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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Galena Park Library closed temporarily

Galena Park Branch Library is closed for winter storm related repairs as of February 22, 2021.

Jacinto City Branch Library, North Channel, Highlands (Stratford), and South Houston Branch Library are the nearest Harris County Public Library locations. Any HCPL branch location will be happy to assist you with your library needs via curbside.

HOLDS starting February 22, 2021 will be transferred to Jacinto City Branch Library.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this closure may cause. Please, monitor this webpage and HCPL's Facebook and Twitter feeds for updates.

You may continue to use the Galena Park Branch book drop to return library materials until further notice.

Thank you and I hope to see you next time.

Sisi Medina, MLIS
Manager, Galena Park Branch Library

Judge Lucia Bates' Food Distribution

Winter Storm Recovery Drive-Thru Food Distribution.

Saturday, March 13, 2021 from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Praise Christian Center World Outreach, 1100 Dell Dale Street, Channelview, TX.

Packages will be placed in Vehicle Trunks (Maximum 2 per household). No Walk Ups. While Supplies Last.

COVID-19 Cases as of March 9, 2021

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

587,652 POSITIVE
5,931 DEATHS
535,175 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,704,712 POSITIVE
45,582 DEATHS
19,966,634 TESTS

UNITED STATES

29,093,946 POSITIVE
527,643 DEATHS
364,849,318 TESTS

WORLDWIDE

117,537,686 POSITIVE
2,609,992 DEATHS
66,600,236 RECOVERED

Galena Park's Medical Clinic Administers COVID Vaccine



L – R: Galena Park Mayor Esmeralda Moya, Cynthia Grigalonis, Master of Science Nurse (MSN), CEO Rubin Shah, Vicki Richmond, Clinical Director & MSN, Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia. (Photo Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – Friday, March 5, 2021 at the Galena Park Medical Clinic Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia and Mayor Esmeralda Moya assisted the clinic in obtaining the Moderna COVID-19 for the citizens and the nearby areas.

Congresswoman Garcia said, "My objective is to bring the virus vaccine to the people. Many people are unable to travel long distances and wait in long lines for hours to be protected from the virus." With President Joe Biden's

\$1.9 trillion Economic Rescue Plan we'll now be able to make sizeable gains in protecting citizens from the deadly virus." Octavio Plaza the clinic's office manager said this is so true, frequently we have some older citizens unable to get from their cars to get inside for their vaccination, and I and others have gone out into the parking lot to assist them in getting inside."

The plan calls for \$20 billion in a national vaccination program, including launching community vaccination centers around the country and mobile units in hard-to-reach areas. It'll

provide \$50 billion in testing providing funds to purchase rapid tests expand lab capacity and help schools implement regular testing to support reopening. It will also fund the hiring of 100,000 public health workers, nearly tripling the community health workforce. And it will provide support to long-term care facilities experiencing outbreaks and to prisons for mitigation strategies.

Mayor Esmeralda Moya stated she tried for months to get the virus vaccine for the citizens without any success until she reached

out to Congresswoman Garica. She said, "Within days of my asking Congresswoman Garica for help, the Galena Park Clinic obtained its first doses. I'm so thankful to her and her staff for making this first day of our citizens getting their vaccinations possible."

Rubin Shah, Chief Executive Officer of the East Houston Hospital and Clinics (EHHC) thanked the congresswoman and mayor for their support with the hospital's vaccination program. He said between the hospital and the Galena Park Clinic

they've been able to vaccinate 1,200 patients. Britny Magana of EHHC said they've applied for more vaccines so all of our clinics will be able to begin giving the vaccinations.

According to Shawn Collier, Chief Marketing Officer of Advance Diagnostics Healthcare System's (ADHS) the East Houston Hospital & Clinics, Galena Park Clinic, River Oaks Hospital & Clinics and others are all under the umbrella of ADHS.

Continued. See COVID SHOTS, page 8

School districts respond to Abbotts Mandate... The Masks Stay on

By Jada Mier

Governor Greg Abbott issued 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. Although this gives institutes the freedom to lift their own mandatory mask protocols, many feel that it is unwise to do so.

Galena Park ISD, Channelview ISD, Sheldon ISD and San Jacinto community college have all decided that in wake of this new mandate it would be safer for students and staff to carry on with their mask requirement.

Galena Park ISD approved the requirement for all students, employees and visitors to continue wearing a face mask while on district property and at



DR. JOHN MOORE, Superintendent of Galena Park ISD, wears a mask at a recent news conference.

district events. This requirement is consistent with the advice from health professionals and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Additionally, GPISD will continue to follow their health and wellness protocols for the safety of their students and staff at all

Continued. See SCHOOL DISTRICTS, page 8

Pct. 2 Medical SmartPod wins innovation award

Harris County, TX — Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Precinct 2 received the prestigious American City & County 2020 Crown Communities Award. Garcia and Precinct 2 were chosen for their entry, which described the purchase, installation, and deployment of two SmartPod mobile health care units designed by Baylor. Precinct 2's SmartPods are known as ACCESS2HEALTH.

Crown Communities Awards are based on uniqueness, short- and long-term value to the community and effective/innovative financing. The announcement cites ACCESS2HEALTH for its "Innovative COVID-19 Emergency Response." Though the two ACCESS2HEALTH units were purchased prior to the pandemic, once installed, their availability for remote COVID-19 testing was of



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia last October, dedicating first SmartPod in the Aldine area.

immediate value that continues today. Once COVID-19 is no longer the most pressing health issue of the times, ACCESS2HEALTH can be converted to provide clinical and behavioral health services, ultimately providing patients with a medical home.

"With all the debate over our state and nation's health care future, we decided to take matters into our own hands, bringing services directly to the Precinct 2

Continued on Page 2. See SMARTPOD AWARD

Waste Pits update by Zoom meeting

Waste Pits remediation schedule extended, disposal and classification of waste questioned

By Gilbert Hoffman

The San Jacinto River Coalition, and THEA have learned that the time line for remediation and removal of the Waste Pits in the river will take considerably more time than originally thought, due to a number of factors.

Pre-Design Investigation, or PDI, discovered that the depth of the waste to be removed was much greater than the original 12 feet. In some places in the Northern Impoundment it was as deep as 25 feet. The significance of this meant that more material would have to be re-

moved, and more water infiltrating from the river would have to be treated. The original time line had been to complete the project in 2 and one-half years, and now it looks like the schedule will be seven years. The Final Design plan called for one year of preparation to procure contractors and materials, 5 years to remove the waste material (the site would be divided into five zones, each separated from the

MAP at right of Southern Impoundment, shows excavation of toxic waste from 4' deep (green) to 10' deep (red).



others, and taking a year to remediate) and a year to mobilize.

However, in September THEA learned that the EPA had granted the PRP consultant's request for additional time for engineering, due to the increased scope and depth of the waste. EPA allowed them to take an additional 160 days to prepare their Final Design plan. The Pre-Final Design for the Northern Impoundment is now due in April 2021. The Pre-Final Design for the Southern Impoundment was submitted in September 2020. The Final Design for the Southern Impoundment was due in November

Continued. See Waste Pits Update, page 2

Pct. 2 SmartPod Award,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Community. Harris County is home to the finest medical center in the nation. But, many residents of Precinct 2 cannot access services from The Texas Medical Center,” said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. “My goal was to bring all the resources of the Texas Medical Center directly into our neighborhoods. That’s what makes these SmartPod ACCESS2HEALTH units so great. We can provide free access to health care services to people in places where they are needed most. It fills my heart with pride that Precinct 2 innovates in ways that help traditionally underserved communities, and I am grateful for this prestigious award.”

More information about why Precinct 2 and ACCESS2HEALTH was chosen as an award winner can be viewed at AmericanCityandCounty.com.

TOP TEN MOVIES —

1. The Croods: A New Age (PG) animated
 2. The Little Things (R) Denzel Washington, Rami Malek
 3. Judas and the Black Messiah (R) Daniel Kaluuya, LaKeith Stanfield
 4. Wonder Woman 1984 (PG-13) Gal Gadot, Chris Pine
 5. The Marksman (PG-13) Kathryn Winnick, Liam Neeson
 6. Monster Hunter (PG-13) Milla Jovovich, Tony Jaa
 7. Nomadland (R) Frances McDormand, David Strathairn
 8. Land (PG-13) Robin Wright, Demian Bichir
 9. News of the World (PG-13) Tom Hanks, Steve Boyle
 10. The War with Grandpa (PG) Robert De Niro, Uma Thurman
- Source: Box Office Mojo
(c) 2021 King Features Synd.

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Update,

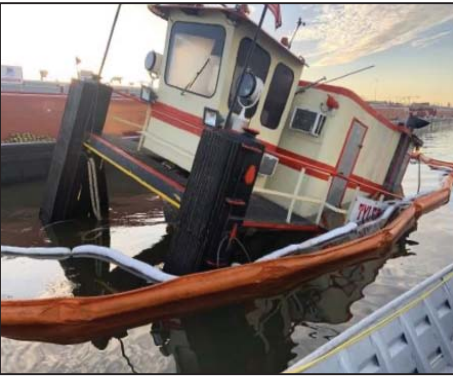
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2020. The Final Design for the Northern Impoundment is due this year, in June 2021.

A number of factors are controlling the extended schedule. One is that the EPA has agreed not to work on the site during extreme weather conditions, such as hurricanes. But on analysis, it was decided to also avoid the rainy season when floods are historically recorded. Than only leaves about six months each year to work unrestricted. Other factors included access to the site from I-10, and TXDOT’s plan to replace the bridge and highway over the river, starting sometime in 2024.

THEA is concerned about the extended schedule, because it exposes the site to more possible breaches of the containment cap. An example is just last December, when a tugboat named the M/V TYLER T sank on the morning of December 22 at the Cheryl K Marine San Jacinto River Fleet docks, near the Sand Separation area and the waste pits. The oil spill was investigated by Harris County Pollution Control and the Coast Guard. Although the pits were not damaged, the potential for this was illustrated in the accident.

The PRP (Potential Responsible Parties) and their consultant have a TWG (Technical Work Group) that meets regularly to coordinate their plan with other entities. These include TXDOT, US Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers, and TCEQ. However, Jackie Medcalf of THEA believes it should have more local representation, including Harris County Pollution Control and Port of Houston. Although these groups are advised of



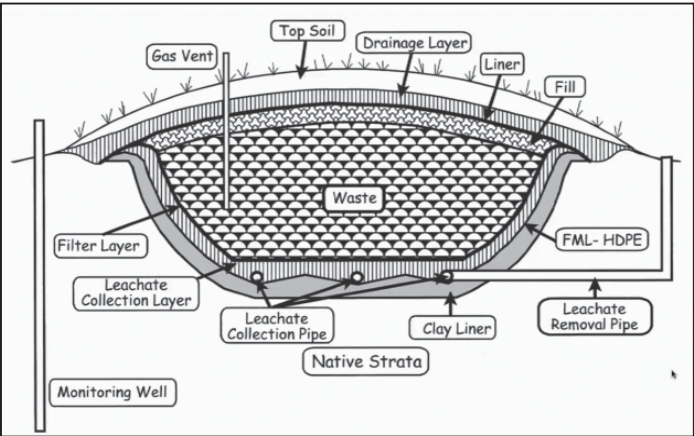
TUGBOAT M/V TYLER T sank near the Waste Pits in December, endangering them

plans, they do not participate “at the table.”

The Southern Impoundment is not considered to have the extreme hazardous waste found in the Northern Impoundment, and will be remediated only to a clean-up level of 240 nanograms per kilogram, as the Northern Impoundment goal is 30 ng/kg. The map accompanying the 30% Design shows excavation sites varying from 4 feet to 10 feet in depth.

Soil borings in the PDI

phase indicated concentrations of toxins higher than originally thought, and the issue has arisen of where this waste will be sent for disposal, and whether it can be safely disposed of. Medcalf believes that the classification proposed, non-hazardous Type II, allows it to go to Household Waste landfills that are not appropriate for the danger. These landfills, usually in Louisiana, only monitor the waste for 30 years, although dioxin has a life of 700 years. EPA



WASTE DISPOSAL requires this type of enclosure to be safe over a long period of time.

COVID 19 Testing Sites in Northeast Harris County

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David H. McNeerney
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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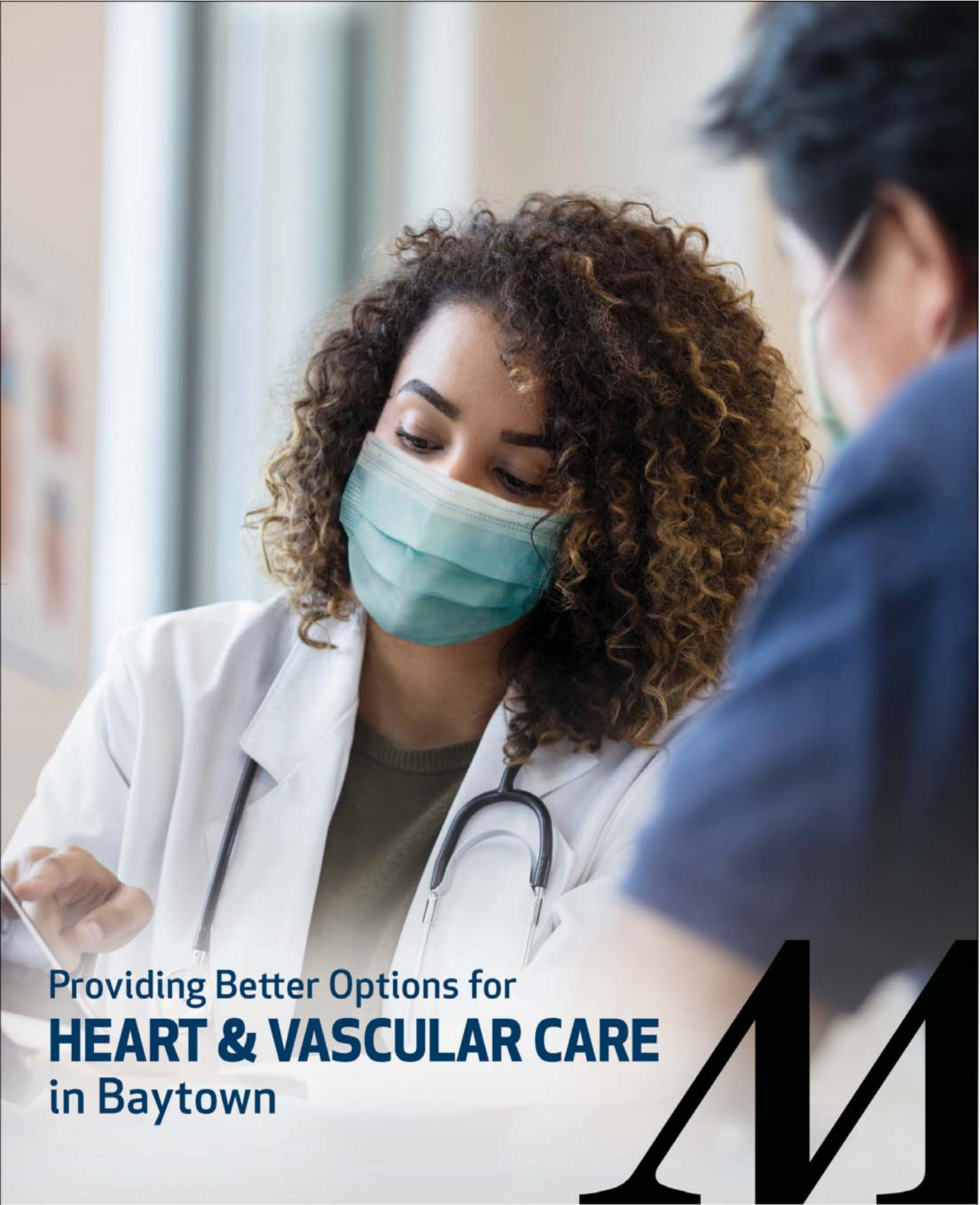
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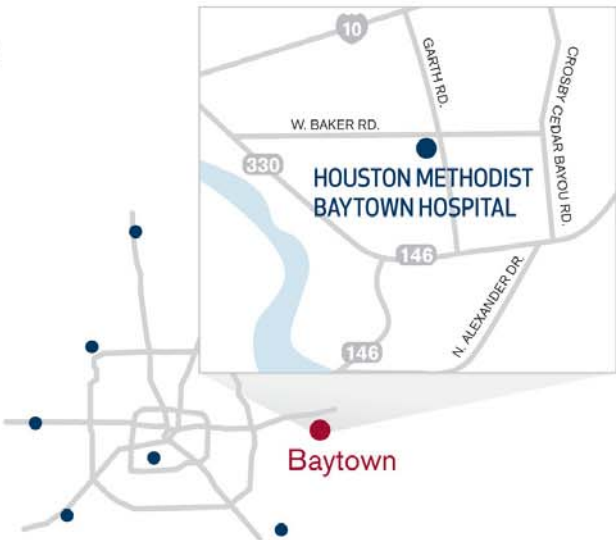
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★ OPINION PAGE ★

★
OPINION

Harris County Judge
Lina Hidalgo



This is not the time to give up

This Wednesday, the state's decision to open everything at 100% and eliminate the mask mandate comes into effect.

For the vast majority of the community who have been following public health recommendations from the beginning, the state's ending COVID-19 precautions is a gut punch. As I said in a recent TIME Magazine Op-Ed:

"It is a heavy burden for a community to carry, to continue to sacrifice in spite of false hopes being offered at the highest levels of the state... I hope that people of this county won't allow pandemic politics to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory and that we won't throw away a year of pain and sacrifice so that politicians can have their 'mission accomplished' moment."

I have received a lot of questions about what that means for Texans, and what our community should do.

The bottom line is this: This is not the time to give up.

Our positivity rate is sky high and still rising. Our COVID-19 hospitalizations are too high and would be the highest starting point ever for a climb in hospitalizations. We're still reporting around 600 cases a day in Harris County. Every time there has been a lifting of restrictions, numbers have worsened within a month or two.

Continue wearing face coverings. It saves lives.

Continue to avoid gatherings with people you don't live with.

Finally, support the businesses, the school administrators, the leaders who are being upfront and realistic about the situation.

A lot has been asked of you over the past year. We have to dig deep and continue our efforts a little longer.

If anyone can persevere, it's the incredibly resilient people of this County and of this State.



with Slim Randles

Cactus hairs; worse than Covid-19

Doc had just finished bringing us up to date on the world's fight against the covid-19 virus when ol' Windy Wilson raised his eyes.

"Now don't ya find, Doc," he said, "that the worse stuff in this old life is the junk ya can't see?"

Doc looked puzzled, so Windy continued. "Aw, you know. It's them mitrascopic stuff that are really dangerous to us."

Doc nodded.

"Now you jest take in there a braymer bull? He can stomp a guy inta furry, pink Jell-o. And then dance on them bullfighters whilst they're a-tryin' to git yer carcass outa the reenur. But see this here now. That there bull is purty dang big. Big enough to ride, right? So that means he's big enough so's you kin get outa his way if he comes a-stompin'."

Windy, our favorite camp cook, cowboy, philosopher, and interpreter of the English language, sipped on his coffee and looked at us each in turn. "Now, can you see them coronary vibration bugs? No way! Too dang small. They'll sneak up on a guy, get married and have pups and then kill ya deader'n a hammer!"

"Thass why, at the conjugal finish a-my thinkin', I'm puttin' them bugs in secondary place on my list of all-time tiny mean stuff."

"Only second place?" said Herb, "What's worse'n dying, Windy?"

"Cactus hairs," he said. "A-course. Ya know, them miterscopic stickers that you can't see when your eyes is nekkid. But ya know they's there, doncha? Oh yes, Aunt Sarah, I'll say ya do!"

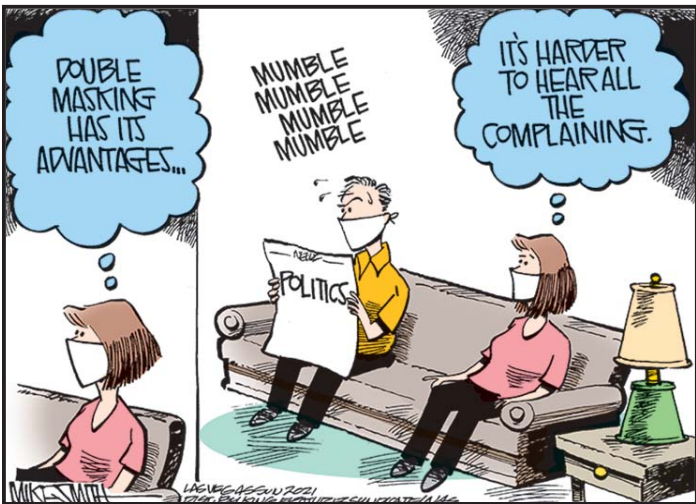
Windy nodded, agreeing with himself. No one else did, but that isn't really necessary with Windy.

"Only way ya kin tell ya got 'em is when ya brush up agin' somethin', like a shirt cuff or somethin'. Hurts like the Civilian War, it does, but ya can't see it."

He leaned forward and whispered. "It's flambastically insidulouss!"

"And you kin tell 'em I said so."

Brought to you by the folks who take the shiver out of ordering a quiver for you archers, Cedar Ridge Leather Works, in Nashville. Ask for art@archeryleather.com.



★
STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Mask mandate ends March 10; Many entities to continue requiring them

While Gov. Gregg Abbott has lifted the statewide mandate to wear a mask in public and allowed all businesses to operate at full capacity, many businesses, schools and other entities say they will continue to require that masks be worn. Abbott issued the order last week, effective March 10.

"With the medical advancements of vaccines and antibody therapeutic drugs, Texas now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus," Abbott said. "We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent." He urged Texans to take responsibility for themselves when it comes to wearing masks and following other health safety practices.

Political leaders in several of the state's largest cities criticized the decision. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner tweeted, asking (and answering for himself) whether Abbott's move was "an attempt to deflect from the winter storm system-wide state leadership failure. Yes." San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg urged residents to join him in continuing to wear a mask, a sentiment echoed by Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

Meanwhile, the Texas Education Agency revised its health guidance policies, saying that "local school boards have full authority to determine their local mask policy." Many of the state's college campuses announced they would continue to require that masks be worn, including The University of Texas, the Texas A&M University System, Texas Tech, Southern Methodist University and others.

Several large retailers announced they would continue to require customers to wear masks, including Walmart, Target, Costco and Whole Foods. Grocery retailer H-E-B will "strongly encourage" they be worn, according to a company statement, and employees will continue to wear masks.



HEB president Scott McClelland told the Houston Chronicle that antagonistic customers have caused nearly 2,000 in-store incidents regarding masks at Houston stores alone. He said customers not wearing a mask would be asked to do so, and an employee would offer them a mask if they didn't have one. Store employees will not escalate the situation if a customer refuses, he said.

TEXAS GETTING MORE THAN 1 MILLION COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES THIS WEEK

More than 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses are shipping this week to providers across the state, a significant increase from previous weeks. That's largely due to nearly a quarter-million doses of the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine coming to Texas. The single-dose vaccine began shipping last week. As of Sunday, more than 4.2 million Texans had received at least one dose and 2.319 million were fully vaccinated. That means about 22 percent of the state's population has gotten at least one dose. Teachers and school staff have been added to the list of those eligible for one of the three vaccines being offered.

COVID-19 CASES DROP, BUT DEATHS INCREASE IN PAST WEEK

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Texas in the past week dropped to 43,328, according

to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. That's down 22 percent from the previous week and down nearly 73 percent from the record high of 158,922 recorded the week of Jan. 10. However, recorded deaths in Texas rose to 1,730, up 17 percent from the previous week. Hospitalizations for lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients totaled 4,921, down from the record high of more than 14,000 during the week of Jan. 11.

MORE HEADS ROLL IN WAKE OF WIDESPREAD BLACKOUTS DURING WINTER STORM

As state and federal investigations continue into the massive blackouts during the Valentine's Day winter storm, leaders of both the Public Utility Commission and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas left their positions. DeAnn Walker, chairman of the PUC, resigned on March 1 and was replaced by fellow PUC member Arthur D'Andrea. Abbott will appoint someone to fill D'Andrea's position. ERCOT's CEO Bill Magness was fired a few days later by his board, which has lost nearly half its members to resignations. Magness, whose annual salary was at least \$800,000, soon said he would not seek or accept severance pay, which would have been equivalent to a year's pay, according to the Texas Tribune.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS NOT PENALIZED FOR HIGH ABSENCES, REMOTE LEARNING

The Texas Education Agency announced last week that it will "hold harmless" school districts that have seen attendance declines because of the pandemic, as long as they at least maintain current levels of in-school learning. Districts will be funded on attendance projections made before the pandemic, allowing them to retain teachers who might have faced layoffs because of lower enrollment. The state's top leaders announced their support for the hold-harmless provision in a March 4 press release.

TEENS URGED TO BUCKLE UP

Car wrecks are the leading cause of death among teenagers, and 41% of Texas teen drivers killed in 2019 weren't wearing a seat belt. That's why the Texas Department of Transportation is conducting a "Teen Click It or Ticket" campaign in March. TxDOT is sending out safety messages via social media, TV, radio and digital media. "Due to their limited driving experience, teens are far more susceptible to being in a crash," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "Far too many of these crashes are deadly because of the failure to buckle up. Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself in a crash. Click it and be safe."

★
THE POSTSCRIPT

By
Carrie Classon

March Inspiration

I've never been a fan of March.

March is supposedly spring, but we all know it's not. In much of the country, more snow falls in March than any other month. But it doesn't have the courtesy to stay. March snow falls, makes us shovel it, then turns into a sloppy mess in three days. It becomes slush, mixed with mud. The sky stays gray. And all the... things (you know what I mean), things that were buried in previous snowfalls... all those things come to light. Whatever they were, they are never better for having spent a few months under the snow. I don't need to describe them. You know what I'm talking about.

March is filled with disappointment. Too early for things to bloom, too late for a frosty day, March is a party that is never going to happen, an event canceled in advance. I am an optimistic person by nature, but March always gets me down.

It seems nonsensical, but autumn is a more cheerful season. Things are dying, but they do it so colorfully! The air is crisp and there will be celebrations and bonfires and new sweaters to wear.

What do you wear in March? Something you don't mind getting muddy, that is my advice. You might as well wear those pants you plan on tossing out as soon as it is warm enough. Wear them with the boots that already have a hole in the toe. Your feet will get wet anyway. There is nothing you can do. It's March.

I realize this is not turning into an uplifting column. I do not feel inspired by March; it is true.

But maybe that is because March is when big changes start to happen, and big changes are often not pretty.

Starting a new habit, ending a bad one, getting rid of something that is not working and replacing it with something that works better—none of these things are pretty. Change is messy and fraught with mistakes, and it doesn't look or feel easy or glamorous. June is easy and glamorous. March is clumsy and embarrassing and lonely and dull.

Maybe that's why we need it.

Because change is necessary. The trees need it, and insects need it, and people need it most of all. We need to slough off the old stuff that isn't doing us any good anymore, and we need to awkwardly embrace the new stuff we want to become a part of our life. And we can't do that without some mud and some melting and some unpleasant discoveries under the snow.

I was thinking about butterflies recently, how they start out as caterpillars and emerge with brand new, beautiful wet wings. Then they take off and fly to another continent like they know exactly what they are doing—because they do. I admire everything about that. I admire their beauty, and assurance, and their ability to transform themselves.

But my sister-in-law, Lori, recently reminded me of something that I either didn't know or had forgotten.

"When they are in the chrysalis, they dissolve," she told me. "Their entire body turns to mush! If you open the chrysalis too soon, they never get wings."

I realized I've been admiring butterflies for all the wrong reasons.

I've been admiring those beautiful wings, after all the work is finished. I never stopped to think how it would feel to be mush inside a dark cocoon, making a change that will transform a worm into a magical creature.

Now I'm thinking, maybe that is what March is for.

Till next time,
Carrie

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

★ MILESTONES PAGE ★

★

OBITUARIES

EVELYN LOUISE MCPHERSON

Evelyn Louise McPherson, 99, ascended to be with the angels in the evening of March 7, 2021 at her home in Cypress, Texas. Evelyn was born on September 18, 1921 in Warren, Arkansas. Evelyn previously resided in Normangee, Texas and was an active member of Normangee Baptist Church.

At the age of 17 she moved to Houston, Texas where she finished high school; during which she began working at Kress' department store to collect some spending-money, and always sent some of her wages back to Camden to give a helping hand to her mother.

On November 4, 1939 Evelyn met the love of her life, Ollie McPherson, Jr., at Riverview Baptist Church. After their meeting, Ollie swiftly proposed to her and they were wed that same day. Above all, Evelyn loved her Lord and Savior, and devoted her life to Him. She taught her children to



love Jesus and of His saving power. For over 25 years she taught a Lady's Sunday school class at Woodforest Baptist Church.

Once in Houston, Evelyn became very involved in church once again and was often known as a "Prayer Warrior". She regularly kept in touch with her ladies from class at Woodforest Baptist Church and was also a long-time member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Evelyn was the last surviving child out of her 10 siblings. Evelyn is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ollie Franklin McPherson, Jr.; son, Ollie Franklin McPherson III; numerous siblings, as she was the last of her family's children;

and grandson, Stephen Franklin Burns. Left to cherish her memory are her children, Ron L. McPherson and wife Suzanne, Terri McPherson Burns and husband Jim; grandchildren, Amy Haffner and husband Ron, Christian McPherson and wife Lindsey, Megan Chapman and husband Cody; as well as numerous grandchildren, extended family members, and dear friends.

The family asks you to join them for a visitation in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. with funeral services to immediately follow at 11:00 A.M. The graveside service will be held at Hopewell Cemetery in Normangee, Texas at 3:30 P.M. under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

CARTER ★ CONLEY
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Pct. 2 Community Plan Presentation by Zoom March 17

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia invites you to a presentation of the draft community plan recommendations. For more information about The Channelview Plan, visit www.channelviewplan.com

For more information,
Zoom Links:
- <https://zoom.us/j/95583917285>
- Meeting ID: 955 8391 7285
- One tap mobile: +13462487799,,95583917285# US (Houston)
- Dial by your location: +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Channelview Community Plan Recommendations

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia invites you to a presentation of the draft community plan recommendations.

Join us for a chance to provide feedback and ensure this plan works for you and your community!

Visit www.channelviewplan.com/community-events for more information

Wednesday, Mar 17, 2021
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting By:
zoom.us/join Meeting ID: 955 8391 7285

Or call:
(346) 248-7799

Galena Park ISD feeds 300 families



On Friday, February 26, Galena Park I.S.D. teamed up with the Houston Food Bank and Harris County Precinct 3 Community Outreach Division to host a food distribution for local families.

Every month, GPISD and Precinct 3 partner together to distribute non-perishable food items to community members who are in need. This month, the Houston Food Bank supplied the donation for over 300 families to receive meals.

We would like to thank you to the numerous GPISD employees, Houston Food Bank and Harris County Precinct 3 for assisting with the distribution.

North Shore Rotary's Books for the World project with help from CISD



North Shore Rotarian Bill Palko picked up 33 boxes of books donated by Channelview High School, and delivered them to the "Books for the World" warehouse. Thanks to Mrs. Palmer and Mr. Shoemaker for their donation that helps educate children all across the globe.

Spring Break Online Events at the Harris County Public Libraries

Need a break? Harris County Public Library has engaging and fun virtual programs for the whole family during the week of Spring Break (March 15 - 19). We'll have everything from Texas animals to soccer and storytimes! Be sure to checkout the these Spring Break inspired reads for kids on OverDrive.

Learn more about upcoming virtual programs at HCPL.net and follow @HarrisCountyPL on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

SOCCER STARTS AT HOME WITH THE HOUSTON DYNAMO AND DASH

Tuesday, March 16 @ 1 PM

Grab a ball and join us for beginner soccer videos created by Houston Dynamo and Dash with stories, songs, and more from HCPL staff. Don't have a ball? There's still plenty of fun to be had!

SPRING BREAK VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

ANIMAL SUPER-POWERS WITH PRECINCT 1

Monday, March 15 @ 11 AM

Look at some REAL animals and ask questions of the specialists. Discover how every animal is uniquely adapted to win at the game of survival.

HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS - COMPOSTING

Tuesday, March 16 @ 11 AM

Join us for an hour with the Harris County Master Gardeners, LIVE at 11am on the third Tuesday of each month.

SOCCER STARTS AT HOME WITH THE HOUSTON DYNAMO AND DASH

Tuesday, March 16 @ 1 PM

Grab a ball and join us for beginner soccer videos created by Houston Dynamo and Dash with stories, songs, and more from HCPL staff. Don't have a ball? There's still plenty of fun to be had!

READ AND PLAY WITH AUTHORS!

Wednesday, March 17 @ 1 PM

Authors Varsha Bajaj and Saadia Faruqi will each read from their work and then open up to Q&A. They are also planning some fun activities including Bollywood singing!

SOFI'S MAGICAL ADVENTURE WITH LIVE Q&A

Thursday, March 18 @ 11 AM

Join Sofi exploring public art, imagination, and the Puerto Rican cultural tradition of Carnival as Sofi visits beautiful places on the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico and gets to know the carnival character, a vejigante. And, sing along, in Spanish and English, (and maybe even dance) to bouncy plena music created by four time Grammy nominated composer William Cepeda.

THE ARMADILLO'S DREAM

Friday, March 19 @ 11 AM

Based on a Bolivian folktale and written by HGO's own Dennis Arrow-smith, this inspiring and timely tale stars an armadillo named Sandy who lives on the Houston bayou and dreams of singing. Though discouraged by the creatures he meets, Sandy is magically transformed during a storm and his shell becomes a part of a production at Houston Grand Opera.

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March Madness Festival at Crosby United Methodist Church

**March 20, 2021
10am to 3pm**

Everyone is welcome!!

- kids games
- kids train ride
- vendors
- sweet shop
- silent auction
- concessions
- chili cook-off
- plant sale
- Easter cake decorating contest
- ice cream creations contest

1334 Runneburg Rd Crosby
For more info: 281-328-2616
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Art Gallery features Paintings by Mei



Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill is now featuring oil painting by Mei Hoffman. Gallery is on the main street, and open weekends and some weekdays by appointment. Call 713-703-3841 or Mei at 713-906-4585.

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.

- Redeemer Lutheran Church LCMS
Open Mon-Fri 8a.m.-3 p.m.
1200 E Lobit Ave, Baytown, TX 77520
- MAS Katy Center
Open Mon-Wed 8a.m.-3p.m.
1800 Baker Rd, Houston, TX 77094
- Life Changer Community Church
Open Fri & Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.
3115 N Fry Rd #407, Katy, TX 77449
- 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

For the Pasadena and Katy test sites, register at www.covid19test.com or call 832-927-7575. People must be 13 or older to be tested at these locations.

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Open Sat (3/6) 8 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505

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HUGE RUMMAGE SALE

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NOTICE ESTABLISHING OFFICES OF DISTRICT

TO THE RESIDENTS OF EAST LAKE HOUSTON MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with V.T.C.A., Water Code, Chapter 49.062, as amended, the Board of Directors of EAST LAKE HOUSTON MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (the "District") has, on February 8, 2021, established offices outside the boundaries of the District at Winstead PC, 600 Travis Street, Suite 5200, Houston, TX 77002-2900, Hawes Hill and Associates LLP, 9610 Long Point Rd, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77055 and Landev Engineers, a Binkly & Barfield Company, 1704 Seamist Drive, Suite 410, Houston, Texas 77008. Said offices are hereby declared to be a public place and the public is invited to attend any meeting of the Board held at such locations. Said offices may be used as a meeting place for the Board of Directors, a mailing address for the District, for the storage of District records, the receipt and opening of public bids for the construction of facilities for or on behalf of the District and for the transaction of such business as is not required to be done within the District. In addition, the District established offices at Winstead PC, 2728 N. Harwood Street, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75201, and Winstead PC, 401 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100, Austin, Texas 78701, both of which are located outside the boundaries of the District. Said offices are hereby declared to be public places. Said offices may be used as a mailing address for the District, for the storage of District records and for the transaction of such business as is not required to be done within the District. Furthermore, the District established an additional office at Arete Real Estate & Development Company, 340 N. Sam Houston Parkway, Suite 140, Houston, Texas 77060. Said office is hereby declared to be a public place and the public is invited to attend any meeting of the Board held at such location.

YOU WILL THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOREGOING FACTS.

February 8, 2021

East Lake Houston Management District

/s/ John Speer, Chairman

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Welcome to the world of pearls. With the tremendous variety of pearls on the market today, pearls are considered the least understood of all gemstones. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the different types of pearls, pearl grading, their history and care before your make a new pearl purchase.

TYPES OF PEARLS

AKOYA PEARLS

For nearly 100 years, akoya pearls grown off the coast of Japan have been the classic pearl of choice. When one pictures a round strand of white pearls, they are usually thinking of akoya.

Although rare baroque shapes and natural colors like silver-blue and gold do exist, akoya pearls are best known for their perfectly round shape and sharp, reflective luster.

While exceptions do exist, most akoya pearls produced today range in sizes from 4 to 10 mm.

If you are looking for a classic strand of round, white pearls, you are probably looking for a strand of akoya pearls.

FRESHWATER PEARLS

The most affordable pearls sold today, freshwater pearls are known for baroque shapes, white and pastel body colors and softer luster than akoya (except in the case of rare metallics).

With natural pastel colors and shapes that range from perfectly round to free-form baroque, freshwater pearls offer a widest range of options.

Common sizes range from 5 mm to 12 mm, but recent advances have led to the development of round and baroque pearls as large as 20 mm.

If you are looking for an affordable piece or something more fashion-forward with unique combinations of colors and shapes, shop freshwater pearls.

TAHITIAN PEARLS

Tahitian pearls grown in French Polynesia are the only naturally dark pearls. Although often referred to as black, Tahitian pearls come in a rainbow of exotic colors. Round Tahitian pearls are quite rare but other fun shapes like drops, baroques and ovals are highly-sought and still considered very valuable. If you are looking for a naturally dark pearls that go well with almost any style, Tahitian pearls may be your best choice.

PEARL CARE

Pearls are the world's only organic gemstone, and therefore, tend to be quite delicate. Proper care of your pearl jewelry is essential to ensure your investment will last a lifetime. Personal care products, such as perfume or hairspray, can severely damage the luster and beauty of a pearl.

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.

School Districts opt for masks,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

campuses and district buildings, including practicing social distancing and using good hygiene practices.

Sheldon ISD said they prioritize the safety of their students and staff and are continuing to follow the recommendations from the CDC. There will be no changes to their current mask-related process in their schools or buildings.

Channelview Independent School District reports that they will continue the necessary COVID-19 safety precautions and require all students, staff and visitors to wear face coverings in all district facilities and campuses. Channelview ISD will also continue to adhere to the guidelines provided by the Center for

Disease Control (CDC).

San Jacinto College acknowledges the executive Order GA-34 but reports that The health and safety of their students, employees, and visitors remains a top priority at this time. All current San Jacinto College COVID protocols – including wearing a face covering, completing a daily pre-screening questionnaire, and social distancing – will remain in effect at all campuses and College facilities, and at all College events, until further notice.

It is no surprise that many are hesitant to allow facilities with a high volume of people revert back to a mask free environment considering we are still in the midst of a global pandemic.

Galena Park COVID shots,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

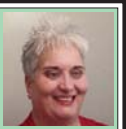
ADHS is a system of in-network hospitals and clinics, accepting a majority of insurance plans, including worker's comp and Medicare. From wellness screenings to emergencies, from telemedicine to occupational medicine, from primary care to urgent care. Their hospitals and clinics offer comprehensive care in convenient locations; they provide a full-service, 24-hour emergency department, operating rooms, multispecialty clinics and state-of-the-art imaging. In Houston, both River Oaks Hospitals & Clinics, located between River Oaks and the Galleria, and Advanced Diagnostics East

Houston Hospital & Clinics, located in East Houston, are outside of Houston's Medical Center complex.

To apply for the virus vaccine at the Galena Park Clinic area (2124 Clinton Dr.) call 713-671-3541. For the EHHC, 12950 East Freeway hospital go to: www.adheathcare.com

Additional contacts to receive the vaccine use any of the following contacts... Harris County Public Health (HCPH), call 832-927-8787 and or the City of Houston, call 832-393-4220. Three website registrations : www.publichealthharriscounty.org/ ... www.readyharris.org/ ... www.dshs.texas.gov/

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Reflecting

While on a zoom meeting earlier this week, participants began reflecting on what all has happened in the past year. Many of us have been working remotely from home for almost a year now. Many of us have learned to not only do our grocery shopping online but have perhaps spent quite a bit of time online shopping for everything from cleaning supplies, toilet paper, electronics and much more.

For families with children enrolled in school, there has been changes. Fewer lunches were prepared for lunchboxes. School uniforms have become something of the past for most families. Social isolation has been a problem for many children, especially those with no siblings at home. Single parents who were accustomed to working while their children were at school have had to juggle responsibilities when they were able and sadly many single parents had to find new sources of income as they could no longer work outside of the home. They had to be home with the children, overseeing the virtual learning.

The Harris County Community Centers which normally held daily activities for Senior adults were closed to the public. Seniors have missed out on the meals, games, speakers and certainly on seeing others.

Many businesses have shut down or at least downsized to be able to stay in business. Online shopping with packages being delivered has boomed. Many area businesses have offered curbside delivery.

Even healthcare has changed. Rarely are there face-to-face office visits with medical professionals. We have learned to use our phones and computers much more often. Many of the people I know who have had to use occupational or physical therapy have had to receive it at home.

Many of those who have been working remotely have realized they are putting in more hours than before. They get involved in a project and before they know it, they are well past their quitting time. Now that they do not have a commute to the office, they have been much more casual with work attire. Some who normally spent \$25 or more weekly to have uniforms cleaned are now at home in activewear. Many thought that while they were at home, they would get in some exercise since even the local YMCA and gyms have been closed. Sadly, many have done most of their exercising by walking to and from the refrigerator. There has long been a joke about college freshman gaining 15 pounds that first semester away from home. I have talked to too many who have gained 20 or more pounds since being at home.

On the bright side, many families have enjoyed spending more time with those they live with. There are many families and friends who have connected through Zoom or Facebook more often than before. Many neighbors have worked on their yards and on do-it-yourself projects. Many meetings have been streamlined by using an online platform by cutting out the time previously waiting to get started. Perhaps we have shifted our priorities more and are able to reach our goals even quicker. It has been an eye-opening experience.

Fatal Shooting at 700 Fidelity Street

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man at 700 Fidelity Street about 8:25 p.m. on Tuesday (January 26).

The victim, Gregory Wiltz, 53, was pronounced dead at the scene.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives C. Lamont and L. Lange reported:

HPD patrol officers and Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to a shooting at the above address and found Mr. Wiltz deceased inside his vehicle. He had been shot multiple times. A preliminary investigation indicated Wiltz went to the location to meet an unknown male and was subsequently shot and killed.

Several unknown persons were seen running from the scene and fleeing in two vehicles of unknown make and model.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

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... to Mrs. Always Right.
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