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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Galena Park Police prepared for Hurricane season

COVID-19 Cases as of August 5, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

122,745 POSITIVE 1,307 DEATHS 69,272 RECOVERED

TEXAS

474,420 POSITIVE **7,494 DEATHS** 315,652 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

4,818,328 POSITIVE 157,930 DEATHS 1 576 425 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

18,710,668 POSITIVE **704.869 DEATHS** 11.284.150 RECOVERED By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. Tuesday, August 4, 2020 -The 2020 hurricane season has begun and researchers say this year may be espe-cially active. Galena Park's Police Chief Rodney Cher-sky and Fire Chief Tom Ehlers have their departments ahead of the game. Their departments constantly monitor the weather conditions and they plan together for the possibility of responding to emergencies if the city's streets become flooded.

Police Chief Chersky said "Galena Park has two Light Medium Tactical Vehicles (LMTV's), one for the police and one for the fire department. The High Water Rescue Vehicles cost approximately \$140,000.00 each, however the city purchased them in 2017 during Hurricane Harvey from the state surplus with a military grant only has 900 miles on it."



Galena Park police with one of the city's two high water rescue vehicles. The \$140,000 vehicle was purchased for \$5,000 through a military grant. L – R: Chief Rodney Chersky, Sergeant Tim Frantz, Administrative Sergeant – Drew Scroggins and Administrative Assistant - Anabel Reyna

Chersky said, the main rpose of the LMTV's is for high water rescues, but they're also helpful when called upon to go on utility right of ways or other ar-eas where a patrol vehicle or other emergency vehicle may not be able to get without being damaged or getting stuck.

The police and fire department has emergency

backup electrical generators to supply all normal operations of the department as well as the stations emergency telephone and two-way radio commu-nications. In the event flooded roads prevent the normal shift changes requiring the on-duty personnel to work extended hours, the two chiefs plan ahead and stock up with extra supplies of food and

drinking water.

Hurricane season began June 1st and runs through November 30th. Its important citizens keep up with weather conditions and stock up now with emergency supplies before weather conditions hampers getting out.

FOOD ITEMS: water.

fruits and vegetables, canned juice, canned beans and pasta, ready to eat canned soups and meats bread, crackers, fresh fruit

and energy bars.
SUPPLIES: medicines, important phone numbers and insurance papers credit cards, cash, first aid kit, toilet paper, moist tow elettes, garbage bags, dish soap, aluminum foil, paper towels. paper plates and cups, plastic utensils, food storage bags or containers, flashlight, spare batteries, tool kit, mosquito repel-lent, rain gear, plastic sheeting, rope, duct tape, grill, charcoal, lighter fluid, manual can opener, fully-charged cell phone, spare gasoline and strike-

anywhere matches.
PET SUPPLIES: pet food (canned and dry) leash and collar, water and food bowls and carrier.

BABY SUPPLIES: diapers, wipes, formula or baby food, bottles, rash ointment and medicines

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

MD MEDICAL 1-888-776-5252

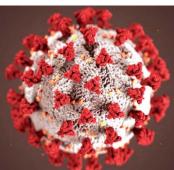
More COVID test sites open in county

Houston Health Department, partners announce free COVID-19 testing schedule for week of August 3

HOUSTON - The Houston Health Department and its agency partners are announcing the schedule sites offering free COVID-19 tests the week of Aug. $3,\ 2020. \textbf{Houston Health}$ **Department**The department offers free drivethru testing at two mega sites in Houston, located at Delmar Stadium and Butler Stadium. Each site is open Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until reaching daily capac-

tests.People wanting to get tested at Stadi-Delmar um, 2020 Mangum Rd, can call the department's COV-ID-19 Call Center at 832-393-4220 between 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive an access code.Butler Stadium, 13755 S Main St, no longer requires an access code, commonly re-

ferred to as an appointment. The department will also open its mobile unit for drive-thru testing August 7-8 at the Consulado General de El Salvador, 8300 Bissonnett St. The site doesn't require



appointments and is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until reaching daily capacity of 250. Texas Division of Emergency ManagementThe Texas Division of Emergency Management

and the department will operate drivethru testing sites at: Crump Stadium, 12321 High Star Dr.,

HCC-Northeast Campus, 555 Community College Dr., and HCC - South Campus, 1990 Air-

TDEM sites are open Monday-Saturday and require appointments, available by calling

844-778-2455 visiting txcovidtest.org. TDEM will also operate a walk-up site that doesn't require appointments at the Merfish Teen Center 9000 S Rice Ave weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. $\,$ United Memorial Medical Center United Memorial $Medical\ Center\ (UMMC)$ will offer weekday testing at drive-thru test sites at Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, 7817 Calhoun Rd., Plaza Americas Mall, 7500Bellaire Blvd., Houston Community Southeast, 6815 Rustic, and Houston Community College-Felix Fraga, 301 N. Drennan St. The sites don't require appointments and offer testing from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until reaching daily capacity of 250 tests. Other UMMC drive-thru sites opening weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. are:

See TEST SITES, page 6

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Bee wrangler at work

By Bob Bartel

Smoke filled the air as the colony rushed home to save their family and trea-sure. The queen was rushed off to a safe location, and the soldiers stood guard over her, each will-ing to give their life to protect her. As the intruder breached the outer defences, there was a swarm of activity inside their fortress. It seemed like their world would soon come to an end, but in reality, it was just Jennifer Scott, the Bee Wrangler, going about her work removing an unwanted hive from the wall of a home. They would soon be relocated to a farm on the outskirts of town to live happily ever after.

Spring is the busiest Scott commented, as she carefully removed the sid-ing covering the bee"s elaborate home. T'm booked up three weeks in advance right now.' For her, bee removal was not just a job, it was a calling. Saving wild colonies and moving them



Jennifer Scott vacuuming up bees

PHOTOS BY BOB BARTEL

to remote areas where they may become an endangered species,.

As she worked, Scott

explained the process. She used a little bit of paper and some bark from a nearby tree to create the smoke in her pot that she placed close to the hive entrance. The bees smell the smoke, and rush back to the hive, where they gorge themselves with the honey they have made in case they need to move the hive away from a fire.' As the siding is removed exposing the hive, they cluser around the queen and the combs of honey and those containing the baby bees. The lighter colored combs contained the honey, and the darker ones are the nursery.

Some bee removal people only vacuum up the bees and the queen, and save the honeycomb, but not the part of the nest with the larve, but accord-

> See Bee Wrangler, Page 3

Texas SalesTax Holiday Aug. 7-9

(AUSTIN) — With the Texas economy slowly cant uncertainty remains 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.

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."

"Even though signifi-

 $See\ Bee\ Wrangler,$ Page 6

"Looking for General American Transportation/GATX employees who worked in Galena Park, TX from 1965-1983. Please call

(618) 973-2090

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pct. 3 deputies capture alligator in Summerwood

HOUSTON - A few Harris County Precinct 3 deputies and some local authorities in northeast Harris County had

an exciting Tuesday.

According to a YouTube video shared by Landon McDonald, with Precinct 3, Earl the 9foot gator was found in the Summerwood neighborhood.

Earl put up a good fight and it took the "gator patrol" a while to get him out of the water. In the end, the video shows they were able to secure Earl and put him safely into a truck.

Harris County Precinct 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton said Earl was released to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for rehom-



Job opportunity for people 16 years and over. Work the polls during the November 2020 election season.

If you are interested in becoming an election worker, call 713.755.6965.

(Houston, TX) — The Harris County Clerk's Office is looking for election workers to staff more than 800 voting centers that will be open for the November 3, 2020 General Election. Election workers are also needed three weeks prior to the election to work at approximately 100 voting centers during the Early Voting period,

We expect a high turnout for the upcoming general election. Early predictions we expect a night turnout for the upcoming general election. Early predictions indicate that more than 65 percent of the 2.4 million registered voters in Harris County will cast a ballot in November," said Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins. "We need more than 1,000 election workers for the Early Voting period – which has been extended to three weeks – and more than 8,000 election workers for Election Day. I highly encourage all civic-minded residents of Harris County to consider serving our communities as election workers."

To serve as an election worker, you must be a registered voter in Harris County, have transportation to and from the polling location, and be able to attend training. Bilingual election workers are needed and encouraged to apply. Students 16 years of age and older can apply to work as student clerks. All of these positions are

"We will take every possible measure to keep voters and election workers safe, from keeping voting centers sanitized, to enforcing social distancing, to providing personal protective equipment to all election workers and voters," said Clerk Hol-

Congressman Brady:

Federal Ruling on Texas High Speed Rail Wrong; Fight not over



CONROE, TX - July 16, 2020 - Congressman Kevin Brady (TX-08) released the following statement after the Surface Transportation Board released a new ruling on Texas Central Railroad's (TCR) petition for exemption:

"While I strongly disagree with this decision, the good news is this doesn't give TCR eminent domain authority to seize property without landowners consent - and finally forces TCR to publicly dis-close their shaky financial projections to the Surface Transportation Board in any future bid to gain authority to construct the

project.
"This will reveal why private investors have abandoned the project and why taxpayers should not be on the hook when it ul-timately fails."

BACKGROUND: Today, the Surface Transportation Board ruled that the proposed Houston to Dallas Highspeed rail line is subject to Board jurisdiction. This is a change from previous ruling, in which the STB found TCR's project was not subject to the Board's

iurisdiction and therefore did not require Board approval.

However, the Board de-nies Texas Central's petition for exemption and finds that, should Texas Central wish to request Board authority for its project, an application process under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 would be required. The Board also notes that issues pertaining to eminent domain authority are matters of state law, and that the finding does not confer any federal power to take privately owned property.

COVID MASKS new policy for Houston

Sylvester Turner announced today that he has directed the Houston Police Department to issue warnings and citations to anyone not wearing a face mask or face covering required by the state's man-datory mask order. Police will not ticket those who are not wearing a mask if they meet the exemption criteria. The citation carries a \$250 fine.

"We know that wearing a mask or face-covering in

Turner "Lives are at stake, ported deaths, bringing so I am taking this step to the city's total to 478. save lives and slow the virus from spreading in Aufocused on education and rest."

same day the Houston the criteria for an exemp-Health Department re- tion," Mayor Turner said.

public is one of the most ported 1,104 new cases of effective methods to slow COVID-19, bringing the spread of COVID-19," Houston's total to 50,896. said Mayor Sylvester There are six newly-re-

gust." not citations. But now, I Houston police will not am instructing the Housrespond to 9-1-1 calls ton Police Department to about people not wearing issue necessary warnings and citations to anyone The mayor's announce- not wearing a mask in ment happened on the public if they do not meet



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> **CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE**

COMMUNITY NEWS



Monthly Update

Dear Friend

The impact of COVID-19 is very real and it's up to all of us to take this seriously. I know that the opening of restaurants and other businesses can give you a false sense of normalcy but our state continues to face imminent risks from COVID-19 and we continue to see cases increase. This virus has already taken the lives of too many Texans and every day we are seeing more people hospitalized because of complications from COVID-19.

Help stop the spread of COVID-19 by following simple daily precautions. Wear face coverings correctly when you leave your home, wash your hands constantly, stay home as much as possible and avoid gathering in groups, even with family members. If you must go out, always stay 6ft. away from other people. If you have felt sick, do not wait for your condition to worsen and get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Below you will find some important COVID-19 updates, information and resources on a wide range of issues. We remain ready to assist Texans with unemployment, SNAP benefits, connecting them with social services and answering any questions they may have in these uncertain times. As always, if we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to reach

If we all do our part, together, we can overcome this health crisis! Kind regards,

Ana Hernandez



Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:











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

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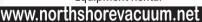
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Bee Wrangler at work,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing to Scott, 'It"s all about the babies.' If you don"t take the brood, the bees have no reason to stay in the special boxes you set up for them in an aviary. She carefully removes all of the brooding combs and puts them in frames to keep the bees busy and stable in their new home.

When asked about the dangers of colony collapse disorders that are often sit-ed in the news, Scott said, 'It's a problem, but one that man has created through the use of pesti-cides, often right in the hive to kill a beetle that can get in the honeycombs. These beetles can damage the honeycomb, but according to Scott, the bees can normally deal with the beetles on their own, and don"t need the use of pesticides to help them. Use of pesticides is so prevalent in bee keeping Scott said that most of the honey you buy commercially in the store has some in it. When she sells honey at local farmer"s markets, it is all natural with no pesticide. To be sure that any beetles are killed in a honeycomb. Scott recommends freezing the honeycomb for 24 hours. After that, you can keep it in the refrigerator if you like it crunchy, or keep it at room temperature if you like it soft. Honnatural preservative and will not

Scott also maintains



Bee capture equipment

that the problem of Africanized 'Killer Bees' that we hear about in the news is overstated. These ag-gressive honeybees can live in large colonies and are very protective of their nest, but Africanized bees have been in the USA for about 30 years, so most colonies are a hybrid with the European honeybee, and

not super aaggressive.
Once Scott removes the hive, she suggests to the

property owner that they coat the infested area with shellac that you can buy in a spray can at Home Depot to cover any scent that might entice the bees to return. You can then cover the area with siding to repair the area where the nest was removed. For a 'normal" hive removal at a single story house, she charges \$300. Second story removal can double the

Fatal Crash at 12400 East Freeway

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 12400 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) about 12:25 a.m. today (July 29). The male victim was pronounced dead at the scene. His identity is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.HPD Vehicular Crimes Division

Sergeant D. Griffiths and Officer G. Anderson reported:The victim was driving a gray Chrysler Sebring eastbound at the above address when he failed to maintain a single lane and struck the median. The now-disabled Sebring then came to a stop facing westbound in the eastbound moving lanes of

traffic. The victim got out of his vehicle and was struck by a silver Ford Taurus traveling eastbound. The driver of the Taurus remained at the scene, showed no signs of intoxication, and was questioned and released without charges. The investigation is continuing

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OPINION PAGE

NEWSPAPERS **By Texas Press Association**

NEWSPAPER OWNERSHIP

In a buyer's market for weeklies, where are the buyers?

By Al Cross

Director and professor, University of Kentucky Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues

Most days this summer. I have written a story about goings-on in Midway, a small Kentucky town where my students and I publish the Midway Messenger. When students aren't around, I pick up the slack, but it's a labor of love to provide coverage for a proud community that once had a paper of its own and has adopted ours, even though after 11 years I'm still something of a parachute

I've been in the newspaper business most of my life, but never as an owner, and our mainly online, non-commercial enterprise is as close as I am likely to get. But there are plenty of opportunities out there.
"It's a buyer's market right now for weekly

newspapers," former weekly publisher Gary Sosniecki writes, in a package of stories that we're publishing to attract potential owners to community newspapers. This article introduces that package.

You might have chuckled at the "buyer's market" line, since all the bad news about metropolitan newspapers may lead you to think that a newspaper is no longer a good investment. That's not true of most community newspapers, because they are the sole, reliable source of news about their communities, and most of them "are doing fine financially," says Kevin Slimp, the leading

consultant to community papers.
"In areas where decreased population, diminished area businesses and other forces beyond our control are at work, it might not be viable to sustain a local newspaper," Slimp acknowledges. "Having said that, I've worked with many newspapers in the past year in towns with fewer than 600 residents who are finding ways to be successful."

Helen and Gary Sosniecki

Gary and Helen Sosniecki found success with weeklies in three Midwest towns, the first with only 900 people. "If the population is stable, if most storefronts on Main Street are filled, if the town has its own school and the allimportant sense of community, the prospects for a weekly newspaper succeeding long-term are good," he

But this is a buyer's market with not enough buyers. When the West Virginia Press Association voiced concern that some newspapers in the state might close because their owners couldn't find buyers, Maryanne Reed, then dean of the West Virginia University College of Media and now the university provost, got some foundation money and started a program called NewStart to develop the next generation of community newspaper owners.

The program's director, Jim Iovino, writes in this package about the success that Michael E. Sprengelmeyer found in a New Mexico weekly, the Guadalupe County Communicator, after the closing of the Rocky Mountain News in Denver, where he was a political correspondent and had the byline M.E. Sprengelmeyer.

Jim Iovino says his first group of fellows in the program are expected to start in June 2020.

That will be none too soon for the Texas Press Association, which has seen a rash of closures and mergers, and hears talk of more. As in West Virginia, buyers are hard to find. We suspect it's much the same in most of the country. "Many owners of our generation waited too long to sell and - unable to find buyers - are shutting down their papers," Gary Sosniecki writes.

Those of us in this informal group see at least two potential groups of buyers who need to be recruited: local business people who never thought about becoming publishers, but know their communities and the value of a newspaper, and know how to make a profit; and the thousands of journalists who have been laid off by metro

'It's a conundrum that independently owned weekly newspapers are closing for lack of buyers at the same time that journalists who would make good weeklynewspaper owners are being laid off in record numbers by metro newspapers and national newspaper groups,' Gary writes. "The challenge for our industry is to convince these unemployed journalists to explore the joys and rewards of owning a small-town newspaper.

Helen Sosniecki gets down to the nitty-gritty of that in another article, giving advice on how to go about buying I testifying about the ex-

"It won't be all fun and games, " she writes. "The hours are long. The financial payback may be less than your corporate salary. But the rewards in your accomplishments as a community newspaper owner can overshadow those drawbacks.... You live there. You chronicle the town's history. But you're also one of them. It's your town, too. It will fill you with pride when the school basketball team wins that first state championship. It will bring you to tears when you and your neighbors bury that young volunteer fireman with the pregnant wife who died along with another volunteer on the way to a brush fire. It will be your job, your business and your life - and you'll likely love it more

than anything you've ever done."

Kevin Slimp and I agree that the keys to success as a community newspaper publisher are the right market, the right management and the right content. "Job number one is to put out a good product," he told The Washington Post recently. He told me in an email, "It's time we began to focus on publishing the best newspapers we can."

There are thousands of Americans who could put out a good newspaper. They need to give themselves the chance. We're here to give advice if you need it.

Al Cross edited and managed weekly newspapers before working 26 years for the Louisville Courie Journal and serving as president of the Society of Professional Journalists. For 15 years, he has directed the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues at the University of Kentucky, where he is professor of

This article is one of a series distributed by the Texas Press Association for its members. If you wish more information, call 713-252-8000 or email grafikstar@aol.com





COVID-19 surge in nursing homes worries editor

Thank you for all the well wishes after my first "Capital Highlights" column last week. I also appreciate the emails suggesting topics of high interest. Agriculture, oil. education and health care top the list so far, but please keep the conversation going about what's happening in your corner of our big state and what is of highest interest to you._One editor emailed to say he was highly concerned about the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes in his community. The data at the Texas Department of State Health Services for his county is about two weeks old, he said, even though the state website promises daily updates._Last week, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission released its first list of COVID-19 cases and deaths with details about individual Texas nursing homes. The initial release showed nursing homes accounted for about onethird of Texas' COVID-19 deaths and the number of cases in the health care facilities had more than doubled during July._In July, Texas reported 3,315 COVID-19 deaths and 252,884 cases. Both totals were more than all other months of the pandemic combined.

Don't plant those

mystery seeds_ Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller urged Texans to take extreme precaution if the mail brings mysterious seeds from China._The packets, mailed to multiple states, including Texas, are falsely labeled as jewelry. The seeds could contain harmful invasive species or be otherwise unsafe. The mailings could be nart of an online scam bolster product ratings, Miller said. People shouldn't throw away the packets because the seeds could grow in the landfill. Instead,

email SITC.Mail@aphisusda.govfor more information. In an interview with the Texas Tribune, Miller planted more seeds of doubt about China. "I'm getting sick and tired of these surprises coming out of China," Miller told the Tribune. "First, it was a China virus, then it was murder hornets. Then we had closed down their embassy because of espionage and spying. And now we, you know, we've got all these mysterious seeds'

Doctors not on the

front lines_ The Texas Medical Association tweeted a MedPage Today story reporting there is no evidence the doctor group in a viral video had any expertise about COVID-19. The video went viral last week after about 10 physicians, dressed in



white coats with an embroidered America's Frontline Doctors logo, spoke for 45 minutes in front of the Supreme Court building. The MedPage Today article detailed the doctors' reported lack of creden tials regarding the pandemic and the allegedly false information they spread._The Texas Medical Association represents more than 53,000 physicians and medical students.

Texas A&M climbs aboard Operation

Warp Speed_ A Texas A&M University System subcontractor will mass produce COVID-19 vaccines as part of the federal government's Operation Warp Speed._A new federal task order, valued at \$265 million, reserved production capacity in College Station through the end of 2021. "The Texas A&M System is ready to save lives and help protect the country," said John Sharp, chancel-lor of The Texas A&M University System._Operation Warp Speed aims to deliver is of doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of the year if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration deter-

effective.__The best in the country_The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center ranks as No. 1 in cancer care in the U.S. News & World Report's 2020-21 "Best Hospitals" survey. The institution has been named one of the nation's top two cancer hospitals since the survey's inception in 1990._"This incredible honor is especially impactful during these unprecedented times," said Dr. Peter Pisters, MD Anderson president.

Keep your eyes on the road plan_ The direction of Texas roads and highways for

the next 30 years will be mapped out at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, during a virtual public hearing ._This is a key opportuni-ty to speak about the Texas Highway Department of Transportation 2050 plan. To register in advance to talk, call 1-855-839-2750 by noon Aug. 10. The WebEx link to attend the meeting is at <u>TxDOT.gov</u>. The plan estimates Texas will grow from about 29 million to more than 47 million people by 2050, and its gross state product will rise from \$2 trillion to \$7 trillion by 2046. The document also predicts fast technological change in areas such as connected and autonomous vehicles._The many rural readers of this column may want to weigh in on TxDOT's strategic approach. Less than 10 percent of current state spending is on rural and multimodal connectivity. One of five options in the plan would increase that to almost 35 percent; the other four would devote considerably less to rural areas.__Chris Cobler is a board member and past resident of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texaspress.com

THE **POSTSCRIPT** By Carrie Classon

"The Blue Tarp"

I noticed my wrists were sticking to my desk.

This was a gradual awareness. I spend almost all day at my desk and I don't know precisely when it started, but I finally looked down because my wrists were undeniably sticky. I had used the wrist rest in front of my keyboard for... well, forever, and I'd noticed there were a few rips in the fabric. This had apparently progressed, completely unnoticed, un-til the wrist rest had started to ooze some awful sticky substance, which

was now stuck to my arm.
"How did this happen?" I asked myself.

I have a friend whose father was a hoarder. She described the process whereby the house slowly filled with his stuff. He would conquer one room and then, almost imperceptibly, move into the next room until one day, the family found they could no longer use the kitchen range because it was piled high with stuff.

"How does this happen?" I asked her.

I remember a trip across the country when my husband, Peter, and I came upon a mobile home, sitting by itself, completely covered in a faded blue tarp. I assumed the home was abandoned until I saw there was a light on. The light was kind of hard to see because all the windows were covered with the

blue tarp.

"How do you get to the point where you are living under a blue tarp?" I asked

"Gradually," he said. I think this is probably true. I'm guessing there might have been a way to fix that roof that would have allowed the occupants to see out the windows. But they probably thought this would work for a little while. Then one day turned into two, two days turned into months and, after a while, they got used to it. Who needs curtains when all your windows are covered with a blue tarp?

I am spending more time in my house than ever before and it has caused me

to notice things. One morning I was waitone morning I was watting for my coffee to warm up and I got to looking at the poster we have hanging in the kitchen. The poster predates our mar-riage. I remember how I liked it when I first saw ita cheerful print of peppers in shades of red and green with the names of the peppers underneath. I took a good look at that poster for the first time in ages and realized there were no longer red and green peppers on it. All the peppers had faded to various shades of pale pink and baby blue.

Furthermore, the frame had come unglued and there was a giant gap where there shouldn't be The whole thing dreadful, and it had been hanging there in plain sight for who knows how long without me noticing.

"Peter! The pepper post-er looks awful!" Peter took a look at it.

"You're right," he agreed.
"How did this happen?" I am replacing the pepper poster with a new poster of peppers. They are brightly colored and hopefully will stay that way for a few years.

In the meantime, I am looking around the house as if seeing a newly discovered land, trying to see what I no longer notice. (Why is there a box of cookies tucked behind my printer? Why are there peat pots stacked on the washing machine?) It is a revelation. looking at my house anew.

And it's probably a good exercise. I'd like to do whatever I can to keep from waking up one morning and looking out on a blue

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



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IN THE **STARS**

OBITUARIES

BIRTHDAYS Aug 6–Sara Henning Ethel Peters Dolores Griffen Aug 7-Cynthia Finnell Aug 8-Bryan Allen Daniel Finnell Judge Tony Polum-

Stephen Turner Aug 9–Johnny Delue Jim Hildebrand Annie Mae Smith O.C. Smith Rayford Smith Sonora K. Boyd

Aug 10-Lisa Simmons Thomas Harper Aug 11-Christi Bobalik Bobby Glenn Smith Kristin Moseley Raymond Oliver Tiffany Cutbirth

Aug 12–Ashley Adams Richard Finnels Kenneth Neatherlin, Jr. Amy Rucka Dianne Thompkins Roy Cutbirth

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 6-Sue & Steve Norris Jan & Mike Gucker Aug 8-Martha & Alvin Keyes Ronald & Beth

Phillips Aug 9–Cathy & Marvin Harm Aug 10-Victor & Glorine Harris

Aug 12–Rick & Deborah Nibbe Aug 12-Frank Drebert

William K. "Bill" Jordan



military honors for William K. "Bill" Jordan, 79, of Crosby will be held Saturday, August 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Newman Cemetery with Brother Robin Butler officiating.

Mr. Jordan was born April 28, 1941 in Lufkin, Texas to the late Opal (Fridelle) and William Albert Jordan, and died Sat-urday, August 1, 2020 at his residence.

Mr. Jordan owned and operated multiple trucking companies. Heavy equipment and trucking were a very big part of his life. He loved fast cars and collected guns and knives. He was a die-hard Dallas Cowboys Fan, even naming his son after them. Mr. Jordan proudly served his country in the United States Army and was a member of First Baptist

Church of Crosby. Survivors include his

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wife of 47 years, Betty Jordan of Crosby; daughters, Diedre Ballard and hus-band Johnny, Tessa Brisher, all of Crosby, Missy Dever and husband William of Katy: sons. Dallas Jordan of Dallas, Joshua Jordan of Franklin; grandchildren, Taylor Campbell, Kyle Brown, Brandon Ballard, Bryan Ballard, Dana Ballard, all of Crosby, Jackson Dever, Lincoln Dever, both of Katy, Emma Jordan, of Franklin; great-grandchildren, Kinlee grandchildren, Kinlee Ballard, Kase Ballard, Beaux Ballard, Harley Ballard, all of Crosby; his faithful companions, Sweety and Spike; and numerous other relatives and

friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.
Pallbearers will be Will-

iam Dever, Johnny Ballard, Kyle Brown, Dallas Jordan, Joshua Jordan, and Taylor Campbell.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church of Crosby, 615 Runneburg Road, Crosby, Texas 77532

The family will welcome friends and loved ones from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning prior to the

Memories and condolences may be added at www.carrowayfuneralhome.com. Carroway Funeral Home, Lufkin, directors.



CHURCH LISTINGS

Crosby, Highlands, Huffman,

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Church of the Resurrection 2422 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-

 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-

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 Harem-

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 Bantist

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, High-lands, 281-426-4551
• First Baptist- Huffman, 25503
FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-

Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, nsbchighlands.org
 Second Baptist, 400 E. Wall-

isville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-

• Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

BRETHREN

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

CATHOLIC

1888

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

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4451
• St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308

3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478

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• 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

•□Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Cros-by, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL

· Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Churhc 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-

• Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843- Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

LUTHERAN

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

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Crosby United Methodist,
 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby,

281-328-2616 Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highands, 281-426-3614

 Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541

NON DENOMINATION

· Lifepoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, Tx. 77523. \square 281-576-5452.

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tor Kerry D. Lee

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

·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-

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-·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 lvydale Street,

Houtson, TX. 77049. ·First Baptist Church of Galena Park, 206 Woofle St., 77547. 713-455-1261.

CATHOLIC

·St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-

•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-

·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 Free-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.

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PHILIPPIANS 4:13

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. -- 1 JOHN 4:18

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

--2 Timothy 1:7

ASK THE EXPERT

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim:□"How do you identify Ruby quality?"

Ruby is by far a favorite gemstone for many people. Not only do they love the color red, but ruby also happens to be the birthstone for July Many factors come into play when determining ruby quality and value, but as a gemstone, ruby does command some of the highest prices per carat. If you combine the finest color for ruby along with a clean stone, the price can climb even higher.

4 Key Factors of **Ruby Quality**

1. Color

Color does remain the most important factor when figuring out a ruby's value. The finest ruby color is a pure red color. You don't want the ruby to be too dark or too light, as either way it will impact the overall brightness of the stone. If the color is too light, the stone could even be considered a pink sapphire. However, as with all gemstones, I always say the most desirable color is the one that you prefer. When buying rubies wholesale, it is important to take all these things into consideration. For gem-quality materials, even the slightest differences in change the value.

There are different terms used to describe the many unique colors of rubies. One term you may hear the most is "pigeon's blood". These terms are useful in articulating more precisely what the color of the ruby may look like. Over the years, the trade has come up with these different terms that are helpful not only in describing a stone's appearance, but also from where it was

2. Inclusions

Typical ruby clarity characteristics are thin $mineral\ \underline{inclusions}\ called$ needles. When the mineral is rutile and needles are present in intersecting groups, it is referred to as "silk". Rubies can also have zones of color variations or inclusions that look like fingerprints.

When buying rubies wholesale, you can always expect some inclusions. Obvious inclusions lower the value of the stone dramatically. However, there are some inclusions that can actually have a positive effect on the overall appearance of the stone and can spread the color more evenly across the stone.

3. Cut

Needles that intersect can also cause a star effect, called an "asterism" - but this phenomenon only occurs when the stone has a curved surface. called a cabochon cut.

A ruby's crystal shape will determine what the final shape of the cut stone will be. The most common shapes in which you see rubies cut are ovals and cushions.

Ruby rough is very expensive, so many cutters will try to save as much weight as possible when cutting, causing the stone to have an unattractive see-through area called a "window".

4. Carat Weight

Last, but certainly weight. The price per carat of a ruby goes up as the size of the stone

In Conclusion

As with all gemstones, the color variations, the pres ence of inclusions, the cut, and the carat weight all play a significant role in identifying ruby quality and value.

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.pineforestiewelrv.com. If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the email@mills@pineforestjewelry.com.

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Test Sites,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UMMC Tidwell, 510 W. Tidwell Rd.

Forest Brook Middle School, 7525 Tidwell Rd, Cullen Middle School. 6900 Scott St., and

Griggs School, 801 Regional Park Dr.

People needing informa-

tion about UMMC test sites can call 1-866-333-COVID visit <u>ummcscreening.com</u>.**Ibn** Sina Foundation The Iba Sina Foundation offers free tests with rapid results at two of its clinics, 5012 N. Shepherd Dr. and 11226 S. Wilcrest Dr.Appointments for the Shepherd location are available by calling 832-426-3760 and appointments for the Wilcrest location are available at 281-495-7462. **Fed**erally Qualified Health Centers The health department is providing test kits, lab access and equipment to local Federally

can call to set up testing appointments are: HOPE Clinic: 713-773

Qualified Health Centers

(FQHC) so they can ex-

pand their COVID-19 test-

ing capacity. The centers

and phone numbers people

Spring Branch Community Health Center, 713-462-6565

El Centro de Corazon, 713-660-1880 Avenue 360 Health and at the University of Houston, 346-348-1200, and Scarsdale Health Center: 281-824-

Wellness, 713-426-0027

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FQHC patients pay what they can afford, based on income and family size, and are not denied services due to inability to orlack insurance. The department and its agency partners may shift locations and schedules of test sites to better meet community needs. Houstonians can visit HoustonEmergency.org/ covid19 for current Houston test sites and information about stopping the spread of virus. Information obtained through testing, treatment or services will not be used against immigrants in their public evaluation. Flyer: Houston Free Testing Sites: Week of Aug. 3, 2020

Media Contact: Porfirio Villarreal Office: 832-393-5041 Mobile: 713-826-5695 Porfirio.Villarreal@houstontx.gov Scott Packard Office: 832-393-5045 Mobile: 281-254-6403 Scott.Packard@houstontx.gov

Sales Tax Holiday,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's web-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 ei-

- . 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 taxpay-

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CHARLOTTE'S

To Go or Not to Go

=Many of the basketball fans in the North Channel Area are faced with a tough question this week. Do they travel to see the East Houston United play in the NBL-US 2K20 Championship Series. or do they stay home and watch it on Facebook live? Back in 2018, a group of young men set out to bring a new level of basketball to the North Channel Area. They followed their hearts and purchased the rights to represent Houston in the NBL semi-pro league. They surveyed the community and they introduced East Houston United.

For the price of a parking spot at a downtown arena, two parents and two children could come out to San Jacinto College North and support local athletes who had dreams to play in the National Basketball League. The price of the concessions was certainly more affordable than the same items at local sporting venues such as Toyota Center or Minute Maid Park And there were no fees for parking.

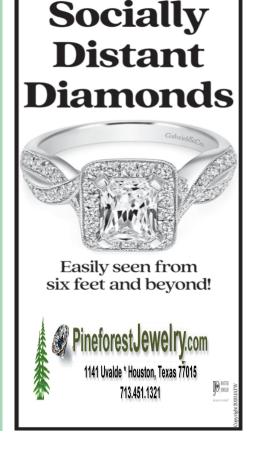
What made the game even more exciting was that the players had grown up locally. Not just in the Houston area, but these men had played high school basketball at North Shore, Channelview, Furr, Galena Park and CE King High Schools. These were the guys who volunteer countless hours with youth sports in the communitv. The owners were all home-grown as well. At any home game, you would see their former classmates, their spouses, their children, and their parents as well as many of the neighbors. The team focused on reaching out and providing wholesome entertainment for the spectators.

The opening week-

end, Nichols Gymnasium was packed with those who wanted to help support local players as well as to sup port the half-time entertainment. Two of the owners, Kevin Williams and Cedric Washington had reached out to former classmates who were educators in the area, and they were able to get the Sapphire Dance Team to perform. The stands were filled with family and friends. Beginning that night and throughout the season, different drill teams, cheerleader squads and even talented solo artist came to the games. Members of the North Channel Area Chamber Ambassadors were present for a ribbon cutting.

Local elected officials such as Justices of the Peace Lucia Bates and Joe Stephens were joined by Constable Sherman Eagleton to help celebrate throughout the Inaugural Season. Team members played against deputies from Constable PCT 3 as well as the Harris County Sheriff's office in a local Back to School Tournament. Team members got involved with several community projects including food distributions and supporting Judge Joe Stephens Boyz Rock Too Camps.

For the past two years, the team has continually trained, played, and represented our community against local and international teams. And then came COVID 19. The 2019-2020 has been difficult but despite it all, the team is preparing to travel to San Antonio this week end for the NBL-US $\,$ 2K20 Championship Series where they are confident that the Championship title will be won. Be sure to follow East Houston United Basketball on social



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VICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Harris County Emergency Service District is soliciting resumes/applications to fill a vacant-unexpired position on the Board of Commissioners. Applications/resumes will be accepted until 5 p.m. August 15, 2020 at P.O. Box 96, Highlands, TX 77562, 1500 E. Wallsiville Road, Highlands, TX 77562 or at either fire station in Highlands at 2301 E Wallisville Road, or at 123 San Jacinto, Highlands. Applications are not required, but can be picked up at 123 San Jacinto, or at 1500 E. Wallisville Road. A simple resume will be sufficient.

A person is disqualified from serving as an emergency services commissioner if that person:

(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;

(C) a person who is an employee or volunteer 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 professional services to the district;

(3) is serving as an attorney, consultant, or architect or in some other professional capacity for the district or an emergency services organization providing emergency services to the district;

(4) fails to maintain the qualifications required by law to serve as a commissioner

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LEGAL NOTICE **LEGAL NOTICE** LEGAL NOTICE **LEGAL NOTICE**

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR AN AIR QUALITY PERMIT

PROPOSED PERMIT NUMBER: 160717

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. FP Hydrotreating LLC, 58 Commerce Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06902-4506, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for issuance of Proposed Air Quality Permit Number 160717, which would authorize construction of a desulfurization plant located near Jacintoport Boulevard, approximately 0.25 mile east of the intersection with Sheldon Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77015. This application was processed in an expedited manner, as allowed by the commission's rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Subchapter J. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on March 30, 2020. The proposed facility will emit the following contaminants: ammonia, carbon monoxide, hazardous air pollutants, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of $10~\rm microns$ or less and $2.5~\rm microns$ or less and sulfur dioxide.

The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit which, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the permit because it meets all rules and regulations. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Houston regional office, and at https://www.brandextract.com/ permitting, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk Street Suite H, Houston,

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comment or to ask questions about the application. The TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. You may submit additional written public comments within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of this notice in the manner set forth in the AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION paragraph below.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. Because no timely hearing requests have been received, after preparing the response to comments, the executive director may then issue final approval of the application.

The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or is on a mailing list for this application, and will be posted electronically to the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID).

 ${\bf INFORMATION}$ AVAILABLE ONLINE. When they become available, the executive director's response to comments and the final decision on this application will be accessible through the Commission's Web site at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Once you have access to the CID using the above link, enter the permit number for this application which is provided at the top of this notice. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location,

 $\boldsymbol{MAILING\ LIST.}$ You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to obtain additional information on this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

urther information may also be obtained from FP Hydrotreating LLC at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Sharon Jones, Principal Consultant at (281) 416-4198.

Notice Issuance Date: July 29, 2020

Check us on the go at www.starcouriernews.com www.northchannelstar.com

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Jacinto City plans to apply for the upcoming Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding from the Texas General Land Office (GLO). Accordingly, the City of Jacinto City is seeking to contract with a qualified Engineering/Architectural/ Surveying Firm (individual/firm) to prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections. These services are being solicited to assist the City of Jacinto City in its application preparation and project implement tation of a CDBG contract(s), if awarded, to support eligible activities in the City of Jacinto City. Please submit 4 copies of your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the address below: 1301 Mercury Dr., Houston, TX 77029, Attn: Lon D. Squyres, City Manager. Proposals shall be received by the City of Jacinto no later than August 20, 2020 by 3:00 PM to be considered. The City of Jacinto City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Jacinto City is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Los servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.





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Big 50 for David Mendez





Congratulations to David Mendez, general manager at Turner Chevrolet and a North Shore Rotarian, on his 50th Birthday on July 25. On top of that, he celebrated a 22 Wedding Anniversary with wife Deonicia on August 2. Best wishes to both.

Schools cope with strain of changes

By LEWIS SPEARMAN

BAYTOWN – Goose Creek Consolidated ISD is a microcosm of schools throughout Texas in the wake of COVID-19 because every activity of schools is seemingly having to spend more to deal with challenges of the pandemic and social change.

cial change.

The U.S. Dept. of Education says that public school spending has been heavily skewed toward salaries and benefits for employees, making about 80% of the per pupil spending. Indicating that about 11% went to services and 7% to supplies. Now supplies will

have to cut into the budgets for about 11%, cleaning services will increase and that bus services will need to expand beyond double.

Issues have been bought to light of digital learning, food insecurity, homelessness, disability services, health care and virtual internet connectivity.

According to Jessica

According to Jessica Woods President of the Board of Trustees of Goose Creek Consolidated ISD this year in addition to concerns of when to start back classes the board is dealing with a year in which they were unable to give annual raises to teachers,

they are trying to reach 100% of students virtually, and enable teachers to teach electronically.

The WebX platform it seems has failed in the task of reaching most of the public wishing to virtually attend the board members. Some would-beattendees of last Monday's meeting were unable to log in, have comments heard, or hear what was spoken.

Schools have no idea what will happen in the coming year and what the ultimate impact of the pandemic will bring and how the property tax will impact incoming revenues.

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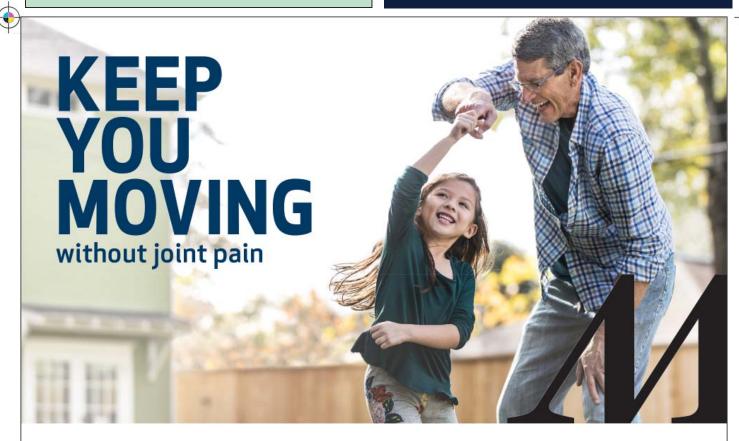
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