advises masks, stay home

**Judge Hidalgo Urges Residents to Stay Home, Leave Only for Vital Needs**

Harris County, Texas - June 26, 2020, Today at noon, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo updated the county's COVID-19 public threat level from significant (orange, level two) to severe (red, level one). Level one indicates a "severe and uncontrolled" level of COVID-19, meaning outbreaks are worsening, contact tracing capacity is strained or exceeded, and healthcare surge is likely. The elevation



to threat level 1 - the highest in the system - comes as a variety of data demonstrate alarming trends that are on track to overwhelm the local healthcare system.

"The harsh truth is that our current infection rate is on pace to overwhelm our hospitals in the very near future," Judge Hidalgo said. "We hope this serves as a wakeup call to everyone that the time to act is now. I'm calling on all residents and businesses to take immediate action to help our medical community get this virus back in check before it spirals beyond control and

more lives are needlessly sacrificed. Stay and work from home except for essential business. Wear a face covering if you absolutely have to be out. We've flattened the curve before, and we can do it again, but we need to buckle down and do this together."

Under a level one threat, the public is urged to:

Stay home, except for the most essential needs like going to the grocery store for

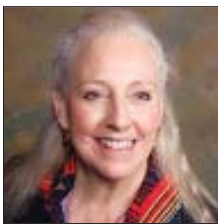
*See Severe Level, Page 6*

## Doctors ask Republicans to cancel Houston's in-person convention

By Allan & Linda Jamail

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 - Houston, TX. Today Dr. Diana Fite, President of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) in behalf of the 53,000 members has asked the Republican Party of Texas to cancel their in-person convention in Houston. The State Republican Convention is scheduled to begin Thursday July 16 - 18 in at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

President Dr. Diana Fite in an open letter today to the Republican leadership of Texas cited the growing



Dr. Diana Fite, President Texas Medical Association

number of corona virus cases and hospitalizations in Harris County as a reason for the Texas Republican Party to cancel its Houston convention.

Fite said, "The County

has the highest number of cases and deaths in the state. The daily chart of active cases in Harris County has been nearly a straight line upward for the past two weeks. As an emergency physician in Houston treating patients with COVID-19, I speak from firsthand experience: It would be best for the health of your convention goers and the residents of Houston for the Republican Party not to hold its biennial convention there as planned."

*See Convention, Page 6*

## GALENA PARK CURFEW

# Mayor Moya talks on BBC World News

BBC NEWS, seen locally on Channel 8, interviewed Galena Park Mayor Esmeralda Moya on reasons for imposing a curfew on the city. Moya said she was prompted to order the curfew after Harris County imposed a requirement for face masks in certain businesses. She also said she is concerned about the high rate of COVID-19 hospitalizations and wants to protect the citizens of Galena Park.



# Constable Race key in Early Voting

By Gilbert Hoffman

Harris County voters are currently voting by Early ballots, prior to Election Day on July 14. This is a Run-off Election, with many important positions to be decided. Winners will go to the General Election in November.

One of the races of most interest in the North Channel area is Harris County Precinct 2 Constable race, with incumbent

Constable Chris Diaz facing a strong challenge from Jerry Garcia, a Lieutenant in the Precinct 3 Constables office, under Constable Sherman Eagleton. Voters have been following this race for months, since the Primary in March, with charges and innuendos thrown out by both candidates. In the Primary, Diaz got 34% of the votes, or 5081, and Garcia got 39% or 5721 votes. Neither received a majority and therefore face this



Incumbent Constable Chris Diaz



Pct. 3 Lieutenant Jerry Garcia

run-off.

Diaz has held the office for the last 7 years, and is running on his record of accomplishments. Prior to his term as a constable, he was a councilman and mayor of Jacinto City, where he still lives. Garcia is running on his long experience as a law enforcement officer for over 22 years. He lives in the South

*See Constables Race, Page 8*

## Update on San Jacinto River Waste Pits

# EPA says deeper toxic waste means more time & money

By Jennah Durant  
EPA Press Office

**Here is more information on recent SJR waste pits questions:**

1. Have you received the 30% Design package for the South impoundment?

**Yes. The 30% design package for the south impoundment was submitted to EPA on April 13, 2020.**

2. Have you received the 30% Design package for the North impoundment?

**Yes. The 30% design package for the north impoundment was submitted to EPA on May 28, 2020.**



This illustration of a typical cofferdam and dewatering process, furnished by the EPA, may be the type called for in the Design Package.

3. Will these documents be available to the public? When?

**The documents are currently under review by the regulatory agencies. Following EPA's review of the document and determination that the design is appropriate based on the remedy selected in the Record of Decision, EPA will make the document available to the public.**

4. Regardless of whether the reports are public, could you furnish me with an executive summary or your own summation of what they say?

*See EPA update, Page 6*



★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

Harris County Fire Marshal encourages fireworks safety

Harris County, Texas -- Fireworks are synonymous with the Fourth of July. They are beautiful, but can also be very dangerous if not used properly. The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office not only encourages residents to attend professional fireworks displays and practice fireworks safety but to also practice social distancing and wear masks.

"Professional fireworks displays are a great way for residents to safely enjoy fireworks, but with the spread of COVID-19 we are also encouraging everyone to practice social distancing and to wear masks," said Harris County Fire Marshal Laurie L. Christensen. "If you choose to use consumer fireworks, please read the cautionary labels and dispose of your fireworks properly."

The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office encourages residents to follow these recommended safety tips:

Follow the law. Make

sure fireworks are legal in your community.

Read and follow the directions and warning labels on fireworks packaging.

Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.

Light only one firework at a time.

Do not point fireworks at homes, buildings, or people.

Never consume alcohol or drugs while shooting fireworks.

Make sure there is a bucket of water or water source nearby for emergencies and to soak used fireworks prior to disposing of them in the trash.

Be considerate of neighbors when it comes to noise and the trash left behind.

Pets and fireworks don't mix. The loud noises can cause pets to become anxious or afraid.

Consider celebrating the Fourth of July with fireworks alternatives. For example, glow sticks are a

great alternative to sparklers. Sparklers may seem safe, but sparklers burn more than six times hotter than boiling water.

"Using consumer fireworks safely, attending a professional display, or finding alternative ways to celebrate, will reduce the number of incidents that require a response from first responders," said Fire Marshal Christensen. "Stay safe this Fourth of July holiday and help keep our first responders safe as well."

Fireworks sales run from June 24 through July 4. Complaints regarding the sale or illegal use of fireworks in the unincorporated areas of Harris County can be made by calling (281) 999-2200 or emailing [fmosupport@fmo.hctx.net](mailto:fmosupport@fmo.hctx.net).

For additional information on fireworks contact the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office at (713) 274-1700, or visit [www.hcfmo.net](http://www.hcfmo.net).

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS TO STOP COVID-19 SPREAD

Containing spread of COVID-19

Limits certain businesses and services with link to infections

AUSTIN -- June 26, 2020 -- Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order limiting certain businesses and services as part of the state's effort to contain the spread of COVID-19. This decision comes as the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 and the number of hospitalizations have increased and the positivity rate in Texas increased above 10%, which the Governor previously stated would lead to further preventative action. The targeted, measured directives in the executive order are based on links between certain types of businesses and services and the recent rise in positive cases throughout the state.

more than 51% of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages are required to close at 12:00 PM today. These businesses may remain open for delivery and take-out, including for alcoholic beverages, as authorized by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Restaurants may remain open for dine-in service, but at a capacity not to exceed 50% of total listed indoor occupancy, beginning Monday, June 29, 2020.

Rafting and tubing businesses must close.

Outdoor gatherings of 100 or more people must be approved by local governments, with certain exceptions.

"As I said from the start, if the positivity rate rose above 10%, the State of Texas would take further action to mitigate the

spread of COVID-19," said Governor Abbott. "At this time, it is clear that the rise in cases is largely driven by certain types of activities, including Texans congregating in bars. The actions in this executive order are essential to our mission to swiftly contain this virus and protect public health. We want this to be as limited in duration as possible. However, we can only slow the spread if everyone in Texas does their part. Every Texan has a responsibility to themselves and their loved ones to wear a mask, wash their hands, stay six feet apart from others in public, and stay home if they can. I know that our collective action can lead to a reduction in the spread of COVID-19 because we have done it before, and we will do it again."

The order includes the following:

All bars and similar establishments that receive

Additional reopening phases temporary paused

AUSTIN -- Governor Greg Abbott today announced that the State of Texas will pause any further phases to open Texas as the state responds to the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Businesses that are permitted to open under the previous phases can continue to operate at the designated occupancy levels and under the minimum standard health protocols provided by the

Texas Department of State Health Services.

"As we experience an increase in both positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, we are focused on strategies that slow the spread of this virus while also allowing Texans to continue earning a paycheck to support their families," said Governor Abbott. "The last thing we want to do as a state is go backwards and close down businesses. This tempo-

rary pause will help our state corral the spread until we can safely enter the next phase of opening our state for business. I ask all Texans to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, washing their hands regularly, and socially distancing from others. The more that we all follow these guidelines, the safer our state will be and the more we can open up Texas for business."

An Important update on Medicare Find out how it can affect you.

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- Get **options** that can help limit your out-of-pocket expenses
- Learn about **Medicare benefits** many retirees may not be aware of

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Harris County announces \$30 Million grant program to assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19

County Judge Lina Hidalgo and each of the Harris County commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Small Business Recovery Fund (SBRF) program, a \$30 million grant program established to assist struggling small businesses who have been unable to obtain financial assistance from other COVID-19 relief programs. The program will provide eligible businesses a grant of up to \$25,000 to help cover payroll costs, rent, accounts payable and other operating expenses. The SBRF targets businesses with 30 or fewer employees and is designed to assist the most vulnerable Harris County small- and micro-enterprises impacted by the pandemic with mounting financial burdens.

"The impact of this crisis on small businesses has been devastating. We can't afford to lose a source of jobs, innovation and the enterprising spirit our region is known for," Judge Hidalgo said. "These grants will help business owners stay afloat as Harris County continues to fight the COVID-19 crisis."

The Program will launch at 8 a.m. July 13 and will remain open for 10 days through July 22. More information regarding eligibility requirements, how to access the application online and over the phone, and what residents will need to prepare for the application will be released in the coming week.

"As the overwhelming demand for the forgivable loan program that I championed shows far too many

of our small businesses are struggling in a big way right now. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and have historically lifted up our community," said Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "As we face some of the most difficult challenges in a generation, it's time for county government to continue our support of local small businesses. I thank my fellow commissioners for voting in favor of the \$30 million fund, and I have confidence that HBDI will do an excellent job with the expedient and efficient administration of these funds. Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, and this program shows that we have their backs!"

Earlier in March, Harris County provided \$10 million under a small business relief program (LEAP), which was able to provide assistance to approximately 400 small businesses. With nearly 500,000 businesses in Harris County, the SBRF represents an effort to provide additional funding to a broader range of businesses suffering from the devastating impact of the novel coronavirus. Priority will be given to applicants that have not received prior assistance from the federally funded PPP Loan Program or other COVID-19 small business relief programs, including the Harris County LEAP program.

"The effects of COVID-19 on our friends and neighbors throughout Harris County are immense and widespread – on our

health, our families, our medical community and our economy," said Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle. "Harris County's response to this pandemic must recognize the need to address all these issues. With federal funding from the CARES Act, the Small Business Relief Fund is designed to help alleviate some of the stresses on small businesses throughout Harris County. I encourage those eligible to take advantage of this program."

A local Community Development Financial Institution, Houston Business Development Inc., which specializes in administering government funded small business lending programs, will work closely with the county in launching and administering the SBRF program.

"Helping small businesses survive the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic directly helps the working men and women employed by those small businesses," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis. "The need in our region is immense, but we will support as many of our vulnerable businesses as possible, fairly and transparently, so that the thousands of families who rely on small businesses continue to have the ability to pay their rent, feed their families, and make ends meet."

Those in need of immediate assistance are encouraged to call 211 Texas/United Way helpline to find an organization in their geographic region to serve them.

## Judge Lina Hidalgo self-quarantining after potential COVID-19 exposure

HOUSTON – Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced that she is self-quarantining after being potentially exposed to COVID-19 last week.

The exposure came on Monday from a member of the Harris County Judge's office, who tested positive and now is self-isolating.

Hidalgo and staff who were potentially exposed will be tested and are self-quarantining for 14 days from exposure until Monday, July 6, following the CDC guidelines. Hidalgo has not shown any symptoms.

"Given what we have learned, I will be quar-



antining at home. The reality of it is, there are thousands of residents across Harris County that are increasingly finding themselves in the same position I am in today," said Judge Hidalgo. "There are rising numbers of residents testing positive for this virus, and more and more requiring hospitalization. We are at Threat Level 1 - Red -

and I continue to call on everyone to stay home except for essential activities. That is the only way we avoid a crisis in our hospital system and put our community in a position to reopen in a smarter and more sustainable way. We will beat this threat together as a community and I will continue to ensure we are pursuing every option we have to bring this back under control."

Hidalgo said her staff has already been following work from home protocols. The limited staff working from the office have been consistently wearing masks in the workplace and maintaining social distancing practices.

## Sheldon ISD Assistant Superintendent for Administration to work at Goose Creek ISD

Sheldon ISD Superintendent Dr. King Davis announced this afternoon that Assistant Superintendent for Administration Dr. Demetrius McCall is leaving the district for a new position at Goose Creek CISD.

Dr. McCall, who has been with Sheldon ISD for the past eight years, was hired this morning as GCCISD's new Deputy Superintendent for Administrative Services.

"Sheldon ISD has been a huge blessing to both me and my family," Dr. McCall said. "I will miss everything about this community – especially the students,

teachers, and staff. Also, I want to personally thank Dr. Davis and the Board of Trustees for trusting me to serve in the various capacities I've been part of throughout this wonderful district."

During his time at Sheldon ISD, Dr. McCall has served as the C. E. King High School Principal for Curriculum and Instruction for two years; C. E. King High School Principal for four years; and most recently the Assistant Superintendent for Administration for the past two years.

"Dr. McCall will be greatly missed within the Sheldon communi-



ty," Dr. Davis said. "We made great strides under his strong leadership, and we wish him the very best in his new promotion."

## Governor Abbott issues Executive Order Expanding Hospital Capacity

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott today issued an Executive Order to ensure hospital bed availability for COVID-19 patients as Texas faces an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. The Governor's order suspends elective surgeries at hospitals in Bexar, Dallas, Harris, and Travis counties. Under this order, the Governor directs all hospitals in these counties to postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not immediately, medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition or to preserve the life of a pa-

tient who without immediate performance of the surgery or procedure would be at risk for serious adverse medical consequences or death, as determined by the patient's physician.

Through proclamation, the Governor can add or subtract from the list of counties included in the Executive Order to address surges in hospitalizations that may arise in other parts of the state.

"As Texas faces a rise in COVID-19 cases, we are focused on both slowing the spread of this virus and maintaining sufficient hos-

pital capacity for COVID-19 patients," said Governor Abbott. "These four counties have experienced significant increases in people being hospitalized due to COVID-19 and today's action is a precautionary step to help ensure that the hospitals in these counties continue to have ample supply of available beds to treat COVID-19 patients. As we work to contain this virus, I urge all Texans to do their part to help contain the spread by washing their hands regularly, wearing a mask, and practicing social distancing."



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**JULY 2, 2020**  
**NORTH CHANNEL STAR**  
**PICK-UP LOCATIONS**

<b>NORTH SHORE</b> 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	<b>CLOVERLEAF</b> 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
<b>CHANNELVIEW</b> 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	<b>JACINTO CITY</b> 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
<b>SHELDON</b> Sheldon ISD Admin Bldg. Kroger's, Normandy at Woodforest Sheldon ISD Transportation HCA Houston 24/7, Beltway 8	<b>GALENA PARK</b> 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 – About Special Extra Earnings for Military Service

**Dear Rusty:** How do I find out if I get any extra earnings for my military service of 28 years (Navy, 1982-2011), when I begin collecting my full Social Security retirement benefit next year (in July 2021)? Signed: Retired Veteran

**Dear Retired Veteran:** First, as a fellow veteran, I want to thank you for your 28 years of military service, but I need to clarify what those “special extra earnings” are. That’s not an additional amount which will be added to your monthly Social Security benefit as a bonus for serving. Rather it is an additional dollar amount which has already been added to your earnings record for the years you served in the military.

Those receiving active duty military pay have contributed to Social Security since 1957, and that record of your military pay is already on file with Social Security. But a long time ago Congress decided to bump up the recorded earnings of those with earlier military service to make it easier for them to qualify for Social Security, and to possibly provide a slightly higher benefit when the earnings from those years in the military are included in the computation of SS benefits.

To compute your benefit, Social Security uses the 35 highest earning years from your lifetime earnings record (adjusted for inflation). So, if your earnings during the years you were in the military are among the 35 years used to calculate your SS benefit, those military earnings were supplemented with an additional amount to make them up to \$1200 per year higher than you were actually paid. And that higher earnings amount possibly means a higher Social Security benefit because it could make your lifetime Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (AIME) higher (a higher AIME translates to a higher benefit amount).

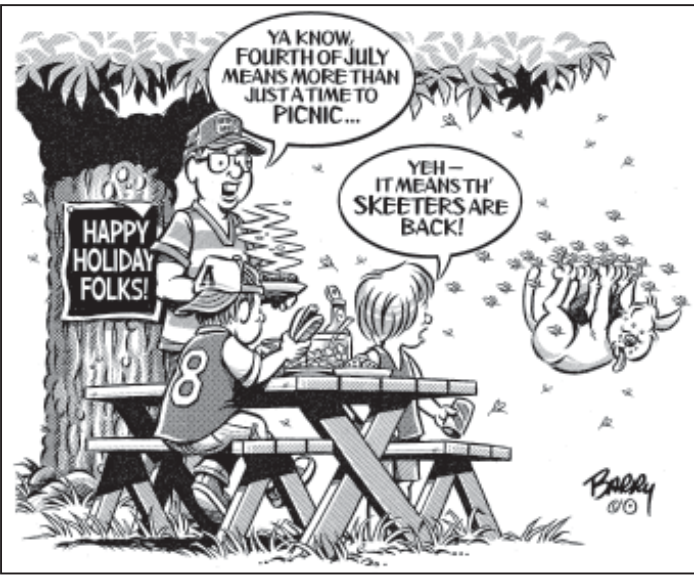
In your case, an extra \$100 for every \$300 in your actual military pay should have been added

to your earnings record for each year you served between 1982 and 2001 (maximum of \$1200 for each year).

For service years after 2001, no additional “special credits” are awarded. To verify this, you may wish to obtain a copy of your lifetime Earnings Statement from Social Security and verify that your recorded earnings for 1982 – 2001 are \$1200 more than you were actually paid while serving. And if not, you should supply a copy of your DD-214 when applying for your Social Security benefits. You can obtain a copy of your lifetime Earnings Statement online if you have a personal “my Social Security” account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount); otherwise you’ll need to request a copy directly from Social Security.

For general information applicable to those who served prior to 1978, computation of their “special extra earnings” were computed a little differently. For those veterans, the maximum annual “special extra earnings” supplement was still \$1,200, but the method for computing their extra earnings was to give an extra \$300 for each calendar quarter of active duty military service. But in any case, the special extra earnings are an addition to your military pay record on file with Social Security, not an additional dollar amount added to your Social Security benefit.

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## Governor’s order restricts alcohol-serving establishments

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott ordered the state to slow down the reopening process for bars and other venues as coronavirus-related infections, hospitalizations and deaths continued to increase in Texas last week.

“As I said from the start, if the positivity rate rose above 10%, the State of Texas would take further action to mitigate the spread of COVID-19,” Abbott said. “At this time, it is clear that the rise in cases is largely driven by certain types of activities, including Texans congregating in bars.”

Abbott ordered bars and other state-licensed establishments that receive more than 51% of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages to close at noon on June 26, but allowed them to continue offering delivery and take-out services until further notice.

The governor allowed restaurants, beginning June 29, to remain open for dine-in service, but at a capacity not to exceed 50% of total listed indoor occupancy.

Also notably, the governor ordered rafting and tubing businesses to close and that outdoor gatherings of 100 or more people obtain the approval of local governments before the event.

While stopping short of issuing a statewide order for Texans to wear nose-and-mouth-covering masks in public, Abbott did say every Texan “has a responsibility to themselves and their loved ones to wear a mask, wash their hands, stay six feet apart from others in public and stay home if they can.”

Meanwhile, after news that the Trump administration planned to cut funding for COVID-19 testing stations in Texas and other states, Abbott announced that the federal government had granted his request to extend operations of community-based testing sites across

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



Texas. The expansion is aimed particularly at Dallas and Houston, where the spread of the deadly, influenza-like disease surged in recent days.

In related news, Abbott issued an executive order on June 25 prohibiting elective surgeries at hospitals in Bexar, Dallas, Harris and Travis counties. The order, intended to make more hospital beds available to potential influxes of COVID-19 patients, directs all hospitals in those counties to postpone surgeries and procedures that are not immediately, medically necessary.

Cumulative figures posted June 28 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed some 148,728 COVID-19 cases reported and 2,393 confirmed deaths resulting from the disease in the Lone Star State.

### Meeting methods contrast

Plans are in place for the Republican Party of Texas to hold its convention July 16-18 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Some 6,000 delegates are expected to attend in person.

Conversely, from June 1-6 the Texas Democratic Party held its convention in fully online mode to minimize health risks related to the coronavirus pandemic.

### Study: Impact of military

A study conducted by the comptroller’s office estimates that military installations in Texas contributed at least \$123 billion to the state economy in 2019 and supported more than 630,000 direct and indirect jobs.

In a June 22 joint news release with the governor’s office, Comptroller Glenn Hegar said the military’s impact on the state economy “can be felt by every Texan.”

Gov. Abbott said, “Now more than ever, these jobs add critical stability for communities focused on economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Military installations listed in the news release include:

Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene; U.S. Army Futures Command, Austin; Corpus Christi Army Depot; Corpus Christi Naval Air Station; Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio; Fort Bliss, El Paso; Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base; and Ellington Field, Houston.

Also, Fort Hood, Killeen; Naval Air Station Kingsville; Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo; Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston-Lackland Air Force Base-Randolph Air Force Base; Red River Army Depot, Texarkana; and Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls.

### Paxton cheers SCOTUS

A request by the Texas Democratic party and other plaintiffs to have a San Antonio U.S. district court ruling reinstated that would allow all registered voters to vote by mail instead of in person was denied June 26 by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito.

The action leaves in place an order issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, blocking the lower court ruling. “Universal mail-in ballots, which are notoriously vulnerable to fraud, would only lead to greater election fraud and disenfranchise lawful voters,” Paxton said.

Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa said, however: “The case proceeds on in other filings before the U.S. Supreme Court and the Fifth Circuit, and therefore hope remains that the federal courts will restore equal voting rights in time for the November elections.”

## THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

## “The World of Birds”

The raven nest was the big news this spring.

Our neighbor, Joe, who belongs to every social organization in town, found himself with very little to do. So, every afternoon, Joe parked himself in his Adirondack chair and watched the ravens—frequently with a cocktail.

This pair of ravens got a late start, I thought. There was another pair I passed on my walk every day. They did some quick renovations on an existing nest and got right down to business. But this pair in our backyard seemed (like so many young couples) to realize a little late that they were going to need a home for their babies.

“Oh my gosh! We better get building a nest!” they frantically began collecting sticks to build the giant structure about sixty feet in the air, in the crown of the neighboring pine tree. Then, one day not too long later, we could hear the unmistakable sound of baby ravens demanding food.

From then on, it was a nonstop show, with parents madly flying back and forth trying to keep their demanding brood fed. That is when Joe began his permanent residency in the blue Adirondack chair. Both my husband, Peter, and Joe are retired and the raven nest is between our houses. Comparing raven notes became the new thing that replaced all the other things Joe and Peter used to do.

It was last Saturday night that everything went wrong.

Peter woke up around midnight to the sound of ravens screaming.

“What’s going on out there?” Peter asked. After a terrific lot of noise, the commotion died down. But then, just before sunrise, it started up again and this time it even woke me. It sounded like there was a war happening in the backyard.

The next morning, the nest was vacant.

“What happened?” Peter wondered. Nothing good for the ravens, that was for sure.

There were no more baby ravens screaming for food, no more parents flying back and forth, no more pairs of ravens flying at sunset. The sky was empty—except for hummingbirds, but they don’t really count.

Peter wrote to a friend who used to be an animal control officer in town. He said it could have been a hawk or an eagle or an owl. He said ravens were ferocious fighters and they might have moved the chicks to another location.

But I talked to our neighbor down the street who knows all about the world of birds. “Great horned owl,” he said and he sounded like he knew what he was talking about.

“There are two pair in the neighborhood. Ravens are very vulnerable in the nest. A great horned owl can kill a skunk with no problem. The middle of the night is when they do their work.” He did not think the little ravens had survived the night.

“There’s a whole world of things going on with birds that I never guessed,” I told him. “And it’s violent!” My neighbor agreed.

I brought the news home to Peter. He nodded. He didn’t really think the raven chicks made it either. Peter calls it the “Saturday night massacre” and he still watches the nest in the evenings. No one is there.

I lay in bed last night with the window open. The wind was strong and I could hear it blowing through the pine trees. I thought about all the things happening right in my backyard that I would never know about. I thought about all the dangers I never considered—just because they were not a danger to me.

Till next time,  
Carrie  
Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

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CHURCH LISTINGS

Crosby, Highlands, Huffman, Baytown

ANGLICAN CHURCH

• Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby. 832-661-9693.  
APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
• First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands. 281-426-4133  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
• Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516  
• First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170  
• Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST

• Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409  
• Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470  
• Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723  
• Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223  
• Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"

BAPTIST-Missionary

• Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.  
• First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634.  
• Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650  
• True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637  
• Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

BAPTIST-Southern

• First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564  
• First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551  
• First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888  
• Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, nsbchighlands.org  
• Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557  
• Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

BRETHREN

• Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442

CATHOLIC

• Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448  
• Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871

• St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451  
• St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422  
• St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478

CHURCH OF CHRIST

• Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496  
• Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742  
• Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882

CHURCH OF GOD

• First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518  
• Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

• DMT. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL

• Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Church St., Crosby.

INDEPENDENT

• Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310  
• Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705  
• New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315  
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• Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

LUTHERAN

• Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422

METHODIST

• Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616  
• Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614  
• Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541

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• Lifepoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, Tx. 77523. ☐281-576-5452.  
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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

• Galena Park Assembly of God, 1211 2nd. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0836.

BAPTIST

•Uvalde Baptist Church, 901 Uvalde, Houston, TX 77015. 713-453-2235  
•New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082  
•Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232.  
•Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.  
•St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.  
•First Baptist Church, 1505 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.  
•Macedonia Baptist Church, 1230 Maxnie Street, Houston, TX. 77049. 713-674-6607.

BAPTIST-Southern

•Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.  
•South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.  
•First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.  
•Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houston, TX. 77049.  
•First Baptist Church of Galena Park, 206 Woolfe St., 77547. 713-455-1261.

CATHOLIC

•St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.  
•Our Lady of Fatima, 1705 8th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-675-0981.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

•Church of Christ, 15821 2nd St., Channelview, TX. 713-826-2884.  
•Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Tx. 281-452-7129.  
•Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.

EPISCOPAL

•St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.

HOLINESS

•Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City. 713-671-3500.

METHODIST

•Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.  
•Jacinto City United Methodist, 10730 Wiggins, Houston, TX. 713-673-7132.  
•Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, TX. 713-453-7203.

For corrections or new listings, call 713-266-3444

Tips to spend less money on cooling your home this summer

(StatePoint) Keeping your home cool and comfortable on hot summer days doesn't need to cost a fortune. These tips can ensure your heating and cooling equipment lasts a long time and operates at maximum efficiency:

• Clean and change filters: Dirty air filters can cause a system to suffer from pressure drop, which can lead to reduced air flow or "blow-out," which can result in no air infiltration at all. When this occurs, your HVAC equipment is working harder, which means increased energy bills and ultimately, more wear and tear. To avoid costly repairs and replacements and enjoy lower utility bills, clean your air filters monthly.

As far as replacing air filters is concerned, one general guideline to follow is to change them every three months. However, the truth is that optimal frequency for this maintenance task depends on a variety of factors, including the type of filter in your HVAC unit, the size of your home, if anyone in your family has allergies and whether or not you have pets. No matter how often

you change air filters, be sure they are properly-sized for your system.

The importance of cleaning and replacing air filters can't be overstated. Dirty air filters won't just cost you more money, they can compromise your home's indoor air quality and aggravate allergies and respiratory issues.

• Get annual service: Your HVAC or furnace technician should service your unit annually in order to check that all its various components are in working order. A service check may actually detect a problem before you notice it, and catching it in time could extend your unit's life. Be sure to schedule this service before it's an emergency (i.e. don't wait until it's the hottest day of the year and your unit is in disrepair.)

• Replace older units: Consider whether it's time to replace your unit, factoring in its age and regularity of service. Newer units, especially those with ENERGY STAR labels, operate more efficiently. Indeed, a properly sized and installed ENERGY STAR air conditioner uses up to 20 percent less elec-

tricity than older models. So, even if your heating or cooling system is properly maintained, you may be spending more money than is necessary each month.

• Do it right: For ultimate savings, it's best to ensure your HVACR equipment is installed and serviced properly. The best way to ensure fast, efficient service done right the first time is by hiring a technician certified by North American Technician Excellence (NATE) for all installations, repairs and maintenance. NATE-certified technicians have demonstrated their knowledge of today's increasingly sophisticated heating and cooling systems by passing a nationally recognized test developed and supported by all segments of the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning industry. To find a NATE-certified technician in your area, visit Natex.org.

If reducing cooling costs, increasing home comfort and helping protect the environment are all important to you, there's good news, with proper HVACR installation and maintenance, these don't need to be competing priorities.

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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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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Exodus in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Esther 7, who met his death on gallows that he built for another man?

Herod, Haman, Jehu, Ezekiel

3. In Matthew 14, who tried to walk on water but began to sink? Thomas, Paul, Peter, John

4. Which of these cities was destroyed by fire and brimstone? Jericho, Haran, Paphos, Sodom

5. What charioteer rode to Jezreel to find King Joram? Jehu, Omri, Naboth, Jethro

6. Where did Hagar meet an angel? Prison, River, Wilderness spring, Temple door

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Haman; 3) Peter; 4) Sodom; 5) Jehu; 6) Wilderness spring

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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

## Convention,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This is just not the time to bring thousands of the party members from around the state to an indoor meeting in a county that...reports more than 18,000 active COVID-19 cases. The potential for a combined corona virus/flu outbreak this fall and winter is real, and it is as serious as it sounds," Fite concluded.

Texas officials announced today nearly 7,000 new cases, breaking the state's record for the total number of confirmed cases in one day. Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott explaining in a recent interview that he should have slowed efforts to reopen some businesses including bars.

"If I could go back and redo anything, it probably would have been to slow down the opening of bars, now seeing in the aftermath of how quickly the corona virus spread in the bar setting," Abbott said.

The Texas GOP convention is expected to gather about 6,000 people indoors without a mask requirement. All at the same time Harris County and Houston health officials along with the TMS is encouraging Texans to stay home and practice social distancing and wear a mask if you must get out for essentials like groceries and medicines.

The 170 year old TMA, represents the largest medical center in the world, and warns if the current trend of cases continues to increase the hospital systems capacity across the state will be overwhelmed...their warning urges citizens to first and foremost stay home when possible. If we don't handle this correctly, the consequences will be severe for us, our patients and large swaths of the Texas health care system," a TMA spokesperson said.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told a U.S. Senate committee today the United States cannot count on the availability of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, there is no guarantee and he warned that the daily surge in cases could more than double if Americans fail to take steps to get the virus under

der control. Currently there are around 40,000 cases, it could reach 100,000 if people do not adhere to social distancing guidelines and wear masks.

Young people, in particular, are at risk, Fauci told the Senate Committee. "What we saw were a lot of young people who maybe felt that because they think they are invulnerable, and we know many young people are not because they're getting serious disease, that therefore they're getting infected has nothing at all to do with anyone else, when in fact it does," he said.

Harris County's mandatory mask order will remain in effect through the end of the summer, Commissioners Court decided today. The court extended until Aug. 26 the county's disaster declaration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing County Judge Lina Hidalgo to extend the mask rules until that date as well. The mask order, which Hidalgo issued June 19, mandates that businesses require patrons to cover their faces. The vote to extend the declaration was 3-2, with the two Republican commissioners, Steve Radack and Jack Cagle, voting no.

The Texas Democratic Party (TDP) wisely looked ahead and in early March they passed party rules allowing them to have a virtual internet convention in June instead of the traditional IN-PERSON convention. They experienced over 12,000 conventioners and raised several million dollars in the nation's largest state convention to date. TDP officials said we put the health of our members and the communities of the San Antonio area where the convention was scheduled to take place as our top priority.

The TMA made \$5,000 contributions to both the Texas Democratic Party and the Texas Republican Party for their respective state conventions, in exchange for advertising. They began pursuing both sponsorships in February, before the pandemic or any stay-home/social distancing measures hit Texas.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "Is it important to get an appraisal on my jewelry?"



An official appraisal is necessary for insurance and estate planning. Fair market value appraisals indicate the amount a piece would be sold for between a willing buyer and seller. This appraisal can be used for estate tax determination and division of property in a divorce. A fair market value can be helpful to fair division of jewelry assets among loved ones.

Insurance replacement appraisals provide you protection for reimbursement in case of loss. This appraisal will give you a document that describes your item exactly (stone clarity, size, color, quality and value). By having a relatively recent appraisal, you will be better able to get the lost item replaced with a similar item or receive a settlement from your insurance company. Gems of the same size can have significantly different values so you need an appraisal to ensure your replacement is comparable to the original.

Listed below are the most common reasons to have your jewelry appraised by a professional.

- Insurance coverage is the most common reason for getting an appraisal. A full appraisal is a detailed document that will assure you of a comparable replacement in case of loss.
- With the popularity of purchasing jewelry over the internet, an appraisal from an independent appraiser can verify that diamonds and other jewelry match the certification or appraisal that accompany the item. Schedule an appointment to give you an idea of the value and peace of mind.
- A detailed appraisal

is a valuable document to have whenever you choose to dispose of (sell, trade or bequeath) your jewelry.

- An appraisal is necessary in the event of Estate Settlement, forming a Trust, or Equitable Distribution.

- You will need an appraisal to claim a casualty loss for your insurance company or uninsured loss for the IRS.

- You should have an appraisal for division of property in a divorce.

- You will need an appraisal for tax deduction of a charitable contribution.

Is there a cost to have my jewelry appraised?

Yes. When asking any professional for their appraised value of an item, you should usually expect to pay a reasonable amount for their expert opinion. How much that amount is can vary from professional to professional. It's safe to say that the most important factor to consider when selecting someone to appraise your fine jewelry, is trust. Work with a professional that you trust to appraise your jewelry.

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

*Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://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](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).*

## EPA Update,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- The pre-design investigations have refined the volume of waste to be removed in the north and south impoundment;

- Waste in some areas of the northern impoundment are deeper than presented in the Record of Decision;

- Excavation of waste will occur during periods of the year that are not prone to flooding and hurricanes

- The waste will be excavated in cells. The size and number of cells will be based on the volume of waste that can be removed during periods of the year that are not subject to flooding or hurricanes.

5. Is there a new timeline or schedule for remediation, due to the fact that the material in the pits may be deeper than originally expected? Jackie Young said that the toxic waste may go down as far as 25'.

The remedial design documents have been submitted by the due dates outlined in the remedial design legal order.

Concurrent with the remedial design work, EPA along with the Department of Justice are working on a settlement agreement with the responsible parties. This settlement agreement will detail how the final remedial design packages will be implemented.

Cleanup of the northern impoundment will take longer than presented in the Record of

Decision. The cleanup will take longer because the volume of waste has increased, and excavation of the waste will be done in cells during periods of the year that are not subject to flooding or hurricanes. A preliminary cleanup schedule is presented in the 30% design package. The schedule will be updated and refined as part of the pre-final design.

6. Will there be a public meeting in the local area before the end of the year to update the community on progress? What would be an approximate date? Also, please feel free to make a report to the public through our publications, we still reach 12,500 every week on both sides of the river.

It is unknown if there will be a public meeting in the local area before the end of the year due to COVID-19. As regional travel restrictions are lifted EPA will begin looking into safe and effective ways to interact with local community members, whether in person or virtually.

7. The PRP have removed their website, [keepitcapped.org](http://keepitcapped.org), from the internet. Is this a sign they are being more cooperative toward remediation?

EPA does not know why the website "keepitcapped.org" has been removed from the internet.

Jennah Durant  
US EPA Region 6  
Press Office  
214-676-0655

## Severe Level,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

food and medicine

Avoid and cancel all gatherings of any size.

Essential workers practice special precautions to prevent spread.

All vulnerable individuals (65+ or with pre-existing health conditions) stay home.

Self-quarantine for 14 days if in close and prolonged contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19.

Wear face coverings to protect others.

Avoid non-essential business and personal travel. Avoid public transportation where possible.

Cancel visits to nursing homes, long term care facilities, and hospitals.

Avoid and cancel all indoor and outdoor gatherings, including concerts, rodeos, large sporting events, etc. Schools and after-school activities for

youth close, as directed by educational authorities.

Area hospitals have reached their full ICU base capacity and are now relying on surge space to treat patients. The number of daily cases and hospitalizations have also reached their highest point since the beginning of the pandemic.

Additionally, Judge Hidalgo announced effective immediately, she will implement a ban on all gatherings of 100 or more people in unincorporated Harris County and encourage cities across the county to do the same.

Harris County is ready to deploy a medical shelter at NRG to serve as a backup should the hospital system become overwhelmed by new cases beyond the existing surge capacity space that remains. The costs for the medical shelter are expected to be 100 percent reimbursed federal funds, either from FEMA funds or CARES Act funding already allocated to the county.

For a complete list of indicators, including stay home guidance visit [ReadyHarris.org](http://ReadyHarris.org).

## NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED FIVE VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATIONS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. MR. FIDENCIO MORENO AT 11201 VERANO IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO USE FOUR (4) FEET OF THE CITY RIGHT OF WAY FOR A FENCE THAT HE HAS BUILT.

2. MR. RUBEN MACEDO AT JC TIRE AT 10602 EAST FREEWAY IS WANTING TO SELL USED CARS AT THAT LOCATION.

3. MR. RAUL VILLARREAL AT 10324 PALESITNE IS REQUESTING TO HAVE A BUSINESS TO MANUFACTURE WINDOWS.

4. MR. ISIDRO CERDA AT 10430 PILOT IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO KEEP A DRIVEWAY APPROACH THAT HE POURED INCORRECTLY.

5. CISNEROS DESIGN GROUP AT 1002 MERCURY/10222 RUMAR IS WANTING TO BUILD A CONVENIENCE STORE.

THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON JULY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 STARTING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

WOW, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY HERE ON THE FARM!

I HAD A FULL MEAL NOW I SUPPOSE I WILL TAKE A NAP IN THE SUN ALL DAY.

WOW, THE FARMER EVEN LEFT SOME LEFTOVER FOOD IN THE BUCKET FOR ME!

OK...THAT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN FOOD.

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

THIS SECTION WAS MY DAUGHTER JUNE'S IDEA.

SHE'S REALLY INTO PUNS RIGHT NOW.

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

WHAT HAS FOUR LEGS & ONE ARM?

I GIVE UP. WHAT HAS FOUR LEGS & ONE ARM?

OUR NEIGHBORS' PITBULL!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Table is different 2. Picture has moved. 3. Fish is missing 4. Water level is higher 5. Woman's hair has changed 6. Boy's necklace is different.

Posting Date June 29, 2020

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 — and call

5 Promptly

8 Despot

12 Verve

13 Rd.

14 Regulation

15 Not yet final, in law

16 — -relief

17 Blind as —

18 Body art

20 Pack down

22 Half a fluid ounce

26 Short

29 Swiss canton

30 Tokyo, once

31 Bergman, in "Casablanca"

32 Action star Diesel

33 One

34 Mel of Cooperstown

35 Programmer's woe

36 Foolish

37 Skiers' carriages

40 Summertime pest

41 Stary

45 Honeycomb compartment

47 Web address

49 Wander

50 Met melody

51 Dos' neighbors

52 Yemeni port

53 Helen's home

54 Previous night

55 Saucy

10 — carte

11 Pensioned (Abbr.)

19 LummoX

21 "— was saying ..."

23 Playwright Pirandello

24 Valhalla VIP

25 Memo

26 United nations

27 Naomi's daughter-in-law

28 Incised printing method

32 Predatory sort

33 Remove a seat belt

35 Underwear with underwire

36 "Monty Python" opener

38 Dental filling

39 Untrue

42 Took the bus

43 State with certainty

44 Gave temporarily

45 Garfield or Heathcliff

46 Blunder

48 Gun the engine

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What was the former name of the Hawaiian Islands?

2. MOVIES Which Elvis Presley movie features the theme song "Can't Help Falling in Love"?

3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What color is fuchsia?

4. TELEVISION: What was the real name of the Skipper's character on "Gilligan's Island"?

5. GEOLOGY: What kind of rock is sandstone?

6. FOOD & DRINK: Which country has a wine-producing region called the Rapel Valley?

7. MEDICAL: What kind of insect can transmit diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever?

8. MEASUREMENTS: How many standard bottles are contained in a magnum of champagne?

9. LITERARY: Who was the first official poet laureate of England?

10. HISTORY: Which treaty ended the American Revolution?

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Woman attacked by pitbull walking dog



CHANNELVIEW – A local woman was walking her tiny dog when she and her dog were attacked by an unharnessed pitbull. Both her dog and she had to have emergency medical attention afterwards and to no avail for her dog.

June 26 at about 6:00 p.m. Becky Davis was leisurely walking her dog on a leash in the Liberty Run Drive vicinity, near Beltway 8 and US 90. At about that same time, a young girl was walking a black dog described as a pitbull breed without a harness.

The pitbull attacked without provocation, dashing away from the child that was walking it. In a relentless fury, the pitbull ripped gashes in the small dog, shook and dashed the smaller animal to the ground.

The attacking animal also bit and gashed Ms. Davis' hand. The furious attack continued until the small dog was without consciousness and an entire can of pepper spray was exhausted. The pitbull then attempted to carry away the limp body of the small dog.

A neighbor video taped the incident.

The owner of the pitbull was contacted by telephone later, he told the victim that he had the pitbull put down.

Of course, Harris County Animal Control was contacted also and is still conducting an investigation. According to the investigator the agency is still trying to make contact with the owner of the pitbull. Also, they are endeavoring to find the disposition of the pitbull. Charges are pending.

## North Shore Rotary installs new officers and board



At their regular meeting last Thursday, the North Shore Rotary Club held an Installation ceremony for new officers and board for the coming 2020-2021 Rotary year.

PHOTO above, Judge Joe Stephens swears-in Lowell Everitt as the new president. Other officers and board in the photo below include: President elect Shawn Silman, Secretary Ken Wimbley, Treasurer Lee Brown, and Past President Ryan Dagley. Board members include Robert Boaz, Beau Burris, Elbert Eugene Dagley, Teri Denny, Matthew Davis, Paul Drexler, BR Hendrix, Eddie Miller, Wayne Oquin, and Bill Palko.

## Constables Race,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Belt area of the Precinct.

Both candidates have accused the other of improprieties. Charges were leveled during a Zoom debate on June 23rd. Diaz said that his opponent was "disloyal" and had left Precinct 2 to work in Precinct 3. Garcia cited a number of instances of questionable ethics by Diaz. Last year, he was accused of retaliation by some of his staff, of which some were demoted or fired. In January, Diaz participated in an eviction in South Houston which had questionable authority and legality. And in the constable's race, he is accused of paying filing fees for a "straw horse" candidate, also named Jerry Garcia, to confuse voters and defeat Lt. Garcia.

Garcia says it is time for a change, and to bring back integrity, positivity, and transparency to the Constable's office. Diaz says his record of accomplishments speaks for itself, including increasing number of deputies available for patrol, having a special operations unit that took \$24 million of drugs off the street in 2019, and continuation of a strong community outreach program.

Diaz has a large group of endorsers in the campaign.

paign.

The winner of this Democratic run-off will face Republican candidate Daniel Vela in the general election in November.

Other 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, as well as the Constables. In District 138, Akilah Bacy is opposed by Jenifer 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. 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. The winner will face the Democratic incumbent Sheriff, Ed Gonzalez, in the November election. For Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5 has Russ Ridgway vs. Mike Wolfe.

Early voting started 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.

## Precinct One continues support of programs to provide neighborhood kids a safe place to play

Precinct One's investment of \$50,000 will expand partnership with SPARK Parks at Five Elementary Schools in Precinct One

Promoting safe and healthy ways for kids to enjoy the benefits of the outdoors is important to Harris County Precinct One and Commissioner Rodney Ellis. On Tuesday, June 30, Harris County Commissioners Court signed off on a plan by Commissioner Ellis to invest \$10,000 each in five new SPARK Park projects throughout Harris County. The SPARK Park program, which started in 1983 to address a shortage of parklands in Harris County, develops neighborhood parks on public school grounds.

The five schools approved for funding include Anderson Elementary and the Arabic Immersion Magnet School in Houston ISD, Horn Elementary in Alief ISD, Lakeshore Elementary in Humble ISD and Royalwood Elementary in Sheldon ISD.

"Every neighborhood deserves access to high quality parks and green spaces," said Commissioner Rodney Ellis. "The SPARK Park program has been an invaluable partner in expanding equitable access to parks for people of all ages in Harris County. I am proud to make this investment in five new SPARK Park sites so that more residents have opportunities for healthy, family-friendly fun and recreation near them."

ly-friendly fun and recreation near them."

For Precinct One, this is the continuation of a partnership that started in 2019 with a similar grant to assist in developing a SPARK Park at Carroll Elementary School in Sheldon ISD. To date, SPARK Parks has built more than 200 community parks in 17 school districts throughout the greater Houston area. Each project location is unique but typically can include playground equipment, trails, picnic tables, trees and other features.

Construction on the first park could begin as soon as this month and all five parks should be completed by next summer.

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