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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Houston Food Bank Distribution

Friday, July 31 from 4-7 p.m. at Sheldon ISD Panther Stadium, 11433 East Sam Houston Parkway N.

COVID-19 Cases as of July 28, 2020

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

104,645 POSITIVE
1,129 DEATHS
41,346 RECOVERED

TEXAS

406,559 POSITIVE
5,882 DEATHS
229,107 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

4,341,201 POSITIVE
149,052 DEATHS
1,325,804 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

16,605,067 POSITIVE
657,643 DEATHS
9,667,033 RECOVERED

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

EPA Releases Preliminary Design for Remediation

WASTE PITS REMOVAL WILL HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON AREA

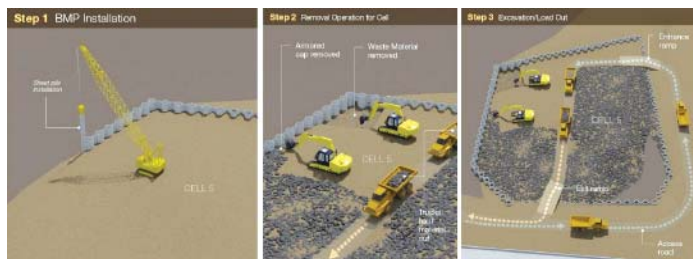
Plan will cause Seven years of noise, dust, truck traffic

HIGHLANDS – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has just released many volumes of reports from the GHD Consulting Engineering firm, detailing their ideas for how to remove the toxic wastes from the North and South Impoundments along the San Jacinto River, known as the Superfund Site.

The report is extremely long and detailed, consisting of 10 volumes of information for the Northern Impound Site, and Two volumes for the Southern Impound Site. In total, there are many thousands of pages with data, drawings, boring logs, and most important a Work

Plan on how to remove the waste material, and how it will impact the environment around the communities of Highlands and Channelview.

The engineers have proposed excavation within “cells” on the Northern site, encompassed by sheet piling, and on the Southern site removal without the piling enclosures. The full extent of the work includes driving piles to form five cofferdams, dewatering the soil, excavating the material, and hauling it away to licensed landfills approximately 100 miles away. They envision one year of preparation, five years of excavation, and one year of clean-up and resto-



Removal method of dry waste inside cofferdam

ration, for a total of seven years of work.

The report emphasizes that it is preliminary in nature, and must be evaluated and refined. It is written by the GHD Environmental Engineering firm, located in

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, but reflects input from the EPA, the TCEQ, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The report says that it will also need the concurrence and coordination with the Port of Houston Authority, Harris

County Flood Control District, the TXDOT Texas Department of Transportation, and the Coastal Water Au

See WASTE PITS, Page 8

HOUSTON & HARRIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPTS.

Health order requires no in-person instruction until at least Sept. 8

Harris County, Texas - July 24, 2020, Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Executive Director of Harris County Public Health (HCPH) and Local Health Authority for Harris County, and David Perse, MD, FACEP, FAEMS, Local Health Authority for the Houston Health Department, signed a joint public health order requiring all public and non-religious private schools in Harris County to remain closed to in-person instruction until at least September 8. The start of on-campus instruction and activity may be delayed further based on ongoing monitoring and assessment of public health mitigation conditions.

The order follows the release of a provision from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) permitting schools to delay in-person instruction and a letter sent to local school districts from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Dr. Shah on July 20 strongly urging schools to delay in-person instruction given the ongoing public

health crisis. Over the past several weeks, Harris County authorities have consulted with local school officials, parents, teachers, and other public health and safety experts on reopening plans and the most responsible path forward regarding school operations.

“In order for students to be able to learn and grow, they must also be healthy and safe,” said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. “Right now, we continue to see a severe and uncontrolled spread of this virus and it would be self-defeating to reopen schools as usual for in-person instruction. We are all desperate to move on from this crisis and get life back to normal. September 8 is still likely too soon, but the truth is, the fastest way we can all work together to bring this virus under control, the sooner we will be in a position to reopen again for the long term.”

“We cannot talk about sending our children, teachers, and staff back to school when the virus is spreading uncontrollably in our com-

munity,” Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said. “We are at a critical moment in the fight against COVID-19, and we must take a step back and work to lower the positivity rate and hospitalizations. It is important to keep encouraging people to social distance, wear face coverings, and get tested. In a few weeks, we can look again at the data, see where things are, and gradually move forward again.”

“Opening schools safely is a public health priority,” said Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, local health authority for HCPH. Harris County schools must reopen in a manner that prioritizes the health and safety of children, staff, families and the community. Considering how widespread this virus is in the community, we feel it is not safe at this time.”

“We’re in a critical time in our mission of working together as a community to get COVID-19 under con-

See in-person instruction delayed, Page 2

STAAR Testing: Governor Abbott waives grade promotion requirements for 5th and 8th grades

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott announced that the grade promotion requirement related to the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test for students in grades 5 and 8 has been waived for the upcoming school year. Typically, school systems must take into account a student’s score on the STAAR test to determine whether the student can be promoted to the next grade level. The traditional A-F rating system will remain in place, albeit with certain adjustments due to COVID-19.

Typically, students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 are required to re-take a STAAR test late in the school year, and sometimes again in the summer, if they do not meet grade level when taken during the spring. With this waiver, there will only be one administration of the STAAR grades 5 and 8 mathematics and reading assessments for the 2020–21 school year. The test will be administered in May to coincide with the administration of other STAAR grades 3-8 assessments.

See STAAR Test, Page 5

Congressman John Lewis, Civil Rights Icon, dies at 80

By Allan Jamail

It was January 24, 2018 at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Houston’s Fifth Ward, as a photojournalist for the North Channel Star I got to meet Congressman John Lewis of Georgia. I was there covering the Criminal Justice Forum (CJF) spearheaded by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

The North Channel Star put on its front page my article and photos of Lewis and the CJF. You can still read the article by going to; www.northchannelstar.com, search for “crime forum”.

Hundreds gathered at the church to hear Lewis’ speech, here’s part of it, “You must find a way to get in the way. You must find a way to get in trouble,

See Congressman John Lewis, Page 6



Photo by Allan Jamail

January 2018 - the late Congressman John Lewis gave a rousing speech while in Houston attending a Criminal Justice forum aimed at improving the nation’s Criminal Justice System. Lewis emphasized the need to never use acts of violence to accomplish one’s goal. John Lewis said, “The best non-violent action we can take to correct the unfair Criminal Justice System is to VOTE! Vote like you’ve never voted before. Get everyone to VOTE!”

Teneshia Hudspeth, Harris County’s first African American Chief Deputy Clerk

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – July 28, 2020 - Harris County’s Clerk’s office has promoted Teneshia Hudspeth to Chief Deputy. Hudspeth became the first African American to this position.

Harris County’s elected Clerk Diane Trautman resigned May 31st due to her health concerns. Months before Trautman resigned, in January 2019 she appointed Hudspeth as her 2nd in command.

Trautman in a telephone interview with North Channel Star writer Allan Jamail said she promoted Hudspeth because she was exceptionally qualified to run the Clerk’s office in my absence should the need arise.

Harris County is the third largest county in the nation, this gives Hudspeth the responsibility of administering all the duties of County Clerk’s office. Such as, supervising the Administrators of all departments and locations of Commissioners Court, Elections, County Civil Courts, Probate Courts, Personal Records, Real Property, Information/Records Archives, and Annex Offices in operational planning, human resources, financial, advocacy, community relations and risk management.

Hudspeth a 15-year member of the Harris County Clerk’s Office, served under three Administrations, she has held a variety of positions that have provided the exten-



Harris County’s Chief Deputy Clerk, Teneshia Hudspeth

See Chief Deputy Clerk, Page 3

Help schools open in September – Take precautions and get tested for COVID-19

July 27-August 1. Mobile Test Sites will be in new locations

Houston – The increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations is so concerning Harris County and the City of Houston are ordering all public and non-religious private schools to be closed until at least Tuesday, September 8th. If the rapid spread of this dangerous virus continues, schools may be ordered to stay closed even longer. To prevent that, each of us must take the simple steps to protect ourselves from contracting the disease: stay home as much as possible, when in public wear a mask and stay 6 feet from others, wash your hands often and get tested.

Testing is important because up to 40% of people with COVID-19 have no symptoms, but are still contagious. Knowing if you have the virus benefits you and your family. If you do, your provider or health department will help you understand any symptoms that may develop, advise

you if you need medical treatment and tell you how to protect your family. Testing is free at Harris County Public Health's 7 drive-through sites. Mobile sites move weekly and there are two stationary sites: CyFair at the Ken Pridgeon 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 and mobile sites are open 5 days, Monday-Saturday and closed one weekday. Due to extreme heat or storms, test sites may need to close temporarily.

Sign up online at www.hcphtx.org and take the self-assessment or call 832-927-7575. Results are available in 5-7 business days. You must take the self-assessment to get an authorization code for a testing site.

Mobile locations for the week of July 27 – August 1, Monday-Saturday are:

- Garcia Middle School 2369 W Mt Houston Rd, Houston, TX 77038
- Closed Tuesday, July 28
- Pasadena High School 206 Shaver St, Pasadena, TX 77506
- Closed Wednesday, July 29
- Bear Creek Park 3505 War Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77084
- Closed Thursday, July 30
- Legacy School of Sports Science 2727 Spring Creek Dr, Spring, TX 77373
- Closed Friday, July 31
- Greater Pure Light Church 12330 Vickery St, Houston, TX 77039
- Open Mon-Wed, July 27-29

Sometimes testing appointments fill up quickly sometimes. Some are free, but others are not, so call first. You can also be tested by your provider or clinic.

Visit www.hcphtx.org for COVID-19 updates and resources.

Texas Sales Tax Holiday is Aug. 7-9

(AUSTIN) — With the Texas economy slowly awakening from effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 7-9.

The law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The date of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

“Even though significant uncertainty remains for our public and private schools as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sales tax holiday is a perfect opportunity to save money on school supplies and other tax-free items at

a time when many Texans are carefully monitoring their family finances,” Hegar said. “Online shopping is covered, so I encourage all Texans to shop online or practice social distancing when making in-store purchases. We want folks to stay safe while saving money.”

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

To promote social distancing, the Comptroller's office wants all taxpayers to know that during the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased online or by telephone, mail, custom order or any other means (including in-store purchases) tax free, when either:

- the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the

customer during the exemption period; or

- the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

Texas' sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999, allowing Texans to save millions of dollars in state and local sales taxes each year. Uncertainty surrounding consumer activity in the retail sector coupled with a lack of clarity regarding the timing and nature of schools reopening prevents the agency from producing an estimate for dollars saved by taxpayers during this year's holiday. Last year's holiday generated an estimated \$102.2 million in savings for Texas taxpayers.

In-person instruction delayed until Sept. 8,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trol,” said Dr. David Perse, local health authority for the Houston Health Department. “Sending students, teachers and staff into classrooms while this virus is still spreading uncontrollably is not only unsafe for the people in the schools, it's dangerous for their families, friends and the entire community.”

In addition to the suspension of in person instruction, the order includes the following:

- Virtual instruction is allowed consistent with in-

dividual district or school academic plans. Instructors may use classrooms for video streaming if they are alone in the classroom and building occupancy does not exceed 10%.

- All school sponsored events and activities, including but not limited to clubs, sports, extra-curricular activities, fairs, exhibitions, academic and/or athletic competitions, must not take place in-person, on or off campus, until school systems resume on-campus instruction.

- By no later than Friday, August 21, 2020, each School System shall develop and submit a written plan with safety and health protocols for resuming in-person instruction and extracurricular activities to the Local Health Authority with jurisdiction over the school. School systems must make the plan available to parents and the general public.

Additional information regarding the joint order will be available on ReadyHarris.org.

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

- Know **critical dates** for Medicare eligibility
- 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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“Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget”

San Jacinto College District will hold a public budget hearing meeting by videoconference on Monday, August 3, 2020, at 7 p.m. in the Board Room, Suite A1.104, of the Thomas S. Sewell District Administration Building, located at 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the College District's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Members of the public may access the live-stream of this meeting as follows: www.sanjac.edu/board-meeting-videos

Public participation in the discussion is invited. Members of the public who desire to address the Board must comply with the following registration procedures:

A link to a public comments form is available at: www.sanjac.edu/request-speak-to-board. The form must be completed prior to 6:50 p.m. on August 3, 2020, but members of the public are encouraged to complete the form an hour prior to the start of the meeting to allow time to receive call-in information and sufficient time to join the meeting.

A regular meeting by videoconference of the Board of Trustees will be held immediately after at which time adoption of the 2020-2021 budget will be considered.

The proposed budget will be available for inspection beginning on July 31, 2020, in the office of the Vice Chancellor, Fiscal Affairs, Room A1.202, 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.

COMMUNITY NEWS

In Memory of Jack Dudley

It is with a heavy heart to inform you that our 1994 Chamber Chairman of the Board, Jack Dudley, passed away over the weekend. He has been a member of the North Shore Rotary Club for 45 years and has always been active in our community. Jack served on the board for Pleasant Hill Children's Home and an active member and board for his church at Crossroads Fellowship.



San Jacinto College taking Spring Commencement virtual

PASADENA, Texas – San Jacinto College has moved its Spring commencement online. The ceremony was originally postponed from May to August due to COVID-19, and will now take place virtually. “We know this is not how the class of 2020 planned to celebrate their graduation, but due to COVID-19 concerns we had to make the decision to transition our ceremony online,” said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor. “We invite all of our graduates, along with their friends and families, to gather online to honor and celebrate their achievements from the safety and comfort of their home.” The August 7 virtual ceremony will be held at 7 p.m., and will be live streamed on YouTube. Each graduate will be recognized with their photo and credential information, and the ceremony will include remarks from Chancellor Hellyer and other College leaders. For more information and for the YouTube link when it is available, visit sanjac.edu/commencement. For information about the College’s COVID response, visit sanjac.edu/coronavirus.

Sheldon ISD Trustees vote to revise the 2020-21 calendar year Sept. 8 is Sheldon ISD's new start date

Out of an abundance of caution, Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the administration’s recommendation to revise the 2020-21 school calendar. Revisions provide a later start date Tuesday, Sept. 8 (three weeks later than the original date) and complete remote learning with no in-person instruction the first four weeks of school. “Since the beginning of the pandemic in March, we have dedicated our efforts to prioritizing the safety of our students and staff,” said Superintendent Dr. King Davis. “Our school board understands the importance of a delayed start to the school year. The additional three weeks allow more time for social distancing in our community, safety training for our staff and additional opportunities for professional development.” Revisions to the calendar include: – New start date of Tuesday, Sept. 8 – Complete virtual learning for all students through Friday, Oct. 2 – Beginning Monday, Oct. 5, SISD will begin offering in-person instruction in addition to Sheldon on Demand (based on parent declarations made in Skyward). You will have the opportunity to change your declaration mid-September as we prepare to open the doors in October. – There will be no school on Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day) – The last day of school for students will be Thursday, June 10. Sheldon ISD administration has been preparing multiple scenarios for the start of the 2020-21 school year, including providing on-site learning and remote learning (Sheldon On Demand). In early July, the district gave families the opportunity to declare their preference for their child’s education - online or in person. Currently, Sheldon ISD is finalizing plans for Sheldon On Demand (online learning) as well as Sheldon ON Site (in-person learning) and will present the plans to the community before we open the school doors in October. “We continue to learn something new each day from the state, but we must prepare and be ready to support our students academically, socially and emotionally,” said Davis. “SISD is committed to every child, every day whether they are learning at home or in our classrooms. We want to provide flexible options to our families that meet their individual needs.” Sheldon ISD will continue to monitor developments from health officials. To keep families informed, the district has launched Start in Sheldon 2020-21 as an information hub for parents to find back-to-school information. The web page, sheldonisd.com/start2020, will be updated regularly as decisions are made.

Chief Deputy Clerk,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sive knowledge necessary to serve the public well, including Administrative Aide of Public Affairs, Special Projects Coordinator, Voter Outreach Coordinator, Public Information Officer, and Administrator of Communications & Voter Outreach. Most of Hudspeth’s work while in the Clerk’s Office focused on providing registered voters the information, materials and assistance needed to access the voting process. In the community, she’s provided leadership and information on voter registration and voter turnout in Harris County, the City of Houston, and the State of Texas, and manages the African American Elections Advisory Committee for the County. Hudspeth said she’s currently seeking to be on the November 3rd, 2020 ballot as the Harris County Democratic Party’s candidate to fill the vacant County Clerk’s position. She is married to Samson Babalola and together they have a three-year-old son Josiah. Harris County’s Commissioners Court voted on June 1st to approve Christopher G. Hollins, a 33 year old Houston attorney to hold the Clerk’s job only in an interim role with the provision he’ll not seek the elected position.

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NEWSPAPERS

By Texas Press Association

A metro newspaper refugee found success at a weekly

By Jim Iovino
West Virginia University

M.E. Sprengelmeyer called himself a “hired gun” at big-city newspapers for more than 20 years, including the now-defunct Rocky Mountain News, where he was the Washington correspondent.

But he didn’t like the direction newspapers of that size were going. Staffs were getting squeezed, and he said he wasn’t sold on working for a publicly traded company that was making moves based on profits.

So he left.

M.E. Sprengelmeyer talked on the phone as he supervised work on his weekly. (Photo by Rick Scibelli Jr., The New York Times)

He took his severance and some savings and started a search that would help him control his own journalistic destiny. He ended up in Santa Rosa, New Mexico, in 2009, where he purchased a weekly newspaper called the Guadalupe County Communicator.

“It was awesome,” Sprengelmeyer said. “I say this to anyone who asks me. I covered wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, was on the presidential campaign trail for a year. Coverage of sex trafficking in the Philippines. But the stuff I did in the middle of nowhere in New Mexico was the most important work I had ever done. It was the most satisfying. It was also the most frightening.”

Sprengelmeyer gained national recognition for his career path, including being featured in the New York Times. He also turned his weekly paper into a journalistic powerhouse in New Mexico, winning numerous awards and shining light on local issues like never before.

Oh, it was also profitable. While stories of major metro newspapers are filled with financial doom and gloom, that’s not so for many weekly newspapers across the country – his included.

That’s not to say hard work wasn’t involved. There were many things Sprengelmeyer had to learn in real time, including how to get over the fear of being the person in charge of not just a newsroom, but also payroll and taxes.

“In 21 years of being in corporate papers, I had never been an editor,” he said. “I hadn’t supervised anyone. ... The other stuff (payroll, ad sales, circulation, etc.) seems like a drag. The truth of the matter is that kind of takes care of itself. Just do it. You learn it on the job.”

Due to family health issues, Sprengelmeyer eventually sold the paper and moved to North Carolina after running the Communicator for more than eight years. He hopes more journalists follow his path to ownership. It may not be something many realize they can do – or even want to do, for that matter. But he said there is great satisfaction personally and an even greater impact on a community.

You will never have more fun and never do more important journalism,” he said, “than when you’re in a small town running the show.”

Jim Iovino is director of NewStart, a program at West Virginia University’s College of Media to develop the next generation of community newspaper owners.

This article is one of a series distributed by the Texas Press Association for its members. If you wish more information, call 713-266-3444 or email grafikstar@aol.com



Kristan Hoffman Butler, author of “Little Love Stories” with Reed Butler and Iris Butler.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Chris Cobler

Let’s search together for capital ideas

Let’s search together for capital ideas

Ed Sterling wrote this column for almost three decades, so let’s open by celebrating his contributions to the Texas Press Association and its members. Ed was the calm, steady voice keeping us informed and interested.

I am honored to have been asked by Mike Hodges, TPA executive director, and Donnis Baggett, executive vice president, to continue the important work of keeping Texans up to date on what’s happening in Austin. The world has changed dramatically since Ed started writing in the early 1990s, but the need for being informed remains greater than ever.

The “Capital Highlights” column appears in more than 100 newspapers across Texas, reaching all the way from the Rockport Pilot to the Moore County News-Press and from the Bowie News to the Seminole Sentinel. From his many years of traveling around Texas and talking to editors and publishers, Ed carried in his head the knowledge of each paper and its readers.

Please help me help sniff out the most useful news to you. Via email at ccobler@texaspress.com, tell me about the state agencies and topics you want monitored most closely. Are you concerned most about the large players like the Texas Education Agency, or do you want me to report the latest buzz from more obscure agencies like the Texas Apiary Inspection Service?

Despite my penchant for dad jokes, I pledge to keep playing this column straight, as Ed did so well. We need more nonpartisan news, which is why you read and support your local newspaper.

The pandemic remained the theme of the news in July, much of it centering on the economy and education. The week opened with Comptroller Glenn Hegar’s forecast that Texas faces a \$ 4.6 billion budget deficit and closed with the first



hurricane of the season, Hanna, making landfall Saturday night near Port Mansfield.

ELECTRIC NEWS FOR THE ECONOMY

A jolt of good news came late in the week when Tesla announced it would build an electric-vehicle manufacturing plant in Travis County, bringing at least 5,000 jobs and \$ 1 billion in capital investments.

Austin, offering about \$ 60 million in local tax breaks, beat out Tulsa and other American cities vying for the prize. The factory will produce Tesla’s Cybertruck, Semi and Models 3 and Y and be built on 2,000 acres near the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

“We’re going to make it a factory that is going to be stunning,” Tesla top executive Elon Musk said . “It’s right on the Colorado River. So we’re actually going to have to have a boardwalk over you, hiking, biking trail. It’s going to basically be an ecological paradise. ”

GETTING RID OF GOBBLEDYGOOK

Jargon isn’t just hard on readers. It also can be bad for business, Texas’ insurance commissioner wrote in a column last week.

Kent Sullivan said he has been promoting plain language since becoming insurance commissioner three years ago. One example of policy legalese he noted: “You may qualify for a contingent non-forfeiture benefit.”

Instead of this gobbledygook, Sullivan wrote, “Why not just say you can

still receive benefits even if you stop paying for this policy?”

The coronavirus outbreak has spotlighted potential confusion and costly legal fallout caused by bewildering insurance policy language, Sullivan said. “We need a coordinated effort to strengthen and enforce plain language requirements in state laws,” he added.

ADA TURNS 30

July 26 marked the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The US Census Bureau estimates that one in four Americans, or 61 million adults, have a disability.

The Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities will have its quarterly business meeting from 8 am-5 pm July 30 and 8 am-noon July 31. Because of the pandemic, the meeting will be via Zoom.

One agenda item: How educators wearing face masks affects students who are deaf or who have hearing loss. The full agenda and Zoom meeting information may be found at bit.ly/disabilities0730

LOOKING AHEAD TO TAX SAVINGS

Texas’ annual sales tax holiday is Aug. 7-9. The holiday exempts sales tax on qualified items - such

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LITTLE LOVE STORY

By Kristan Hoffman

One Thing I Didn’t Expect About Motherhood

How much I would think about bodies. My body. My children’s bodies. The way they grow, stretch, scar and heal. Their softness and their strength. Through pregnancy, birth and recovery, I’ve become more forgiving toward my body, though it hasn’t always felt like mine. Its changes aren’t easy to accept, nor are the demands to share it so frequently. I marvel at my children, so awkward and elegant. Why are we drawn to embrace so often? Why does touch offer such comfort? I am not religious, but since becoming a mother, I have learned to worship. Our bodies are holy. — Kristan Hoffman

This short story was originally published in the New York Times on July 6, 2020 in a regular column entitled Little Love Stories.

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Kristan Hoffman is the daughter of this newspaper’s publishers, an author, and a columnist for this newspaper.

as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks - priced below \$ 100, saving shoppers about \$ 8 on every \$ 100 they spend. Qualifying items are listed at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

“Even though significant uncertainty remains for our public and private schools as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sales tax holiday is a perfect opportunity to save money on school supplies and other tax-free items at a time when many Texans are carefully monitoring their family finances,” Comptroller Hegar said. “Online shopping is convenient, so I encourage all Texans to shop online or practice social distancing when making in-store purchases. We want folks to stay safe while saving money.”

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texaspress.com.

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OBITUARIES

Nelda Ann Tosh

Nelda Ann Tosh, 77, passed away peacefully at home on July 23, 2020 in Crosby, Texas. Nelda was born on December 20, 1942 in Bremond, Texas to parents Newel and Berta (Hailey) Hamilton. She was a loving sister, mother, grandmother and friend. Nelda was a member of Dell Dale Baptist Church where she treasured the fellowship of her church family as well. She enjoyed sewing and making handmade quilts that she loved sharing with her family. Nelda will be dearly missed and will remain in the hearts of those who knew her.



She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Thurman Leo Tosh, Sr.; son, Thurman Leo Tosh, Jr.; as well as numerous siblings. Nelda is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Deana and John F. Peek, Jr.;

grandchildren, Tiffany Goines and husband Fredrick, John Forrest Peek, III; great-grandchildren, Ransom Goines, Faith-Marie Goines; her only living sister, Dorothy Risenhoover; as well as numerous nieces and nephews who loved her dearly. Due to the current pandemic, services to honor Nelda's life will be postponed until a later date.

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Governor Abbott, TMD Announce
Texas National Guard Partnership
With Active Duty, Reservists In
Support Of COVID-19 Response

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Military Department (TMD) today announced Joint Task Force Texas, a newly formed partnership between the Texas National Guard and Active Duty and Reservists to strengthen COVID-19 response efforts in Texas. More than 1,200 service members have come together from the Texas National Guard and the active and reserve components of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force to support hospitals in Houston, San Antonio, Del Rio, and the Rio Grande Valley.

"This formal partnership will help ensure a more effective collaboration among state and federal re-

sources, and allows us to better meet the needs of Texans across the state," said Governor Abbott. "I thank our federal partners at the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air force for continuing to provide crucial support to the Lone Star State. The State of Texas remains committed to working alongside our federal partners to keep Texans safe and combat the spread of COVID-19 in our communities."

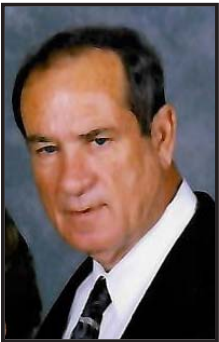
"We are proud to work with our brothers and sisters in arms from the active duty and reserve forces to help our fellow Texans in need," said Texas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tracy Norris. "The units of the Texas Military Department are not authorized with enough medical profes-

sionals to meet the current demand. Therefore, the Governor requested medical assistance through FEMA. That request is being met from the Department of Defense with active duty and U.S. Army medical professionals. By partnering with the active duty and reserve components, we will be able to provide this much needed support and relief to the Texas civilian healthcare workers who have been working tirelessly to care for the people of our great state."

Texas Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Thomas Suelzer, appointed as the dual-status commander, serves as the commander of both Texas National Guard and federal service members.

Jimmy Cain

Jimmy Cain, 85, of Highlands, Texas went to be with the Lord on July 19, 2020. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Mary Cain and daughter, Karen Schoppa. Jimmy is survived by daughter Christina Anderson and husband Glenn of Crosby, TX. Grandchildren Shanna Wiggins and husband Michael of Crosby, TX. Jeromey Anderson and wife Julie of Highlands, TX. Amanda Duda and husband Zack of Crosby, TX. Brent Shoppa of Pasadena, TX. James Shoppa and wife Misty of Webster, TX. Great grandchildren Jared Wiggins, Maddie Wiggins, Colton



Anderson, Braydon Anderson, Elijah Duda, Gabriel Duda, Cullen Schoppa, Luke Schoppa, Travis Schoppa, Ethan and a granddaughter-in-law from a previous marriage, Tricia Meador. He

also leaves behind a lifelong friend, James Norwood.

Friends are invited to visit with the family from 9:00am to 11:00am on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at Sterling White Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 11:00am. Interment will follow in Sterling White Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Sterling White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562.

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STAAR Test,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ments. "As always, our goal is to provide a high quality education for every Texas student," said Governor Abbott. "This will be a uniquely challenging school year, therefore, this year is about providing students every opportunity to overcome the disruptions caused by COVID-19. By waiving these promotion requirements, we are providing greater flexibility for students and teachers, while at the same time ensuring that Texas students continue to receive a great education — which we will continue to measure with high quality assessments."

"Parents deserve to know how well their children have learned grade level knowledge and skills in reading and math, especially in a time when education has been

substantially disrupted," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath. "And educators use this valuable information to make adjustments to support students the following year. But there is no benefit to our children by requiring them to repeat a year based on a single test score given the disruptions of COVID, so we are waiving the grade promotion requirements from STAAR this year for our students."

"Parents rightfully expect our schools to continue to meet a high bar and it is critically important that teachers and parents know how each child is progressing and whether or not they need additional help. A-F ratings will provide us with important information about school performance and, while we won't use the STAAR test

to determine promotions, it will continue to provide us with assessment data that we need. We face some unprecedented challenges in the upcoming year, but we must continue to keep our schools accountable and on track," said Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick.

"With this waiver, we are ensuring that the success of Texas students remains the focus of this school year. These unprecedented times have brought much upheaval to these students' lives and this is one thing we can do at the State level to help ease them back into their educational routines while still ensuring the institutions of education remain accountable," stated Chairman of the House Public Education Committee, Dan Huberty.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Titus in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Joshua 10, the sun stood still while Joshua's army destroyed

- what people? Amorites, Midianites, Egyptians, Philistines
3. In Genesis 9, who saw a rainbow in the sky? Adam, Moses, Noah, Abraham
4. From 1 Samuel 2, how many children did Hannah have? 5, 10, 15, 20

5. In which city did King Ahasuerus live? Corinth, Gath, Berea, Shushan
 6. Who was David's oldest brother? Jonah, Eliab, Joel, Agrippa
- ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Amorites; 3) Noah; 4) 5; 5) Shushan; 6) Eliab

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



Even with Changes

This year is proving to be a year filled with changes and learning to adapt. Resilience will probably be one of best developed characteristics to describe our community members. And at the same time, there are some things that will stay the same. August traditionally brings about Back-to-School Immunization and Resource Fairs as well as many School Supply Give-a-Way events. This year, they will still happen, despite the pandemic, but there will be changes. Those children returning to school on campus, will have supplies provided by the school.

Parents will still need to purchase clothes and schools but perhaps not uniforms. Those who received stimulus checks may have saved that money to do the traditional “free-tax holiday” in early August. Many families did not take any type of a summer vacation, so the money they saved will be a blessing to help with the back to school shopping.

Many parents have made the choice to keep their children at home for online instructions. Who is going to be home with the children? Most families have both parents working and if they are fortunate enough to work full time, they still need to figure out the upcoming school year. I have talked to many grandparents as well as great-grandparents who have been helping with watching the children during the summer, yet they are not prepared to help provide at home instruction.

There are homes without internet connectivity as well as those without computers. Fortunately, many of the school districts will be providing computers to the students for the year. Yet, if those who will be home with the students do not understand the technology, there will be challenges. There will be challenges but children are resilient, especially if they have seen the adults in their lives model it.

There are many students who do not have someone to help at home. What will happen to them? We as a community are going to have to pull together and see what we can do. Does your child have friends who cannot stay home for school? Perhaps you can meet with their parent and see if an agreement can be worked out.

As a grandmother who has worked full-time since before her first son was born, I can only imagine the frustration of trying to find someone to help with their children while the parents work. Our public schools are a safety net for many. There are many services provided on campus that the children need as well as the comradery of other students. Children need to be able to learn to express themselves when called upon, not just control the room. One grandparent shared with me that his grandson dominates the room, yet in a classroom, he learns to take his turn.

The next few months will be challenging but we will adapt, work together and learn to be better community members.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for August?"

AUGUST BIRTHSTONE

We have a birthday present for those born in August: the stunning spinel has been added to your month's birthstone lineup! August now joins June and December as the only months represented by three gems. The original birthstone for August was Sardonyx, and then peridot was added, becoming August's primary gem. Now spinel adds its multitude of color choices!

PERIDOT OVERVIEW

Though peridot is widely recognized by its brilliant lime green glow, the origin of this gem's name is unclear. Most scholars agree that the word “peridot” is derived from the Arabic faridat which means “gem,” but some believe it's rooted in the Greek word peridona, meaning “giving plenty.” Perhaps that's why peridot is associated with prosperity and good fortune. Rarely, peridot is also found inside meteorites.

Peridot's signature green color comes from the composition of the mineral itself—rather than from trace impurities, as with many gems. That's why this is one of few stones that only comes in one color, though shades may vary from yellowish-green to olive to brownish-green, depending how much iron is present. Most of the world's peridot supply comes from the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Other sources are China, Myanmar, Pakistan and Africa.

SARDONYX OVERVIEW

Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx—two types of the layered

Congressman John Lewis,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

good trouble, and necessary trouble.” “I've been arrested about 50 times for getting into good trouble.” “Use what you have to help make our country and make our world a better place, where no one will be left out or left behind... It is your time.”

After the event I made it a point to meet Lewis, I wanted to have a few words with him. As we shook hands and exchanged a few words, I told him he delivered a good speech. And I told him how I respected and admired him for his achievements and his relentless effort to make improvements in civil rights, voting rights and criminal justice reforms. I told him how I hoped my article would help his efforts, he thanked me. Before parting I then told him I'd be praying for him and he thanked me again.

Congressman Lewis served Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death Friday, July 17th at age 80. Known as a civil rights icon he was one of the giants in the historic struggle for equal rights in America.

His death came seven months after his public announcement in late December 2019 after a routine examination he had been diagnosed with advanced stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He said then, “I have never faced a fight quite like the one I have now.”

Lewis, who was born on Feb. 21, 1940 to sharecroppers in Troy, Alabama, attended segregated public schools and gives credit to the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s radio broadcasts which inspired his work as an activist.

At 18, he wrote a letter to King, who responded by purchasing a round-trip bus ticket to Montgomery for Lewis so they could meet. “Dr. King, I am John Robert Lewis,” he recalled saying to King. “And that was the beginning.” Lewis wasted no time organizing, quickly finding himself on the front lines of the civil rights movement.

As a student at Fisk University, he led numerous demonstrations in Nashville against racial segregation, including sit-ins at segregated lunch counters as part of the Nashville Sit-ins.

Starting in 1961, he took part in a series of demonstrations that became known as the Freedom Rides, in which he and other activists -- Black and white -- rode together in buses through the South to challenge the region's lack of enforcing a Supreme Court ruling that deemed segregated public bus rides unconstitutional.

Upon stopping, the activists on these rides often were arrested or beaten, Lewis included. In his second-to-last tweet before his death, Lewis tweeted, “it was 59 years ago today I was released from Parchman Farm Penitentiary after being arrested in Jackson, MS for using a so-called “white” restroom during the Freedom Rides of 1961.”

And on March 7, 1965 in what would become known as “Bloody Sunday,” Lewis, was in the process of leading hundreds of demonstrators in a march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery when they walked across The Edmund Pettus Bridge, which crosses the Alabama River in Selma.

They were greeted by a “sea of blue” of Alabama state troopers who beat and tear-gassed the demonstrators. One of those troopers fractured Lewis's skull, scarring his head for the rest of his life. The troopers acts of violence helped make that demonstration a pivotal one in the fight for African-American suffrage.

Often called , “One of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced,” Lewis dedicated his life to protecting human rights, securing civil liberties, and building what he calls “The Beloved Community” in America. His dedication to the highest ethical standards and moral principles has won him the admiration of many of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the United States Congress.

This past Sunday, July 26th a horse drawn carriage carried Lewis' casket, draped with the United States flag across the same Edmund Pettus Bridge for the last time.

Sunday Lewis body lied in state in the Alabama state capitol, Monday his body arrived in the nation's Capitol Rotunda to lie in state. Thursday it will make its final stop at a private funeral service in Atlanta, Georgia.

President Barack Obama in 2011 awarded Lewis the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his lifetime of advocacy and activism.

During that February ceremony, Obama said of Lewis: “And generations from now, when parents teach their children what is meant by courage, the story of John Lewis will come to mind -- an American who knew that change could not wait for some other person or some other time; whose life is a lesson in the fierce urgency of now.”

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A person is disqualified from serving as an emergency services commissioner if that per- son: (1) is related within the third degree of affinity(blood) or consanguinity(marriage) to: (A) a person providing professional ser- vices to the district; (B) a commissioner of the same district; or (C) a person who is an employee or vol- unteer of an emergency services organization providing emergency services to the district; (2) is an employee of a commissioner of the same district, attorney, or other person providing pro- fessional services to the district; (3) is serving as an attorney, consultant, or ar- chitect or in some other professional capacity for the district or an emergency services organiza- tion providing emergency services to the district; or (4) fails to maintain the qualifications required by law to serve as a commissioner.

LEGAL NOTICE

Harris County ESD No. 50 is selling a 2006 Ferrara Intruder II Pumper from the Channelview Fire Department's fleet through sealed bid process with a minimum starting bid of \$50,000. ESD 50 will be accepting sealed bid from August 3rd until 3pm CST on August 17th. The bids will be opened at a public meeting on August 17, 2020 at 6pm at the Channelview Fire Department located at 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX 77530. The bidding process is being hosted by Brindlee Moun- tain Fire Apparatus. Further details are available at https://www.firetruckmall.com/AvailableTruck/13663/2006-Ferrara-Intruder-II- Pumper or by calling 256-776-7786. Bids may be hand delivered or mailed to: Channelview Fire Department ATTN: Truck Bid 1210 Dell Dale Channelview, TX 77530

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THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF JACINTO CITY WILL MEET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER , 10301 MARKET STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ANTICI- PATED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021. THIS BUD- GET WILL RAISE MORE PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY \$237,072 OR 6 PERCENT. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED.

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by Linda Thistle

9	2		4			5		
	4				9			1
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	6				8			9

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: ♦♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Bushes are missing 2. Apron is different 3. Earring is missing 4. Window is smaller 5. Man's nose is different 6. Bracecase is larger

King Crossword

Posting Date July 27, 2020

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
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51						52				53			

ACROSS

1 Oil cartel

5 Largest conti- nent

9 Crime scene evidence

12 Lounge around

13 Charged bits

14 A billion years

15 Perry Mason's client

17 Entertainment

18 Smell bad

19 Geneva's river

21 Skiers' 7- Down

24 String instru- ment

25 Do as you're told

26 Old cars for new ones

30 "Help!"

31 Repeat ver- batim

32 Arctic bird

33 Confiscations

35 Sans siblings

36 Diner staffer

37 Name

38 BLT meat

40 Swimming venue

42 Alias abbr.

43 Secret or Sure

48 Crib

49 Elderly

50 Press

51 Pismire

52 May honorees

53 Kindly bloke

DOWN

1 Antiquated

2 "The Raven" writer

3 Sprite

4 Group of priests

5 Helper

6 Drench

7 Hostel

8 On both

9 Leaves- dropper?

10 Proper sub- ject, maybe

11 Heche or Hathaway

16 Born

20 Weeding implement

21 Privation

22 Reed instru- ment

23 Drying agent

24 Cisterns

26 Ankara resi- dent

27 Fish eggs

28 — and void

29 Terrier variety

31 Former

34 Menagerie

35 Drilling appa- ratus

37 Also

38 Ali —

39 Related

40 Verse

41 Probability

44 Id counterpart

45 Exist

46 Negative pre- fix

47 Explosive stick

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

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

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the birthstone traditionally associated with the month of July?

2. MOVIES: What was the name of the artificial intelligence system in "The Terminator" movie series?

3. CHEMISTRY: Which element has the chemical symbol Pt?

4. HISTORY: Which two boxers were matched in 1974's "The Rumble in the Jungle" contest in Zaire?

5. ANATOMY: What is the common name for the hallux?

6. AD SLOGANS: Which product is featured in the advertising slogan "Obey your thirst"?

7. GEOGRAPHY: Which four U.S. states start with the letter "I"?

8. TELEVISION: What city was the setting for the 1990s sitcom "Home Improvement"?

9. MUSIC: Which female singer had a No. 1 hit in the 1970s with the song "You're No Good"?

10. MEASUREMENTS: How many table- spoons are in 1/4 cup?

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