

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 9, NO. 9 (#362) THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 www.northchannelstar.comCHANNEL
CURRENTSChamber Gala set
for April 29

The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to their 44th Annual Gala.

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at the Sylvan Beach Pavilion, 1 Sylvan Beach Dr., La Porte, TX 77571. Social Hour starts at 6:30 PM, and Dinner at 7:00 PM.

Sponsored by United Community Credit Union, other sponsors available from \$200 to \$1500.

For information and reservations, yesenia@ncachamber.com or call 713-450-3600.

CIP Meeting by
Zoom on Mar. 4

Galena Park-Jacinto City Community-Industry Partnership will hold a Zoom meeting this Thursday.

PROGRAM: What Industry-Related Issues Should the CIP Address?

Bring suggestions for Program Planning brainstorming and prioritizing.

Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:45 Sign in and get settled. 6:00 Call to order. Adjourn by 7:30 p.m.

Meeting hosted by Targa Resources.

RSVPs to Diane Sheridan DBSfacilitator@gmail.com or 281-326-5253.

COVID-19
VACCINE
RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON

Registration
[HoustonEmergency.org/covid19](https://houstonemergency.org/covid19)

832-393-4220

HARRIS COUNTY

Registration at
readyharris.org OR

<https://vacstrac.hctx.net>

832-927-8787

STATE OF TEXAS

www.dshs.texas.gov

RETAIL PHARMACIES

Registration at Websites

CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Sams Club, HEB, Kroger, Randal's

HOSPITALS

houstonmethodist.org

COVID-19
Cases as of
March 2, 2021HOUSTON AREA
19 COUNTIES

572,627 POSITIVE
5,756 DEATHS
512,350 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,668,091 POSITIVE
44,186 DEATHS
2,441,882 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

28,717,629 POSITIVE
516,476 DEATHS
--- RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

114,794,551 POSITIVE
2,547,493 DEATHS
64,868,267 RECOVERED

News tips and
Classified ADS
713-266-3444

Governor lifts Mask mandate, opens
businesses 100% against heavy criticism

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott stirred up a major controversy Tuesday, by issuing an Executive Order (GA-34) lifting the mask mandate in Texas and increasing capacity of all businesses and facilities in the state to 100 percent. The Governor made the announcement at Montelongo's Mexican Restaurant in Lubbock in an address to the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

The announcement immediately drew criticism from County and City governments, labor unions, and public health officials that have been attempting for over a year to reduce the number of illnesses and deaths caused by the COVID-19 virus. This highly contagious virus is



GOVERNOR ABBOTT makes announcement at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Lubbock.

spread through human contact, and masks and social distancing, and "lockdowns" are the major elements in the fight

against the disease. Abbott said "With the medical advancements of vaccines and antibody therapeutic drugs, Texas

now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus," said Governor Abbott. "We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent. Make no mistake, COVID-19 has not disappeared, but it is clear from the recoveries, vaccinations, reduced hospitalizations, and safe practices that Texans are using that state mandates are no longer needed. Today's announcement does not abandon safe practices that Texans have mastered over the past year. Instead, it is a reminder that each person has a role to play in their own personal safety and the safety of others. With this executive order, we are ensuring that all business-

es and families in Texas have the freedom to determine their own destiny."

During his remarks, the Governor discussed the incredible advancements that Texas has made that allow the state to open fully and lift the mask mandate—noting the rapid increase of vaccines. Nearly 5.7 million vaccine shots have been administered to Texans, and the state is now administering almost one million shots each week. By next Wednesday, about 7 million shots will have been administered in Texas and over half of seniors in Texas will have received a vaccine shot. By the end of March, every

See ABBOTT OPENS TEXAS, page 2

Garcia and Moya team up to distribute food in Galena Park

By Allan Jamail

Friday, February 26, 2021 at the Galena Park Alvin Baggett Community Center park pavilion Team Sylvia of Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia's office and Galena Park Mayor Moya's Team organized and distributed over a two day period to thousands of area residents both food and water. Since both the COVID 19 virus pandemic and the recent historical Texas winter storm organizers said its one of the city's largest request for emergency food and water.

Mayor Esmeralda Moya



Galena Park food drive organizers: L-R: Volunteer Quincy Harris, Congresswoman Garcia staff: District Director Claudia Ortega Hogue, Field Representative Kory Haywood, Deputy District Director Chris McCarthy, District Director of Special Projects Yuroba Harris, City Secretary Mayra Gonzales, Mayor Esmeralda Moya and Fire Chief Tom Ehlers. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Jacinto City and Methodist Hospital vaccinate residents

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. — On Friday, February 26, 2021 hundreds of area residents poured into Jacinto City's Town Center to receive the life saving COVID-19 virus vaccine. Houston Methodist's Hospital brought in a crackerjack team of skilled upper management personnel along with experienced nurses and volunteers who spent their day vaccinating those with appointments.

Methodist has gained a reputation for leading in medicine and Friday's example proved why that's true. Everyone from the entrance door keepers to the nurses and administrative staff were on-top-of-their-game.

Their staff greeted vac-



Jacinto City Police Chief Joe Ayala receives his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from Sonja Jenkins, a Certified Medical Assistant Nurse Background, Methodist Administration, L-R: Dr. Parry Lauzon, RN Natalie Billot, Project Specialist Erika Dawkins, Manager Xavier Escobar, Operations Manager Dustin Meuth & Vice President Jeff Carr. (CRMA) (Photo by Allan Jamail)

cine recipients at the entrance door and before opening the door for them they took their temperature. Once inside volunteers and staff directed them where to go and had them follow the divided lanes keeping them a safe distance from others. Identities were verified and checked then entered into computers which kept track of each recipient's processes from getting their shot to then be sent to a room where doctors and nurses monitored their condition to ensure they didn't have any after-effects or complications. Most of the near 500 recipients that day were in and out in 30 to 40 minutes.

Continued, see JC VACCINATIONS, p. 5

President Biden tours Houston Relief sites

HOUSTON — President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden traveled to Houston last Friday, February 26 as Harris County slowly recovers from the winter storm and power and water outages.

The president was greeted at Ellington Airfield when he landed by a delegation including Mayor Turner, Governor Abbott, and Congresspersons Al Green and Sheila Jackson Lee. They met with Gov. Greg Abbott at the FEMA



TOUR of the Harris County Emergency Center included L to R, Mayor Turner, Governor Abbott, President Joe Biden, and HC Judge Lina Hidalgo, explaining the details of operation in the emergency center.

vaccine super-site at NRG around 5 p.m. Friday. This will be Biden's last stop after touring several locations, including the Houston Food Bank and the Harris County Emergency Management Center.

Biden earlier surveyed damage and recovery efforts following the deadly winter storm.

White House Press Secretary, Jen Psaki said this is not a partisan issue for the president.

"The president doesn't view the crisis and the millions of people who have been impacted by (the storm) as a Democratic or a Republican issue" Psaki said. "He views it as an issue where he's eager to get relief, to tap into all the resources in the federal government, to make sure the people of Texas know we're thinking about them, we're fighting for them,

Continued, see Biden tours Houston, page 5

Abbott Opens Texas,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

senior who wants a vaccine should be able to get one. The vaccine supply continues to increase so rapidly that more and more Texans will soon be eligible to receive a vaccine.

The Governor noted that Texas has a surplus of personal protective equipment and can perform over 100,000 COVID-19 tests a day. The state has invested in a variety of anti-body therapeutic drugs that have kept thousands of Texans out of hospitals. Texans have also adopted daily habits that reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and infection. More than 2.5 million Texans who were lab confirmed for COVID-19 have recovered since the beginning of the pandemic, and experts note the total number of Texans who have recovered from COVID-19 is likely 4-5 times that amount. The number of active COVID-19 cases is the lowest since November—meaning more Texans are recovering from COVID-19 than contracting it.

This executive order rescinds most of the Governor's earlier executive orders related to COVID-19. Effective next Wednesday, all businesses of any type may open to 100% capacity. Additionally, this order ends the statewide mask mandate in Texas. Businesses may still limit capacity or implement additional safety protocols at their own discretion.

If COVID-19 hospitalizations in any of the 22 hospital regions in Texas get above 15% of the hospital bed capacity in that region for seven straight days, a County Judge in that region may use COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

However, County Judges may not impose jail time for not following COVID-19 orders nor may any penalties be imposed for failing to wear a face mask. If restrictions are imposed at a County level, those restrictions may not include reducing capacity to less than 50% for any type of entity.



Judge Opposed

County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued this statement on the Governor's announcement:

"Taking away critical public health interventions that we know are working won't make our community safer, nor will it hasten our return to normalcy. Quite the opposite, every time public health measures have been pulled back, we've seen a spike in hospitalizations. If we start the climb now, we'd be starting from the highest starting point ever when it comes to our hospital population, an unacceptable and dangerous proposition. With the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines, we're inching closer to the finish line of this pandemic - now is not the time to reverse the gains we've worked so hard to achieve.

At best, today's decision is wishful thinking. At worst, it is a cynical attempt to distract Texans from the failures of state oversight of our power grid.

Crosby Fair & Rodeo celebrates 75 Years!

Crosby Fair and Rodeo is celebrating 75 years in 2021. Thanks to the support of our generous sponsors CF&R has been able to keep the tradition going through generations of exhibitors, participants and spectators.

We will begin celebrating with the Round-Up March 20th, see attached Flyer. Our main celebration will be in June with the Youth Fair, Auction and then Rodeo. The Board of Directors heard the supporters and made a few changes in 2021's calendar of events. We will kick off the Fair and Rodeo starting Friday June 4th and 5th with the Cook-off, come support your cook off team and enjoy some entertainment. Then Monday June 9th the Fair begins with youth shows each day/evening concluding Thursday June 10th with the live auction at 6:00 p.m. This year we will have 2 nights of Rodeo and Entertainment Friday June 11th and Saturday the 12th to round out our celebration. Visit our Facebook or web page for information and updates on coming events.

If you are interested in being a member of Crosby Fair and Rodeo you can purchase a membership badge at the office by contacting Kris or one of the Directors. Membership this year is \$60.00 per badge and gets you admission to Round-up, both nights of Cook-Off & Rodeo as well as the annual Membership Feed in September and voting eligibility during the annual members meeting also in September. If you plan on attending multiple events this is a good value and will also be a collector's item for the 75th anniversary.

If you and/or your business are in a position to sponsor CF&R, attached is a document with many ways to contribute and help CF&R as they support the Youth and Education in our area. Packages start at \$200.00 for arena signs and go up from there. You can contact the Fair Office to let them know you are interested in a particular package. If you don't find a package that fits you, please let Rick Loggins (Rick@logginsincrosby.com) or myself know (dwight.klise@hakmetrology.com) and we can build a package to fit your business.

Thank you for being part of our community.

Dwight Klise
Director

COVID 19 Testing Sites in Northeast Harris County

CROSBY
David H. Mc Nerney
Crosby American Legion
Make Appointment
(936) 333-3333 ; walk ups welcome
8 a.m. until 6 p.m.
Mobile or On-Site Testing
Texas Mobile Medical Labs

Crosby ISD
Apt. Necessary (281) 328-9200
14670 FM 2100 Crosby,

Urgent Care MDs
No appointment needed 9 until 9
14405 FM 2100, Crosby
(832) 821-9780

Neighbors Emergency Center
No appointment needed
14120 FM 2100, Crosby, TX
(281) 328-7770

Crosby Community Center (when open)
409 Hare Rd., Crosby, TX
(281) 462-0543

Nova Medical Ctr.
Apt Req. (713) 453-7788
13469 East Freeway, Houston, TX 77015
Open 8:30 a.m.

HIGHLANDS (Go to either Baytown or Channelview)
CVS Channelview (281) 452-7184
Appointment Req.

Urgent Care MDs
Appointment Req. (281) 428-0000
Located in the DOW Medical Park

HUFFMAN
Care Now Urgent Care
No Appt. Necessary
Humble (281) 397-5258

Urgent Care M.D.s
No Appt. Necessary
Atascocita (281) 570-6856

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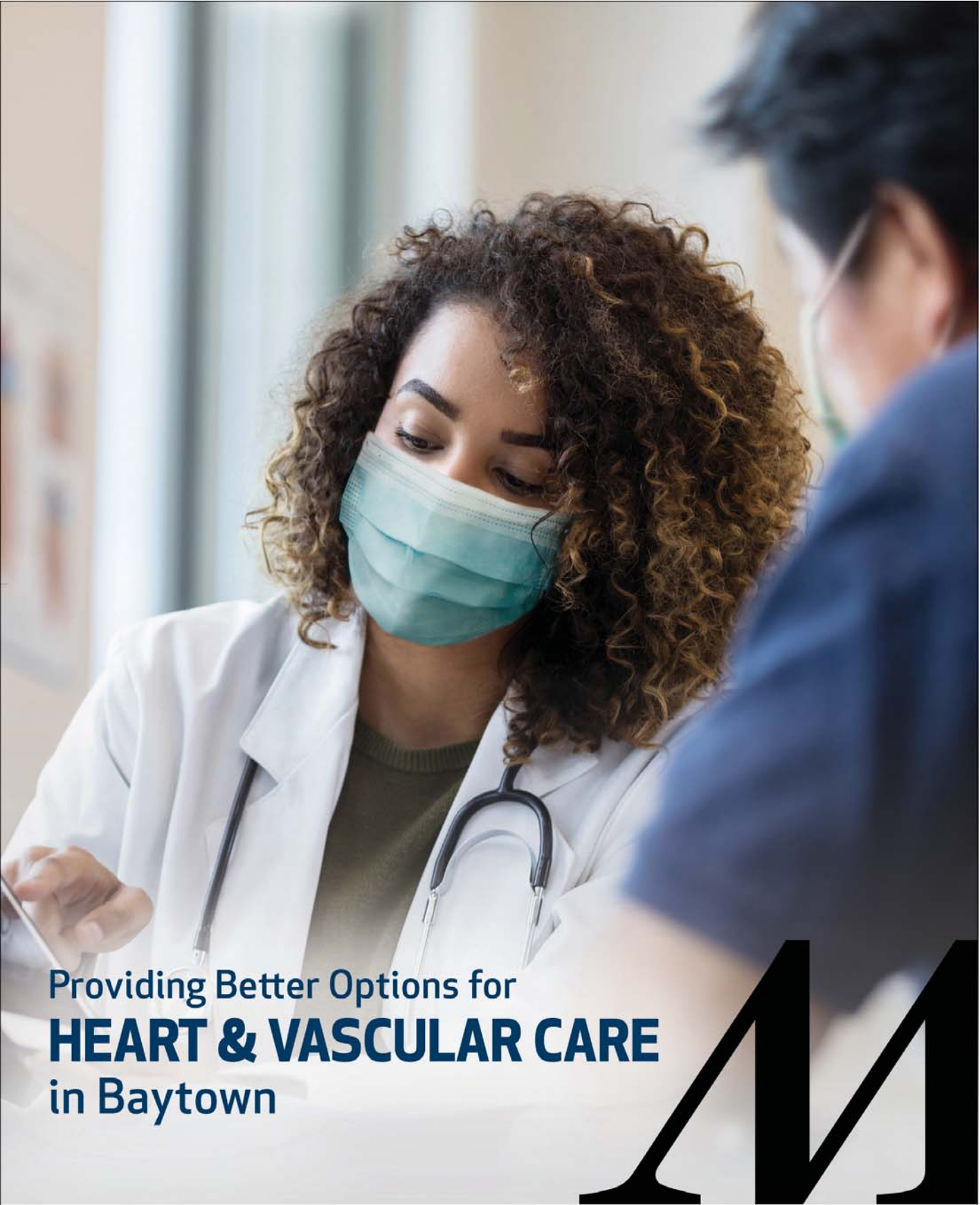
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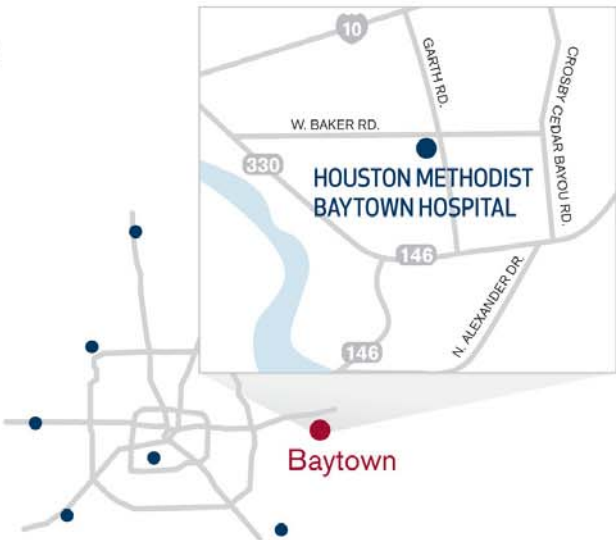
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OPINION

By The Metropolitan Organization

Current Disaster is Not an
“Act Of God” But a Lack Of
Action by State Leaders

TMO, The Metropolitan Organization, denounces the lack of state leadership which has produced a desperate and dire situation for Texas families. Cities have nursing homes without electricity, apartments and mobile home parks have no water and power, and whole counties are without shelters or warming stations.

“Ideology, greed, and incompetence at the state level have come together as a perfect storm to threaten the lives of Texas families,” said Bob Fleming, TMO leader.

Texas saw similar power and infrastructure failures in 1989 and again in 2011 as a result of similar weather events. Notwithstanding these warnings, state leaders failed to prevent it from happening again.

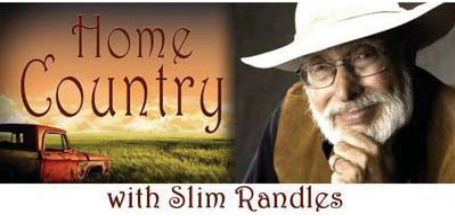
“The storm may have been an act of nature, but the devastation of the electrical grid shut down is an act of sheer negligence”, said Pastor John Ogletree of First Metropolitan Church with TMO. “It was foreseeable based on similar occurrences in the past, and so a failure on the part of state leaders to address the basic energy infrastructure needs of a growing state. There needs to be a full accounting by state leaders as to what happened and what is being done to address this critical need.”

TMO and the Network of Texas IAF Organizations calls on Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, and state leaders to immediately supply Texas communities with power, water, food, supplies and emergency shelter.

- Release state funds to local governments for direct assistance in food, water, supplies.
- Work with federal government and FEMA to bring immediate national assistance to Texas.
- Force ERCOT to get service running and ensure that PUC prevents further rate spikes.

Over the long term, TMO calls on state leaders to invest in “winterizing” our power, water, and other utilities to prevent future disaster. TMO leaders demand that state leaders own up to the anti-regulation ideology that has done damage to Texas’s infrastructure, and to take action to turn it around.

TMO is a non-partisan organization of institutions that works on issues coming out of hundreds of face-to-face conversations in our communities. TMO brings together institutional leaders across lines of race and class to work on issues of their choosing to create the common good.



Dad-gum ol’ Doc

Nature hates a vacuum, and so does Windy Wilson. The other day, emerging from the drug store, he looked around, and, finding no handy audience, spoke instead to the world.

“Dad-gum ol’ Doc, anyway,” he said. “He’s one-a my bestest pals, but if you go to him for a mizz-ry, he makes you do some things and quit doin’ some other things. Them things Doc wants you to do you don’t wanna do, and the things he wants you to quit doin’ are stuff you bin savin’ up to do a buncha years now.

“Now ol’ Doc didn’t even know he done it, but he proved to me that we had some a-them space alienated bein’s for ancestors. Oh, they’s hidin’ out now, but they got a job ... as pill namers!

“Doc told me to quit shoein’ horses, which was jest fine with me. Missable back-breakin’ nasty work, anyway. But then he give me two subscriptions for pills that I am ‘sposed to take for my mizz-ry.

“And when the nice girl here at the drugstore give ‘em to me, she asked me if I had any questions about ‘em. And I ast her how to say the pill names. And she told me, and thass when I knew.

“Ya see, ya can’t jest name them pills in American. Oh no. First off ya gotta give ‘em a name that’s too much and a half too long ... like oh ... syna-broliam-fester-ine.

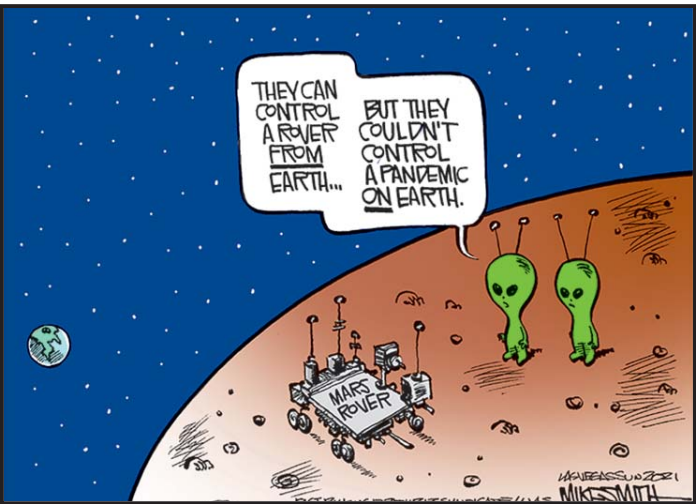
“We should take pill namin’ back from them alien guys and create jobs fer Americans! Give them pills names people can actual say.

“It wouldn’t be too awful dang hard to remember a pill for pain if you called it

Mizzryfixer, now would it? And for a hangover cure, ya jest pop ya a happy little pill called Betcha-wish-ya-hadn’t. If ya come down with the sugar diabeets, ol’ Doc could tell ya to bullsnake down some pills we could call Too-sweet-by-half-odone. Now, for a instance, if you get plagiarized by them roamin’ ‘round peewaddles, you could take a pill called Limp-be-gone, or mebbe-so Gimp-y-blocker, and you’d know jest what it was for, wouldn’t ya?

“Betcha them space guy’s jest laughin’ theirselves sick. But hey, at least Doc told me to quit shoein’ horses, and that there’s a constellation dee-voutly to be wished on.

“And you kin tell ‘em I said so.”



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Political fallout from
Winter Storm continues

As Texans across the state continue to deal with the damage from the mid-February winter storm, so does the political fallout in Austin.

So far, seven of the 16 board members of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas have resigned. CEO Bill Magness defended ERCOT’s decision to order widespread blackouts while testifying before a joint hearing of two state House committees last week.

Meanwhile, the Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT, says it has opened an investigation into retail electric providers whose flexible pricing plans inflicted electric bills in the thousands of dollars on some Texas customers in the wake of the storm. In a televised address on Wednesday, Gov. Greg Abbott said he had ordered that Texans will not have their power shut off because of unpaid bills until the Legislature has had time to act. He acknowledged that power generation from all sources failed under the harsh weather, including natural gas, coal, nuclear, wind and solar. Abbott has made it a legislative priority to mandate and fund winterizing the Texas power infrastructure.

However, the head of Irving-based Vistra energy testified at last week’s committee hearing that winterizing power plants could backfire in summer months. According to the Texas Standard, Curt Morgan said, “We don’t put structures around our equipment down here. Why? Because in the summer when it’s 105 degrees you’d bake inside there; the equipment would fail.”

Additional hearings are scheduled this week in the Texas Senate.

MORE COUNTIES ADDED
TO MAJOR DISASTER
DECLARATION

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has



added an additional 31 Texas counties to the federal disaster declaration, making a total of 108 counties covered. Abbott originally asked that all 254 Texas counties be included. Texans across the state are urged to fill out a form to help the state identify damages that occurred during the storm, which can be accessed at: <https://tdem.texas.gov/warming-center/>.

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE
AVAILABLE FOR LOW-
INCOME PERSONS
AFFECTED BY STORM

The State Bar of Texas, American Bar Association and legal aid providers remind Texans that free legal assistance is available through a toll-free hotline to help folks pursue government benefits, insurance claims, home repairs and other issues. The hotline — 800-504-7030 — is available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. It connects low-income callers with local legal aid providers.

Push to expand broadband continues

The latest issue of Fiscal Notes from the state comptroller’s office provides a comprehensive look at the issue of expanding broadband, which Abbott made an emergency legislative priority item in early February. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated demand for broadband Internet service as

schools went virtual and telemedicine became more common. As of January, educators had paid for more than 4.5 million broadband devices and Wi-Fi hotspots, using funds from the Texas Education Agency, local school districts, businesses and federal funding.

A bipartisan group of 88 Texas legislators in November recommended that the state create a comprehensive broadband plan and establish a state broadband office. Jennifer Harris is state program director of Connected Nation Texas, which partners with private and public entities to push for expansion of broadband. She noted, “The pandemic has shown everyone how important broadband is. Ten years ago, we had to tell people why broadband would be good for the community. We don’t need to tell anyone that anymore.”

AFTER STORM, COVID-19
VACCINES RAMP UP AGAIN

Nearly 700,000 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are coming to Texas this week, with 429,600 second doses arriving as well, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Providers quickly resumed vaccinations after power and water service were restored across the state. The state continues to provide shots for health-care workers, long-term facility residents, people over 65 and those with existing medical conditions. TDSHS says vaccines are limited to the capacity of vaccine manufacturers to produce them, and there is not enough vaccine to supply every provider every week.

The Centers for Disease Control this week is shipping doses to 522 providers in 199 counties. As of Sunday, 3.4 million Texans had received the first dose and 1.728 million were fully vaccinated, according to TDSHS. More than 40% of adults 65 years and older have received the first dose, and nearly 20% in that age group are fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS
UP FROM PREVIOUS WEEK

The winter storm likely muddied last week’s reporting, but new cases of COVID-19 in Texas totaled 55,547 in the last week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. A total of 1,478 deaths were reported. Both figures are considerably higher than what was reported the previous week, but that could be a result of delayed data due to the storm. A better comparison can be made next week, with two weeks of relatively normal weather conditions. Regardless, health officials across the state are still urging Texans to wear masks in public, practice social distancing and wash our hands frequently.

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THE
POSTSCRIPT

By
Carrie Classon

Travel
Fantasies

I know I am not the only one having travel fantasies.

My husband, Peter, and I were not planning to do a lot of traveling in the past year. That was our plan, and we certainly made good on it. We didn’t realize at the time that, “not a lot of traveling,” would mean a bi-weekly trip to the grocery store. Like a lot of folks, we’ve been tracking how many months we’re getting on a gallon of gas.

Now, however, traveling is sounding better all the time.

My parents are also making travel plans. Over the past year, they decided to sell the little cottage they have in Florida. Instead, they have a list of places they’d like to take their RV.

“There are too many other places we want to go!” My mother explained.

A year of sitting in their cabin has made them realize how many places there are to see and how little time there is to see them.

It’s true. A year of sitting and watching the months fly by makes a person realize how quickly the time passes. Sometimes, without the normal milestones, I completely lose track of time. I’ve caught myself glancing out the window with a feeling of panic, looking at the trees to give me a clue what season it is. (I am embarrassed to admit this—but now I have.)

Peter’s oldest sister, Shelley, lost her husband to Alzheimer’s early in the pandemic. She’s now living with her son and daughter-in-law, waiting for a return to something like normal before finding a place of her own. She missed the trip to Norway two years ago, where Peter and a bunch of his older cousins all went to the small town his grandfather emigrated from. We met the Norwegian relatives who still live there, and they were unbelievably welcoming. It’s a sweet town, nestled in the mountains, sitting on a river, miles away from any major city.

“I think we should go back,” I told Peter. “And I think we should bring Shelley.” Peter liked the idea.

So, the next day, we called up Shelley. She had just gotten home from a dental appointment and had a sore mouth.

“Shelley! You are coming with us to Norway in September 2022!”

I held my breath, but I didn’t have to wait long.

“OK!” she said.

And, yes, it is more than a year and a half away, but it still feels wonderful to have a plan to go somewhere other than the grocery store. Just thinking about seeing a new landscape fills me with excitement.

Later in the day, I went for the hike I take every afternoon. It seems as if I’ve seen every tree along the way, noticed every rock, and as I walked, I thought how nice it would be to hike in completely unfamiliar surroundings.

But just as I was thinking this, I stopped and looked at the tree directly in front of me, caught in the afternoon light. I don’t remember ever really looking at it before. It’s a beautiful tree, in a forest of beautiful trees, and I have walked by it thousands of times without giving it a second look.

“You are a beautiful tree,” I told it (just in case it was listening).

Norway will be wonderful, I am sure. And I am sincerely looking forward to more travel in the coming year. But as I stood before that one beautiful tree, I promised myself I would try to pay more attention to the place I am visiting now—right here, today.

Till next time,

Carrie
Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com

COVID-19 Test Sites Move to New Locations and Vaccinations Ramp up

Testing and Vaccinations Will Deliver a One-Two Punch to COVID-19

Houston – Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is again vaccinating several thousand people a week at clinics across the county and helping support a large, new Federally operated site at NRG. Six thousand people a day will be vaccinated over the next couple of weeks, a total of 126,000 people. Those being vaccinated at NRG are chosen from the Harris County Wait List <https://vacstrac.hctx.net/landing> or 832-927-8787, and the City of Houston Wait List. Vaccine supplies are still limited, so only people in the 1A or 1B groups are eligible – health care workers, people over 65 or those with chronic underlying health conditions.

For people who can't be vaccinated yet, get tested! Four in 10 people who have COVID-19 don't know it because they don't have symptoms but are still contagious. The more people who get tested and vaccinated, the faster we can stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Testing is free and you get the results in 3-5 days. Children can also be tested at the sites listed below. Sign up at hcphtx.org or call 832-927-7575.

Monday, March 1 - Sunday, March 7

- M.O. Campbell Education Center
Open Mon-Fri 12 - 7p.m.
Open Sun (3/7) 10a.m.-3p.m.
1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032
- Grayson Community Center
Open Tues- Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.
13828 Corpus Christi St, Houston, TX 77015
- Christia Adair Park
Open Mon & Wed-Sat 8a.m.-3p.m..
15107 Cullen Blvd, Houston, TX 77047
- St. Hyacinth Catholic Church
Open Mon & Tues, Thur-Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.
2921 Center St, Deer Park, TX 77536
- St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
Open Mon & Tues,


Thur-Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.
527 S Houston Ave, Humble, TX 77338

- Redeemer Lutheran Church LCMS
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1200 E Lobit Ave, Baytown, TX 77520
- MAS Katy Center
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1800 Baker Rd, Houston, TX 77094
- Life Changer Community Church
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3115 N Fry Rd #407, Katy, TX 77449

For the Pasadena and Katy test sites, register at www.dnrcovid19.com or call 832-927-7575. People must be 13 or older to be tested at these locations.

Monday, March 1 – Saturday, March 6

- San Jacinto College Central Campus
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8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505
- Lone Star College-Cypress Center
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**March 20, 2021
10am to 3pm**

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 489296; Estate of GLORIA ELAINE PIERCE Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 12, 2021.

THOMAS MATHEWS PIERCE

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 Wallisville Rd
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this FEBRUARY 25, 2021.

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Guardianship for Docket No. 483814; In the Guardianship of SUSAN TERI CRAIG, Incapacitated; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 4, 2021.

RUSSELL CRAIG

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 Wallisville Rd
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this FEBRUARY 24, 2021.

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Intention to Introduce a Bill in the Legislature of Texas

Notice is hereby given of the intention to introduce in the regular session of the 87th Legislative of Texas a bill relating to amending Special District Local Laws Code, Chapter 3930.154 to authorize the Barrett Management District to impose and collect an assessment for any purpose in all part of the district.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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

10336 PALESTINE – BRIAN ALVAREZ & STEVE RAZO IS WANTING TO OPEN UP A LIQUOR STORE AT THAT ADDRESS.

11900 MARKET – DANIEL VAZQUEZ IS WANTING TO PUT A WAREHOUSE ON THAT PROPERTY.

THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON MARCH 9TH, 2021 STARTING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.

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ASK THE EXPERT

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What is the Birthstone for March?”



MARCH BIRTHSTONES

For the lucky individuals born in March, two birthstones are associated with this early spring month: aquamarine and bloodstone.

Both stones are very different from one another in appearance, but each share a similar symbolism of preserving or enhancing the health of the wearer. Learn more about each March birthstone by browsing the links below.

AQUAMARINE

The serenely colored aquamarine invokes the tranquility of its namesake, the sea. In fact, the name aquamarine is derived from the Latin word aqua, meaning water, and marina, meaning the sea.

Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones, and darker blue stones are very valuable. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but also is found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique. Not only is aquamarine one of the March birthstones, it's also used to celebrate 19th wedding anniversaries. It's a beautiful stone with little or no yellow in it, so it looks great in many settings with different colored metals and gemstones.

The stone is also considered to be a great addition to mental health and is used widely as a symbol in Tarot as well as a meditation aid and is said to help one cultivate more inner tranquility. It is also considered by some to be a great aligner of the spiritual and the physical, for those who feel out of harmony or alignment with oneself. No matter how you use aquamarine, either as a piece of jewelry or as an aid in a spiritual journey, its cool, tranquil color is the perfect complement to any skin tone or setting.

BLOODSTONE

The second birthstone for March is bloodstone, a dark-green stone flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. Generally found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this stone are India, Brazil, and Australia.

For those looking for a good quality bloodstone, it is generally considered that a solid green color with visible veins of red is best. It also comes in many shapes and cuts including traditional cuts like emerald, oval, and cushion.

Many people cherish bloodstone as a lucky charm or amulet and is prized by athletes or those who wish to increase their personal strength. Some believe it helps with mental clarity or increasing creativity or even boosting overall energy. No matter how you use or wear bloodstone, it's a unique stone great for everyday use when you want to look good or even feel good.

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the IJO for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

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

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

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Herb Sanchez newest Galena Park board trustee

Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) welcomed their newest Board Trustee, Mr. Herbert Alexander Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez was elected on November 3, 2020 to serve on the GPISD Board of Trustees.

Mr. Sanchez earned a Master's Degree in

Public Administration from Sam Houston State University and Bachelor's Degree in Administration of Justice from Texas Southern University.

Together with his wife, Veronica, they have three children who attend GPISD schools.

“I believe that a strong educational system is the foundation of our community and of our great nation. As a parent to Galena Park I.S.D. students and as a fellow neighbor in our great community, the future of our children is extremely important to me. I look forward to working with my colleagues, teachers, staff, administration, and fellow neighbors to bring about higher quality education and opportunities to all of our children and community members,” Mr. Sanchez said.



Top Elementary Spanish Spellers at GPISD. S.



On January 15, the top elementary competitors gathered together to see who would become the 2020-2021 GPISD Elementary Spanish Spelling Bee Champion.

Fifteen students competed through many rounds of competition. Jeshua Puente of Green Valley Elementary School was named the Spanish Spelling Bee winner! In second place, Mia Campos of Purple Sage Elementary School and in third place, Giselle Esquivel of Woodland Acres Elementary School.

Congratulations, Jeshua, Mia and Giselle!

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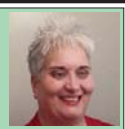
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CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Community Matters

To say that the past few weeks have been a draining addition to the past year is almost an understatement. It seems that everywhere we look, people are busier than ever. I often hear people tell me that they work harder while working remotely than they ever did in the office. I see more delivery drivers on the streets. Social media is filled with notices for upcoming giveaway events as well as requesting volunteers. And the need for financial support has been greater than ever.

As the Governor announced the decision to remove masks effective next week, the lines are longer than ever for vaccinations as well as COVID testing. Parents are still juggling choices to keep their children home for virtual learning or to send them back for traditional face to face learning. Some churches have opted to return to the sanctuary while many more are still conducting weekly services on platforms such as Zoom and Facebook.

In my own apartment complex, we are still experiencing broken pipes and beginning to see mold in some areas. Property owners changed several months ago and just prior to the storm, they had begun replacing appliances, painting the outdoors and working on replacing air conditioning units. You can imagine how the storm has added to the workload of the contractors.

Some of the local non-profits have suffered greatly by not being able to host fund-raisers and that in turn affects the support they typically donate to our community. I saw the post a few days ago that for the second year, the Rotary Club of North Shore will not host their Annual Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil, yet instead only hold the \$100 Reverse Draw Raffle. The last ticket drawn will still win a new vehicle as in years past, but the community will not only miss out of the amazing food, as well as a great time of fellowship but expectations for the funds raised are nowhere close to past years.

It was announced that some of the local high schools will host their Senior Proms at their athletic stadiums. My granddaughter asked if the schools were still going to be able to host “Field Days” at the end of Spring. My other granddaughter is just trying to make it week by week deciding if she will ever get to return to campus. Many Senior Citizens have lost count of how many special occasions that they have had to stay home from. Reports of depression and anxiety are at an all-time high.

At the same time, there are organizations around the country sending support to groups such as East Harris County Empowerment Council that were never expected. Recently, in a four-hour time period, one group in California raised over \$25,000 for our neighbors. And the number of volunteers who have reached out to help is amazing. The road ahead is still long and filled with detours but one thing I know, our community matters. Together we will overcome obstacles and become stronger. We are resilient.

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