

HIGHLANDS CROSBY  
**Star** ★ **Courier**

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**These stories in the PRESS:**  
• FM 3180 closed  
• Baytown resident puts faith in cancer center  
• Students responde to medical shortage  
.....And more, Page 3

**COVID-19 RESOURCES**  
City of Houston Pre-Screening  
832-393-4220  
Harris County Ask a Nurse  
713-634-1110  
Harris County Pre-Screening  
832-927-7575 or readyharris.org  
Harris County Mobile Tests  
713-439-6000  
MD Medical 1-888-776-5252  
Methodist Hospital  
Download mymethodist app.

**COVID-19 Cases as of June 1, 2020**  
**HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES**  
19,230 POSITIVE  
436 DEATHS  
7,671 RECOVERED  
**TEXAS**  
65,693 POSITIVE  
1,683 DEATHS  
43,338 RECOVERED  
**UNITED STATES**  
1,811,357 POSITIVE  
105,147 DEATHS  
458,231 RECOVERED  
**WORLDWIDE**  
6,270,758 POSITIVE  
375,632 DEATHS  
2,697,094 RECOVERED

**BIRTHDAYS**  
Jun 4—Whitney Sain  
Mary Ann Stone  
Michael Taylor  
Patricia E. Sparks  
Jun 5—John Abbott  
James Allen  
Amanda Taylor  
Teresa Griffith  
Jun 6—Barbara Nelson  
Jesse Smith  
Darlene Walter  
Jun 7—David Dunlap  
Ray Stanley  
Ruby Wendler  
Jun 8—Nathan Abbott  
Barbara Bush  
Jun 9—John David Gross  
Beuana Cumbiek  
Jun 10—Kimberly Minter  
Cassie Scott  
Charles Massey  
Lisa Worthen  
**ANNIVERSARIES**  
Jun 4—Donnie & Connie Larrison  
Jun 6—Randy & Nita Sloan  
Jun 8—Judy & Allen Dunn  
Joe & Elizabeth Price  
Jun 10—Christ & Pam Mosley

## KMCO acquired from bankruptcy by ALTIVIA

CROSBY— ALTIVIA Oxide Chemicals, LLC, an affiliate of ALTIVIA Petrochemicals, Monday announced that it acquired KMCO LP on Friday and its associated chemical ethoxylation manufacturing assets, according to the company in a June 1 press release.  
KMCO LP was bought from bankruptcy and the price was low except for over \$600,000 of property taxes and millions of dollars in liabilities to creditors.  
“ALTIVIA plans a \$25 million process safety and control systems upgrade to the facilities and will start production in two new oxide reactors by the

end of this year.” the release stated.  
“We have completed a detailed evaluation of these assets and are looking forward to starting production by year end. The reaction chemistries in Crosby are complementary to ALTIVIA’s current product offerings and will provide our customers important sourcing options,” said ALTIVIA’s Chief Executive Officer J. Michael Jusbasche. “The market for oxylation tolling and custom manufacturing services will now have available a state-of-the-art facility in the U.S. Gulf Coast.”  
The facilities, located on 160 acres near Hous-



Parking lots almost empty as announcement of sale of KMCO LP from bankruptcy is made. The plant is to be back in operation later this year.

ton, include 31 reaction and distillation trains with capacity for Ethylene and Propylene Oxide reac-

tions as well as a broad range of organic reactions including polymerization, neutralization, and con-

densation. Products include surfactants, lubricants and other specialty chemicals. See KMCO Sold, Page 8

## Highlands Horizons awards 20 scholarships

HIGHLANDS – This year the Highlands Horizons club was able to award 20 scholarships to graduating seniors, the most they have ever given out.  
In addition, 3 of those scholarships were awarded to former and current Miss Highlands.  
Each year the Horizons hold an awards reception, but due to the pandemic they were not able to do this event. So instead, the organization placed a congratulatory ad in the Star-Courier, “Wishing All of Them Success in their Future Plans!”



See Scholarships, Page 8  
Scholarship winners, and Miss Highlands: 2018 Kaitlyn Rolin; 2019 Haley Maxey; and 2016 Anna Keyes.

## Local events knocked around – rescheduled Zydeco and Livestock sale

CROSBY – COVID -19 has certainly put local venues to the test of late.  
The Crosby Fair and Rodeo had to cancel the Cook-Off including a gig with Bag of Donuts (a variety act.) Northeast Harris County’s largest party and parade. The rodeo board reluctantly put off their livestock sale until June 12. The auction will still be held that Friday with the Buyer’s Dinner beginning at 4:00 p.m. as does Buyers Registration. The awards portion begins at 5:30 p.m. The auction itself begins at 6:00 p.m.  
The Livestock show lasts all week as the kids

vie for education assistance through the sale of livestock at the auction. Cages will be allowed in starting next Sunday after 7:00 a.m. Then a week of showing and judging will begin culminating Friday. All the animals are to be released on June 13.  
This year the Zydeco Festival under producer Troy Barrett has been postponed until August.  
According to Troy, “I don’t want to risk everyone getting sick and I think we will all be better off with the event moving until August 14-16, that date was open with the Crosby Rodeo, so I made that decision

out of concern. The Judge extended the stay at home until June 10, I think they might extend until July.”  
“I am still in the process of booking acts and vendors because so much has changed lately. Plans were to have the Zydeco Festival in June.” says Barrett leaving his phone number for local talents (713) 204-8800.  
For tickets and information on attending the Crosby Zydeco Festival visit crosbyzydecifest.com.  
Booking acts and food venues are done under a large number of considerations not everyone qualifies.

## Busted: For Driving other people's Rides



Recently Precinct 3 Deputies caught up with a familiar fella'. Everybody was in good spirits as seen above. Christopher Freeman is alleged by Constable Sherman Eagleton's Office to ride other people's rides but does not inform the owner of those rides he is driving. This is Freeman's third arrest for Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. But no one says he does not have good taste in vehicles, previously impounded vehicles are expensive examples of Ford trucks, motorcycles and of course hauling equipment.  
See Other people's rides, Page 8

## Baby left at Crosby fire station #1



An infant was found left outside the Crosby Fire Station #1 on US 90 at Kennings Drive shortly after 3:00 a.m. Monday. The mother notified authorities that she was leaving the child thus the incident falls under “Baby Moses laws.” The mother will not be prosecuted for endangerment. Seen above ambulance crews confer with volunteer firefighters.

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## All Six HCPH COVID-19 Test Sites are moving to new locations

New Test Site Locations Open Tuesday, June 2

Houston – Harris County Public Health's two largest COVID-19 test sites are moving to new locations, in CyFair and Pasadena. These are the fixed sites currently in Baytown and Katy, the last day they test is Saturday, May 30. The new locations opened last Tuesday, June 2 at Ken Pridgen Stadium, 11355 Falcon Rd, Houston, TX 77065 and San Jacinto College Central Campus, 8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505. The four mobile testing sites in Harris County will continue to change locations weekly. Residents from other counties can be tested at any of these six sites. Harris County Public Health encourages as many people as possible to get tested, even if they don't have symptoms. Testing identifies new cases of COVID-19 so contact tracers can determine the sources of infection and

help prevent further spread of this contagious disease. In addition, infected people often don't have symptoms but are still contagious. Without knowing it, they can infect older people and those with underlying health conditions who may get extremely ill or die. Testing is free, easy to register and quick, due to the six drive-through sites in Harris County. Sign up, take the self-assessment and drive to the test site. Register at <https://www.readyharris.org>, [www.hcphtx.org](https://www.hcphtx.org) or call 832-927-7575. To get tested the next day, call or register online after 6:30 p.m. Testing will be available 6 days a week, Monday-Saturday. You must take the self-assessment to get an authorization code for a testing site.

Mobile locations for the week of June 1-6, Monday-Saturday. Each site is open

5 days and closed one day.

-Lone Star College – North Harris Campus 2700 W.W. Thorne Drive, Houston, TX 77073. Closed Tuesday, June 2

-La Porte High School 301 E Fairmont Pkwy, La Porte, TX 77571. Closed Wednesday, June 3

-Zube Park 17560 Roberts Rd, Hockley, TX 77447. Closed Thursday, June 4

-Barbara Bush Branch Library 6817 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379. Closed Friday, June 5

People who are tested will receive their results in 3-5 days.

To reduce your chances of contracting COVID-19, practice social distancing, wear a mask in public and wash your hands frequently. Visit [www.hcphtx.org](https://www.hcphtx.org) for the latest COVID-19 updates and resources.

## Suicidal man assisted

Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) Deputy Doucet & Clinician Porter assist HCSO District 3 Patrol in getting a barricaded suicidal suspect out of his Highlands house. CIRT was able to talk him out without incident.



## Pandemic drives record unemployment

(AUSTIN) — Businesses across Texas and the nation have been forced to curtail or cease operations in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, throwing millions out of work and prompting a record increase in unemployment claims that is straining the safety net for workers. Nearly 2 million people in Texas filed for unemployment insurance benefits from March 14 through May 9, triple the number of claims filed in all of 2019.

In this issue of Fiscal Notes, we take an early look at the economic pressures now gripping the state. We also examine early impacts on employment and several other measures that can shed some light on current conditions.

"It's far too early to say how long these conditions will last — and how deep the trough will go," Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar

said. "Many economic measures are only beginning to reflect the crisis. It will be months before we can chart its full dimensions. Fortunately, our state's fiscal position is strong enough to support vital programs for the remainder of this year, and our state's "Rainy Day Fund" remains healthy. But the legislative session that begins in January 2021 will face significant and perhaps unprecedented challenges."

Getting Texans back to work will no doubt be one of the bigger challenges. A record 315,167 Texans filed initial jobless claims during the week ending April 4; a comparable week in 2019 saw about 13,000 claims. The spiraling unemployment rate has forced the Texas Workforce Commission to ramp up its web-based and telephone systems, boost staffing and extend operating hours to

ensure claimants get the benefits due them.

The May issue of Fiscal Notes also considers the history of previous recessions and their effect on tax revenues. The current situation is unprecedented in the speed with which it took effect, but the past does provide some important clues for our future.

For questions about how our tax functions are continuing during the outbreak, visit our COVID-19 News page or our Virtual Field Office. Fiscal Notes is available online and can be received by subscribing via the Comptroller's website.

Fiscal Notes furthers the Comptroller's constitutional responsibility to monitor the state's economy and estimate state government revenues. It has been published since 1975, featuring in-depth analysis concerning state finances and original research by subject-matter experts in the Comptroller's office.

## State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$2.6 Billion in May

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.6 billion in May, 13.2 percent less than in May 2019 and the steepest year-over-year decline since January 2010.

The majority of May sales tax revenue is based on sales made in April and remitted to the agency in May. Widespread social distancing requirements were in place across much of the state throughout April.

"Significant declines in sales tax receipts were evident in all major econom-

ic sectors, with the exception of telecommunications services," Hegar said. "The steepest decline was in collections from oil and gas mining, as energy companies cut well drilling and completion spending following the crash in oil prices."

"The business closures and restrictions and stay-at-home orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic spurred deep drops in collections from restaurants, amusement and recreation services, and physical retail stores. These declines were offset in part by increases from big box retail-

ers and grocery stores that remained open as essential businesses, online retailers and restaurants that could readily pivot to takeout and delivery service.

"With the easing of state and local government social distancing orders beginning in May, business activity in the sectors most affected by measures to curb the pandemic should begin to slowly recover, but operations resuming at reduced capacity will result

See Tax Revenue, Page 6

## Maximum Tax Savings



Jack Noonan B.B.A., T.R.E.B., E.A.

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

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## Dayton

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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020

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### ROUND-UP

#### DAYTON Daniel Park to Close for Renovation

Daniel Park, located on Arnold Drive, off of FM 1008, will be closed for extensive renovations until the end of August. The city pool, which is located inside of the park will remain closed throughout the summer as the work continues.

Renovation of the park will include:

- The total renovation of the concession stands
- Replacement of the electrical system
- Replacement of field lighting and poles
- Replacement of scoreboards
- Reconditioning of all ball fields
- Resurfacing and asphaltting the main drive, parking areas, and the drive leading to the softball fields
- Drainage improvements

"This work will complement the new playscape equipment that was built in November as a partnership between the City, KaBoom! and the Rebuild Texas Fund," said City Manager Theo Melancon. "Our Master Park Plan identifies Daniel Park as an important part of the quality of life in Dayton, now and as the city grows. We're already seeing exponential growth in our youth sports, and this renovation will help accommodate all of our young ballplayers."

Although the park's nickname is Daniel Park, the park's official name is "Gov. Bill & Vara Daniel Park." The park includes the Dayton city pool, baseball/softball fields, playground equipment, covered pavilion, picnic tables, walking/jogging trail, and restrooms.

## Interchange work closes FM3180 roadway

TxDOT has closed FM3180 north and southbound over the IH-10 highway, to facilitate construction of the intersection with a new configuration. The artery is expected to be closed all summer, until August, as construction of the new IH-10 lanes rises over the current roads.

TxDOT said in a press release that in August temporary lanes will open to allow traffic on FM3180 to flow freely for school and other traffic. Until then, southbound traffic will turn right onto the feeder road and make a u-turn at Highway 99. Northbound traffic toward Mont Belvieu will turn right onto the eastbound feeder, and make a u-turn at FM565.

TxDOT refers to the roadwork as a "flip" because when complete, the main lanes of IH-10 will go over the smaller roadway of FM3180. This con-

figuration will allow Interstate 10 to be increased in width at the intersection.

Construction is progressing, as can be seen in the accompanying photograph. Superstructure for the new lanes can be seen on both sides of the current FM3180. When 4 new lanes are completed, the eastbound lanes of IH-10 will be closed and in their place construction will start on another 4 lane segment over FM3180.

Other projects involving the Interstate in this area include construction of an overpass for Highway 99/Grand Parkway, from its current lanes south of the interstate, to continue north to US59/IH69 and northeast Harris County. Another new highway is the extension of FM1409 from Old River-Winfrey south over IH-10 between the FM3180 and FM565 roadways.



Aerial view of FM 3180 and I-10 intersection where construction is ongoing.

## Certified Nursing Assistant students respond to healthcare worker shortage

By Susan Passmore

Anxious to put their skills to good use, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) students in Carolyn Heads' classes at Robert E. Lee (REL) and Ross S. Sterling (RSS) high schools responded to the need for healthcare workers during the COVID-19 crisis by accepting positions at two local facilities.

Having earned the required 40 hours for Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification at nursing/rehabilitation centers as well as completed 60 classroom hours, these 16 seniors, who have been unable to take the state CNA exam due to closure orders, received certificates of completion for the



Several of the graduating seniors in the CNA program at Robert E. Lee and Ross S. Sterling high schools, who are working at Rollingbrook Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, prepare for their shifts. Pictured are (from left) Monserrat Lopez (RSS), Zachary Charalampous (RSS), Jocelyn DeLaCruz (Lee), Iris Sanchez (RSS), Arisbeth Garcia (Lee), Carlos Rangel (Lee), Tiffany Joya (Lee), Alayna Henry (RSS) and Lucy Ramos (Lee).

Photo by Carolyn Heads

CNA course from their teacher and set out to make a difference.

"I don't know what we would have done without them," said Lisa James, director of nursing at Rollingbrook Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Baytown. "Our new policy is that staff can only work at one facility, so we lost some employees. They've helped tremendously, and the residents enjoy the young energy of the students."

REL students Jocelyn DeLaCruz, Arisbeth S. Garcia, Tiffany Joya, Lucy Ramos, Carlos Rangel and Antonia Loreda as well as

See Medical Shortage, Page 6

## Baytown Resident Puts Faith in Cancer Center After Diagnosis

BAYTOWN — (May 29, 2020) — San Juana Cano and her family have relied on the physicians and nurses of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital for their health care needs for over 40 years. A cancer diagnosis during a pandemic gave that reliance even greater significance.

A native of San Antonio, Cano, 68, and her husband of 52 years, Ismael, raised six children after moving to Baytown from the small Rio Grande Valley town of Alamo. Cano said when she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and began treatments in November 2019 she knew she could put her faith in the doctors and nurses at the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown to help her get through the most serious health scare of her life.

"We've been going there (Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital) since we moved to Baytown and we've never had any complaints," Cano said. "We've always trusted everybody

there, from the doctors and nurses all the way to the cleaning and maintenance people. They work with me and ask me questions. Whatever the doctor tells me to do, that's what I do. They have always treated us so well."

Under the care of oncologist/hematologist Dr. Cesar De Las Casas, Cano is receiving chemotherapy treatments in the cancer center's infusion therapy facility. She says while the coronavirus pandemic initially made thoughts of going to the hospital a bit more stressful, the safety and cleaning practices employed by the cancer center staff make it easy to relax and focus on improving her health during the chemo sessions.

"The cancer center staff have been great. They do so many things to make sure everything is safe and clean for us patients," Cano said. "They are very caring, very concerned and very clean."

Houston Methodist Bay-

town has implemented a thorough regimen of safety precautions in its clinics and doctor offices to ensure that patients receive care in the safest and cleanest environment possible, including:

- Screening all patients when scheduling appointments for symptoms and exposure risk
- Minimizing the number of patients we are seeing per day in our clinics by expanding virtual services and staggering in-person appointments
- Using Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-recommended testing for our employees
- Screening all patients upon arrival with temperature checks and an exposure questionnaire
- Wearing personal protective equipment while providing patient care
- Redesigning waiting rooms and check-in lines to ensure social distancing
- Implementing additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment



San Juana Cano and her care team. Back row (from left) Natasha Fagan, Courtney Holt, Angelica Sanchez, Dr. Cesar De Las Casas. Front row (from left) Lisa Weaver, San Juana Cano

and surfaces

• Adhering to a strict essential visitor policy: Note: Effective June 1, each patient will be allowed one designated visitor who

must be 18 or older. The designated visitor is not allowed to change during the patient's stay. Compassionate exceptions will be made as appropriate. Patients who have tested pos-

itive or are under evaluation for COVID-19 will not be permitted visitors.

Cano, retired after a career working for a Baytown area cleaning service, said thanks to the great care she receives at the cancer center, she and Ismael are looking forward to spending many years with their 11 grandkids. She adds that anyone needing medical treatment should not let apprehension over the COVID-19 pandemic prevent them from receiving the care they need at Houston Methodist Baytown.

"They are wonderful people who work so hard to make sure everything is safe and clean for us," Cano said. "I just don't know what I would do without them."

For more information on the full range of services at the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown, visit [houstonmethodist.org/Baytown](http://houstonmethodist.org/Baytown), or call 346-292-2060.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

**OPINION**

By Diamond Jim Mills

**Open your Business and Persevere! MAGA my Friends!!!**

1. At our 1st Saturday staff meeting prior to the required closings, I informed my staff that their pay would continue even if I had to cut off the utilities and rent...and my own pay. We continued to work on inventory, updating records, displays, A/R, and a myriad of other things. We planned...and persevered...

2. We chose to begin sidewalk service...something almost unheard of in our business. We were working the sidewalk...with two of us armed...delivering repairs and taking in repairs, watches, etc....and continuing our "buying" as normally as we could muster. Police units sat in cars across the street and monitored us...while criminals were being set free. But we followed the rules...and we persevered...

3. We filed a request to Harris County to allow us to open the store as an "essential business" because our customers who needed to sell TO us were unable to sell precious metals to the bank in order to buy food, pay rent, etc. In some instances, Pineforest Jewelry IS their bank! It took THREE WEEKS before the county allowed us to open...with the asinine statement that we could only allow 10 folks into our 7200 SF store at a time...and that included employees (I have 12). In addition, we were barred from selling jewelry...but WERE allowed to buy gold, silver, diamonds...and replace watch batteries. Absurd! As if someone would catch Covid-19 if they purchased a diamond...but were "safe" if they only purchased a battery. And as if the powers that be thought we could run our business off of buys and watch batteries. Police that should have been investigating crime were still assigned the brave duty of sitting nearby in their vehicles to make sure that we did not "open for business". But we followed the rules...and we persevered...

4. We put up signage regarding masks, social distancing, and use of hand sanitizers. We measured and taped zoned areas, and installed Plexiglas on our counters. We had to track down suppliers of masks, commercial tubs of wipes, and cleaners. The masks cost us \$2 each...so we sold them for \$2 each. I continued to pay my staff, even though we were bringing in such a small amount that it did not cover overhead. We attempted to follow the rules...but we persevered...

5. After the 12-year-old running our county sent us our letter designating us as an essential business...we were desperate to open...and did so. I applied for the PPP "grant" which dictated that we had to pay our staff (which I had already decided to do)...but that also brought requirements that absolutely NO SMALL BUSINESS COULD UNDERSTAND, MUCH LESS COMPLY WITH. The problem with the government help is that, as usual, so much red tape was required that if the rules were not followed we would have our "grant" turn into another government "loan"!!! I have a gifted accountant in house who brought us an Excel spreadsheet from

hell...which not only explained the loan and requirements, but also allowed input of employee and other expenses to insure compliance. This was a true gift to us! (As an aside...anyone in need of this spreadsheet will receive it, or receive a link to it, by email by simply requesting it from us. Email your request to Linda Mills at [lmills@PineforestJewelry.com](mailto:lmills@PineforestJewelry.com).) We were suffering, but now we have had some degree of help. And luckily, being in Texas, OUR state recognized the need to OPEN...and began planning how to do so. At that point we were being left alone by the local gendarmes and liberal-progressives (who never missed a check I might mention) while WE earned nothing but paid THEM to prevent US from earning a paycheck to pay THEM (strange how that works, huh?)...and we worked...and we persevered...

6. We are now experiencing a resurgence in sales as if Covid-19 (THE CHINESE VIRUS) never happened. Folks are wearing masks...folks are friendly...folks are doing business as usual...folks are happy...and the criminals continue to take advantage as they always do. Yesterday we were hit by a distraction theft team that stole an Alison Kaufman wedding ring (I'll give AK a plug). Go to our FB page and read about it when we get the post up...[www.facebook.com/PineforestJewelry](http://www.facebook.com/PineforestJewelry). Society has recovered, folks...and we persevere...

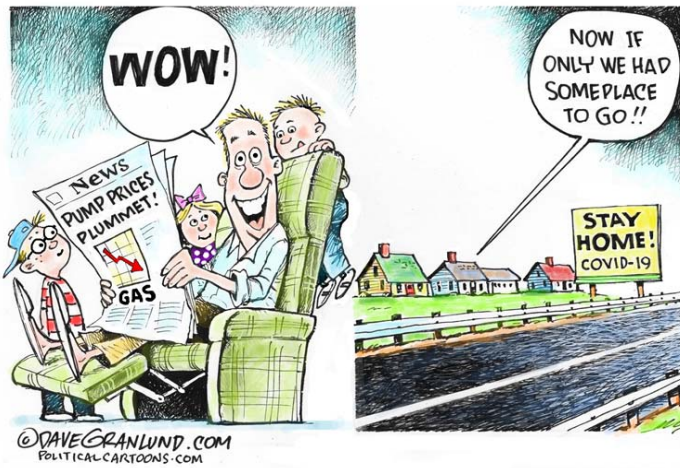
7. But the nation has learned a lesson. You cannot allow the entire economy to be destroyed. You cannot allow the government to allow WalMart to sell jewelry while jewelry stores remain closed. You cannot allow the government to dictate that one may get eyeglasses repaired at Target...but that an independent eyeglass boutique must remain closed. You cannot allow the government to PAY folks more to stay at home than they can earn actually WORKING! Even though the government did not understand, or worse did not see what the unintended consequences of their actions would be, that if they paid folks more to stay at home than to come to work...opening the economy still could not happen if folks stayed home. Ah...the sheer brilliance of government officials at every level.

8. The American people are not idiots...they are not sheep...and they possess more common sense than those who govern them. Observe...think...and vote with your common sense, and NOT YOUR EMOTIONS! Vote right (pun intended)...and persevere...

**OPEN YOUR BUSINESS AND PERSEVERE! MAGA MY FRIENDS!!!**

Diamond Jim Mills

Opinions are those of the author, and not necessarily of this newspaper. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION? Send us a letter or email at [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com). We may edit these for publication. Thank you.



**Proclamation allows more services, activities to resume**

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on May 26 issued a proclamation giving the green light to more services and activities in a second phase of the state's plan to reopen from mandatory pandemic closures.

The Phase II proclamation allowed water parks to open beginning May 29 on condition that the venues limit occupancy to no more than 25% of normal capacity. However, components of water parks that have video arcades must remain closed. Also, starting May 31, recreational sports programs for adults were allowed to resume but games and similar competitions must wait until June 15 to resume. Driver education programs can resume operations immediately.

Food-court dining areas in shopping malls were allowed to resume operations immediately, but malls are encouraged to designate one or more individuals responsible for health and safety practices on premises, including: —Limiting tables to six individuals; maintaining a six-foot distance between individuals sitting at different tables; —Cleaning and disinfecting tables between uses; and —Ensuring no condiments or other items are left on tables between customer uses.

In other news, cumulative figures posted on May 31 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed that some 64,287 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 1,672 deaths resulting from the virus pandemic had been confirmed.

**Protests erupt in cities**

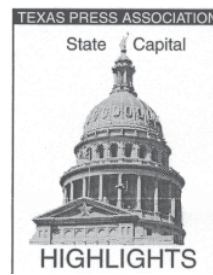
Crowds gathered in many cities across the nation in recent days to protest the May 25 death of former Houston resident George Floyd, 46, in Minneapolis.

A white Minneapolis police officer, assisted by three fellow officers, arrested and handcuffed Floyd, an African-American, then pinned him face down on a paved city street. Floyd, who was heard saying he could not breathe while he was pinned down, lost consciousness and was later pronounced dead. Video of the incident was captured by a bystander and posted on social media.

Gov. Abbott reacted on May 30, saying, "Texas and America mourn the senseless loss of George Floyd, and the actions that led to his death are reprehensible and should be condemned in the strongest terms possible. As Texans exercise their First Amendment rights, it is imperative that order is maintained and private property is protected."

Some of the protests turned violent. Abbott activated the National Guard and ordered state

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling



current pandemic and does not amount to an actual disability that qualifies a voter to receive a ballot by mail.

Plaintiffs have a separate mail-in-ballot case pending in the federal court system.

**SOS: Voting guidance**

The Office of the Texas Secretary of State in consultation with the Texas Department of State Health Services on May 26 released health protocol guidance for Texas election officials and voters in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughs, Texas' chief election officer, said the guidance, available at [sos.texas.gov](http://sos.texas.gov), reflects the minimum recommended health protocols to help ensure the health and safety of voters, election office personnel, polling place workers and poll watchers.

**Unemployment hits high**

In April, all major industries in Texas were hit with job losses related to the pandemic.

The Texas economy lost 1,298,900 non-farm positions in the month, the Texas Workforce Commission reported on May 22, causing the Lone Star State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to rise to 12.8%.

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded April's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 8.8% followed by the Abilene MSA and the College Station-Bryan MSA, which both recorded 8.9% for the second-lowest rate. The Lubbock MSA recorded the third-lowest rate of 9.9%.

**Paxton applauds court**

The Texas Supreme Court on May 27 ruled against a petition by the Texas Democratic Party in an ongoing effort to enable all Texans to vote by mail, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton applauded the ruling written by Chief Justice Nathan Hecht. Hecht concluded that a lack of immunity to COVID-19 is not itself a "physical condition" for being eligible to vote by mail under the state election law.

Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa reacted to the ruling, saying, "Now, it is up to the federal court to ensure basic Constitutional rights still exist in Texas and ensure that Texans have a right to vote safely and not put their health at-risk."

Paxton said a voter ill with COVID-19 and who meets legal requirements may apply for a ballot by mail, "but fear of contracting COVID-19 is a normal emotional reaction to the

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By Carrie Classon

**"The Only Dog in Minnesota"**

I want to make it clear that we are not adopting a dog.

I won't deny it is tempting. We decided not to get another dog because we travel. Dogs and airplane travel do not go well together. Now, however, with no travel in sight, I admit I am consumed with envy when I see happy dog owners on the trail. I have started carrying dog treats just so I can talk to the dogs of complete strangers. The owners are tolerant. The dogs love it.

My brother-in-law had our entire extended family in a lather for a full 48-hour news cycle when he circulated photos of puppies on Facebook. Everyone was convinced he was going to adopt a puppy. He didn't, as it turned out.

"He should never have put those photos on the internet!" my sister said. "Everyone thought we were getting another dog!"

This is the same brother-in-law who, at age sixty, enrolled in the seminary. Everyone was wondering how he was going to preach sermons, write two papers every week, and study Hebrew and Greek while paper-training a puppy.

But now, it seems everyone has more time, and puppies (I have been told) are in short supply. Yes, along with toilet paper, yeast, flour, hand sanitizer, and vegetable seeds, there is a national puppy shortage.

I couldn't believe there was actually a dog shortage so I checked the website of our local shelter. They had no dogs—but this didn't prove a thing. We have a well-funded shelter and I've heard rumors that dogs from towns with less well-financed animal shelters are smuggled into town. (Okay, I've heard more than rumors but I am not squealing on anyone.) A dog shortage here is not news.

So, I checked with the animal shelter in Minneapolis, where my sister and brother-in-law live. Sure enough, there was only one puppy. It was a black and tan shepherd mix. She was holding her head at an adorable angle.

"Hi, my name is Bella!" the story beside the photo read. "I came to Animal Humane Society because I need help with my behavior." Uh oh. I saw that Bella had been surrendered at the end of March.

"That was right at the start of the pandemic!" I thought. "Who surrenders a dog when they are stuck at home?"

"I'm ready to find a new home where I can continue to work on learning good manners," the story continued. I wondered exactly how bad Bella's bad manners were. I wondered if "learning good manners" was another way of saying, "not chewing up the furniture." I went to the humane society for St. Paul. I clicked, "Adoptable dogs."

To my astonishment, there was only one—it was Bella.

"I like playing with toys and enjoy other busy interactions." Busy interactions! This was obviously another euphemism for something—like, "Little Johnny is being sent to juvenile detention for his busy interactions."

I went further afield, to suburbs on the north and south sides of the Twin Cities. Bella again! The Twin Cities has a population of 3.4 million people and it appeared that Bella was—at the moment—the only dog in Minnesota available for adoption.

So, I thought I should just get the word out for anyone near or traveling to Minnesota that, in spite of the nationwide puppy shortage, there is one dog available. Her name is Bella. She's famous for her busy interactions and needs a little work on her manners.

Frankly, I'm thinking Bella couldn't have picked a better time to try to find a home.

Till next time,  
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

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★ ASK THE EXPERT ★

## The Harris County Flood Control District reminds residents to prepare as Hurricane Season approaches

The 2020 Hurricane Season begins June 1 and forecasters are predicting an above normal storm season. The Harris County Flood Control District encourages Harris County residents to take time to prepare their families and homes for severe weather and related impacts. Preparedness is the key to protecting life and property.

"The Harris County Flood Control District's Flood Watch Team will monitor rainfall trends and check the gauges that measure rainfall amounts and water levels in bayous and creeks. In addition, our construction contractors will be actively working to ensure our channels are clear and functioning, however, residents still need to be prepared," said Jeff Lindner, Harris County Flood Control District Meteorologist.

As a storm approaches, it is often too late to get ready. Now is the time to prepare. Before Hurricane Season:

- Complete a family communication plan. Plan how you will assemble your family and loved ones, and anticipate where you will go for different situa-

tions. Get together with your family and agree on the ways to contact one another in an emergency, identify meeting locations, and make a Family Emergency Communication Plan.

- Purchase flood insurance. Harris County Flood Control District recommends that all Harris County residents become informed about their flood risk and have flood insurance no matter where they reside in Harris County. Flood insurance accelerates the rebuilding and replacement of personal property and fosters community resiliency as a whole. For information on flood insurance, visit the National Flood Insurance Program website or call 1-888-379-9531.

- Sign up for FWS alerts. The Flood Warning System offers an alert feature that allows residents to subscribe to and receive email/text alerts that report near real-time rainfall and water levels. Residents are able to customize alerts and notifications for bayous and tributaries in their particular areas of interest. Sign up for the Alert Notification System at

fwsalerts.org.

- Know if your home is at risk of flooding. You can view a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM or floodplain map) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Map Service Center.

And, remember when a storm hits:

- Turn Around, Don't Drown: If heavy rainfall occurs in an area where you are traveling, or near homes and places of work, you are urged to avoid high water and flooded streets throughout the county and proceed with caution when driving on area roadways.

- Stay Home, Don't Roam: When faced with a flooding situation, stay put wherever you are, unless your life is threatened or you are ordered to evacuate. Never drive or walk into high water areas. If you must venture out, avoid driving into water of unknown depth. Moving water can quickly sweep you and your vehicle away.

- Log on to the Harris County Flood Control District Stormcenter webpage at [hcfcd.org/stormcenter](http://hcfcd.org/stormcenter) to view the District Hurricane Guide, information on flood insurance and more.

## Harris County \$30 Million COVID-19 relief fund established to support most vulnerable in County

Resources on the way to the most vulnerable through local community-based organizations

HOUSTON, TX (May 28, 2020) – Harris County has established the Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide much-needed relief to Harris County residents most impacted by the global pandemic. The \$30 million fund, which will be administered by Greater Houston Community Foundation, aims to strategically serve a large number of the most vulnerable people, in particular county residents who may not be eligible for other COVID-related funding and/or who cannot afford to wait for assistance. The Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund is expected to assist about 20,000 households to provide support with housing, electricity, food, childcare, and other essential needs.

"Harris County on its own can't unilaterally turn around the economic fallout from COVID-19, but we are committed to running the most impactful, targeted program to support the hardest-hit families in our community," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "If we want the entire community to get through this, it means helping the most vulnerable among us."

Funds will be disbursed in two ways to help ensure equitable distribution. First, the Fund will partner with trusted, high performing community-based organizations that are already actively supporting the community and have deep relationships and understanding of families with emergency needs. These organizations will work with eligible individuals and families to complete a simple application, verify eligibility, and provide financial assistance. The first round of grants to these organizations is estimated to disburse in June.

"The Coronavirus pandemic has created both a health and financial crisis in our region," Harris County Precinct One Commission-

er Rodney Ellis said. "Our communities are hurting. And it is our duty as public servants to make sure that our most vulnerable residents, who were already living paycheck to paycheck, do not lose everything in the midst of this crisis. Advancing a relief fund with enough resources – and structure to ensure those resources reach the most vulnerable in our community – was a key priority for our County."

Second, the Fund will invite all eligible low-income Harris County residents to complete an application through a multilingual call center and/or website to participate in a fair, randomized process. Given the incredible need, Harris County knows resources will be insufficient. That is why a randomized process will be used to select eligible households to receive financial assistance. Eligible individuals will be matched with a community-based organization to understand their needs, verify eligibility, and provide assistance. The public will be given a minimum of one week's notice for when this process will be opened.

"Right now, the focus of our work is to get the Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund up and running as quickly as possible. Much like previous relief efforts, such as the Harris County Small Business Loan program, our goal is to expedite the process and get money into the hands of our most vulnerable residents fast while also making sure it's done right," said Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "I have total confidence that our partners at Greater Houston Community Foundation will be successful in this endeavor. The Foundation is a recognized leader in disaster recovery efforts, and their performance managing the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund as well as the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund proves they are the right organization for the job."

The Fund is open to Harris County low-income resi-

dents, including those excluded by the CARES Act or immigrant households, adults listed as dependents, and people who may receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance but cannot afford to wait for months. Eligibility and disbursement guidelines for the Fund include:

- Those who have experienced adverse economic impact related to COVID-19; AND are:

- Households below 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI), or are accessing public benefits that already confirm they are very low-income; or
- Survivors of domestic violence, or
- Youth aged out of foster care, or
- Those in homeless shelters.

- Applicants cannot have received benefits from any City of Houston or other Harris County program administered for the same purpose.

- Prioritized consideration for:

- Applicants ineligible for unemployment insurance or have applied and will take too long to receive assistance to meet basic needs.
- Applicants ineligible for CARES Economic Impact Payments, or have not yet received a payment and cannot wait for the assistance to meet basic needs.

"Our biggest priority is to get money and assistance to those who need it the most as quickly as possible," said Stephen Maislin, President and CEO of Greater Houston Community Foundation. "We know people need help and we are committed to working closely with Houston-area community-based organizations through a data-driven process to quickly and effectively deploy these funds to as many people in need as possible. We are honored to work with Harris County to support these critical efforts."

Those in need of immediate assistance are encouraged to call 211 Texas/United Way helpline to find an organization in your geographic region that can serve you.

## Medical Shortage,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RSS students Zachary Charalampous, Lacey Fischer, Alayna Henry, Vanessa Hernandez, Kaylie Holloway, Monserrat Lopez, Harlie Rucker Logan Runnels and Iris Sanchez work at the Rollingbrook facility. Mya O'Neal from REL works at Allenbrook Healthcare Center.

Heads works part-time at Rollingbrook Healthcare Center, so she sees them in action and is proud of her students, most of whom plan to pursue a career in nursing or another healthcare field.

"They have really helped to fill the gap left by employees leaving the facility," Heads said.

"Some of my students work for the experience, but others work because their parents aren't working right now."

According to James, all 15 students she supervises are functioning as CNAs. While she tries to pair each of them with an

experienced CNA, sometimes two students work together.

"We provide extra education by having a clinical RN take them to a classroom to go over some things they need to know," James said. "They all have done an amazing job!"

Safety protocols include no visitors for the residents, so having the young workers there to talk with and help them out is key, especially during this time when so many of them are lonely.

Zachary Charalampous is enrolled at Lee College, but he plans to travel some before settling down to pursue a degree as a genetic counselor.

"I love all the residents and my co-workers," Charalampous said. "I like helping people, and I have a good bond with them. They always ask about me, and it makes me feel good. Our supervisors call us 'the first line of defense' and say they would be running

around like chickens with their heads cut off if we weren't there to help them."

Monserrat Lopez enjoys working at the Rollingbrook facility and has developed a relationship with the residents. She has enrolled at Lee College for a summer course, although she plans to attend a four-year university to major in neonatal nursing.

"I love working here. I also feel like I'm helping my family by working, since I'm able to pay some of the bills," Lopez said.

James realizes that the facility may eventually lose most of these students as they pursue their goals, but she is pleased they are able to make a difference for the residents now as well as gain some valuable experience.

"We know this is just a beginning for them. It's not their last stop, but we're glad they're here," James said.

## Tax Revenue,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in continued reductions in employment, income and activity subject to sales tax for months to come."

Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections, but the effects of the economic slowdown and low oil prices were evident in other sources of revenue in May 2020. Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$265 million, down 38 percent from May 2019 and a modest improvement over April's results;

- motor fuel taxes — \$221 million, down 30 percent from May 2019 and the steepest drop since 1989;

- natural gas production tax — \$31 million, down 76 percent from May 2019;

- oil production tax — \$90 million, the lowest monthly amount since July 2010, down 75 percent from May 2019 and the steepest drop since a 77 percent drop in March 1988;

- hotel occupancy tax — \$8 million, down 86 percent from May 2019 and the steepest drop on record in data going back to 1982; and

- alcoholic beverage taxes — \$28 million, down 76 percent from May 2019 and the steepest drop on record in data going back to 1980.

The Comptroller extended the due date for franchise tax payments this year from May 15 to July 15, meaning that comparisons to May 2019 collections are uninformative. The Comptroller's office detailed other COVID-19 impacts to the Texas economy, including the skyrocketing claims for unemployment benefits, in the most recent edition of Fiscal Notes.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

Harris County ESD No. 50 is selling a 2006 Ferrara Intruder II Pumper from the Channelview Fire Department's fleet through sealed bid process. ESD 50 will be accepting sealed bid from June 4th until 5pm CST on July 6th. The bids will be opened at a public meeting on July 6, 2020 at 6pm at the Channelview Fire Department located at 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX 77530. The bidding process is being hosted by Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus. Further details are available at <https://www.firetruckmall.com/AvailableTruck/13663/2006-Ferrara-Intruder-II-Pumper> or by calling 256-776-7786. Bids may be hand delivered or mailed to: Channelview Fire Department ATTN: Truck Bid 1210 Dell Dale Channelview, TX 77530

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Chambers County Mosquito Control Department will begin preparing for its aerial and ground insecticide applications for the control of mosquitoes. Individuals who suffer with allergies or other interested parties with questions regarding operating procedures, or the chemicals used, are to contact: Lawrence Lewis, Mosquito Control Director, 409-267-2720, 409-267-3265 (fax) or by e-mail to [llewis@chamberstx.gov](mailto:llewis@chamberstx.gov).

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**Newport MUD FIRM Map Revision Request**

The Harris County Engineering Department [in accordance with National Flood Insurance Program regulation 65.7(b)(1),] hereby gives notice of Harris County's intent to revise the flood hazard information, generally near San Jacinto River Cross-section 113810.8. Specifically, the flood hazard information will be revised along the San Jacinto River from a point approximately 2,400 feet downstream of the referenced cross-section to a point approximately 4,870 feet upstream of the referenced cross-section. Additionally, the flood hazard information will be revised along Jackson Bayou from cross-section 11826.75 to cross-section 13,644.06.

As a result of the revision, the floodway will narrow, with no change to 1-percent - annual-chance water-surface elevations or floodplain, within the area of revision.

Maps and detailed analysis of the revision can be reviewed at the Harris County Engineering Department at 10555 Northwest Freeway, Suite 120, Houston, Texas. Interested persons may call Mr. Shawn Sturhan at (713) 274-3900 for additional information.

**Amber Waves**

by Dave T. Phipps



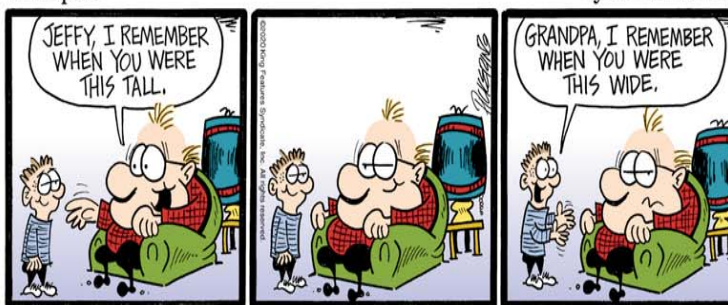
**R.F.D.**

by Mike Marland



**The Spats**

by Jeff Pickering



**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦  
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**HOCUS-FOCUS**  
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Differences: 1. Tree is added. 2. Hat is different. 3. Plant is missing. 4. Club is added. 5. Vest is different. 6. Nose is rounder.

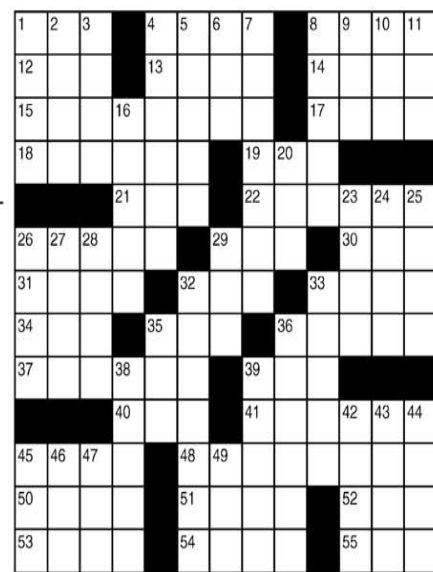
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**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Dallas cager, briefly
- 4 Frat party supply
- 8 Prejudice
- 12 Expert
- 13 Sicilian spouter
- 14 St. Louis landmark
- 15 Flogged
- 17 Tardy
- 18 Vigorous
- 19 Puncturing tool
- 21 Fa neighbor
- 22 Pulverized
- 26 Pitch
- 29 Irritate
- 30 Foreman opponent
- 31 Check
- 32 Calendar pgs.
- 33 Pageant winner's address
- 34 Scepter top-per
- 35 Fido's foot
- 36 Insertion mark
- 37 Ran
- 39 Scull tool
- 40 Mentalist
- 41 Eaves dropper?
- 45 Deserve
- 48 Played in water
- 50 United nations
- 51 Twistable treat



**DOWN**

- 8 Poolroom supply
- 9 A Gershwin brother
- 10 Performance
- 11 The girl
- 16 Insurance fraud factor
- 20 Tussaud's medium
- 23 Barber's concern
- 24 Otherwise
- 25 Mi. or km
- 26 Walked hard (on)
- 27 Juno's counterpart
- 28 Barbecue entree
- 29 Promise
- 32 Midwestern capital
- 33 Breaker of Ruth's record
- 35 Apiece
- 36 Chocolate sources
- 38 Intuitive feeling
- 39 Lubricated
- 42 African nation
- 43 Give temporarily
- 44 Fix manuscripts
- 45 Recede
- 46 Heady quaff
- 47 Deteriorate
- 49 Paid athlete

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**Answers**

1. DALLAS CAGER: BRIEFLY  
4. FRAT PARTY SUPPLY  
8. PREJUDICE  
12. EXPERT  
13. SICILIAN SPOUTER  
14. ST. LOUIS LANDMARK  
15. FLOGGED  
17. TARDY  
18. VIGOROUS  
19. PUNCTURING TOOL  
21. FA NEIGHBOR  
22. PULVERIZED  
26. PITCH  
29. IRRITATE  
30. FOREMAN OPPONENT  
31. CHECK  
32. CALENDAR PGS.  
33. PAGEANT WINNER'S ADDRESS  
34. SCEPTER TOP-PER  
35. FIDO'S FOOT  
36. INSERTION MARK  
37. RAN  
39. SCULL TOOL  
40. MENTALIST  
41. EAVES DROPPER?  
45. DESERVE  
48. PLAYED IN WATER  
50. UNITED NATIONS  
51. TWISTABLE TREAT

**Trivia test**  
by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANATOMY: What is a more common name for the medical condition called desquamation?
2. TELEVISION: Who uttered the catchphrase "you rang?" in the sitcom "The Addams Family"?
3. GAMES: How many dominoes are in a standard set?
4. GEOGRAPHY: In which city is the Basilica de la Sagrada Familia located?
5. MOVIES: Actress Meryl Streep won her first Academy Award for which movie?
6. LITERATURE: What kind of creature was Bagheera in "The Jungle Book"?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the primary ingredient of bouillabaisse, a type of stew?
8. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition called coulrophobia?
9. MUSIC: What is the name of blues guitarist B.B. King's Gibson guitar?
10. U.S. STATES: In which state is Elvis Presley's estate (Graceland) located?

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1. Peeling skin; 2. Lunch, the butter; 3. 28; 4. Barcelona, Spain; 5. "Kramer vs. Kramer"; 6. Panther; 7. Seafood; 8. A Fear of clowns; 9. Lucille; 10. Tennessee (Memphis)

**Trivia Test Answers**

**King Crossword**

Solution time: 27 mins.

# KMCO Sold to Altivia,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cant additives, fuel additives, and a variety of ethoxylation and propoxylation based intermediates. Its products service the coatings, automotive, fuels and lubricants, and surfactant industries.

An explosion April 2, 2019 killed one worker and injured dozens of others, two critically. That following a series of renovations to make the plant more safe and neighbor friendly including putting generators atop telephone poles and other seemingly eccentric safety measures. None of those measures stayed the hand of Harris County and individuals that filed suit. A previous fire related mishap killed an OSHA worker.

KMCO ownership since 2012, Owner Research Group Chemical Holdings, then stated through

managing partner, John Foley, that the explosion was of a nature that it could have happened anywhere.

KMCO LP was the largest customer of Crosby Munciple Utility District and the loss of revenue from the cut backs in May of 2019 stagnated local water development allocations.

KMCO LP was founded by Artie McFaren in 1979.

Headquartered in Houston, Texas, privately held ALTIVIA was founded in 1986 and today operates four separate businesses.

ALTIVIA Petrochemicals, with facilities in Haverhill, Ohio is the third largest merchant producer of Phenol, Acetone and Alpha Methylstyrene in the Americas; ALTIVIA Specialty

Chemicals, the largest producers of Phosgene derivative intermediates in the Americas, including chloroformates and acid chlorides, serving pharmaceutical, organic peroxide and agricultural markets from its operations in LaPorte, Texas; ALTIVIA Ketones & Additives, a producer of ketones and carbinols at its facilities in Institute, West Virginia. This business was acquired from The Dow Chemical Company in 2019 and it services the coatings, industrial and automotive lubricants and adhesives industries.

ALTIVIA Chemicals, a producer of iron-based salts serving municipal and industrial customers with a broad range of chemical solutions, including products formulated for specific water treatment applications.

# Statement from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on George Floyd and Protests in Harris County



Harris County, Texas - May 31, 2020, County Judge Lina Hidalgo today issued the following statement in response to the death of George Floyd and ongoing protests occurring in Harris County:

"I join the millions of fellow Americans and people across the world in condemning the brutal, senseless murder of George Floyd. The sight of yet another black American having their life stolen by a law enforcement officer whose mission was to protect and serve their community is heartbreaking, and stands as just the latest painful reminder of the deep, systemic flaws that continue to break the bonds of trust between many of our residents and our criminal justice system.

For generations, black and brown people in America have suffered grave injustices at the hands of institutional power in this county. That is one of the reasons I ran for office and why so many patriotic residents across our county and cities across our nation are choosing to exercise their first amendment right to speak out and demand meaningful change. I wholeheartedly support

their rights to do so and join Mayor Turner and others in urging those who speak out to do so peacefully, safely, and with the ultimate goal of driving meaningful change, not more violence. It is also true that today, the threat of COVID-19 continues to linger in our community, and close contact with others can be potentially deadly and lead to an outbreak. That is why I urge those who join in demanding change to wear a face covering, practice social distancing, and mitigate potential exposure as much as possible or by participating virtually.

Each and every member of our community, regardless of their race, background, or economic status deserves to be treated with dignity and respect during encounters with police. When we lost George Floyd, we lost a fellow Houstonian and someone whose legacy will forever remind us of the work that remains to build a more just equal society for the most vulnerable among us. As we move forward, I want George Floyd's friends and family here in Harris County to know that his life - and the life of so many others we've

lost to injustice - will drive us to work ever more zealously to create a more equitable, fairer Harris County. As County Judge, I will continue to do everything in my power to drive forward meaningful criminal justice reform, hold all our institutions - including law enforcement - accountable and work to dismantle the root sources of racism and inequity in our community. The work is long and hard, but we will continue to drive forward alongside the community and with more resolve than ever.

Over the past several days, I and our Office of Emergency Management have remained in close touch with Mayor Turner and the City of Houston regarding the protests. We stand ready to provide any additional tools or resources they may require to keep our communities safe and look forward to working together to honor the life of George Floyd by promoting meaningful action, peace, and justice for all."

# Highlands Horizons Scholarships,

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Recipients of the scholarship awards included:

1. Haley Maxey - GCM - Debbie Dickinson Memorial Scholarship
2. Angelique Vazquez - GCM - Jennie Robbins Memorial Scholarship
3. Catherine Montoya - Goose Creek Memorial
4. Anna Keyes - Goose Creek Memorial
5. Kayla Jimenez - Goose Creek Memorial
6. Holden Hill - Goose Creek Memorial
7. Tania Gonzalez - Goose Creek Memorial
8. Chakeria Francis - Goose Creek Memorial
9. Oswald Aguirre -

10. Maycie Gonzalez - Goose Creek Memorial
11. Vanessa Mendoza - Goose Creek Memorial
12. Harlie Rucker - Ross S. Sterling
13. Ashley Ramos - Peter Hyland Center
14. Anthony Ramirez - Impact Early College High
15. Kellye Martinez - Impact Early College High
16. Brian Villalpando - Impact Early College High
17. Grace Garcia - Im-

18. Maycie Gonzalez - Goose Creek Memorial
19. Vanessa Mendoza - Goose Creek Memorial
20. Harlie Rucker - Ross S. Sterling
21. Ashley Ramos - Peter Hyland Center
22. Anthony Ramirez - Impact Early College High
23. Kellye Martinez - Impact Early College High
24. Brian Villalpando - Impact Early College High
25. Grace Garcia - Im-

# Other People's Rides,

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Christopher Preeman was arrested once again for felony Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Preeman was apprehended in the Huffman area at a home that was more accessible by water than road due to recent rains. This is Preeman's third arrest for UUMV but his appreciation of a good vehicle is unquestioned.

"This is the first time I've been arrested on water," said Preeman. "By land or lake, patrol car or boat, we'll get our guy," said Assistant Chief Deputy Ricky Larkin. In April, a tractor was stolen from Crosby and recovered in Huffman. That investigation led to a separate investigation spanning several weeks and

resulting in the recovery of a Ford F250, a low boy trailer loaded with 3 motorcycles stolen out of LaPorte, a GMC Yukon stolen out of Kingwood and a travel trailer. All were recovered from the same property in Huffman. Charges were filed. The investigation is still ongoing with more charges are pending.



**Crosby Community invited to Livestock Show and Auction Begins June 7 through release June 13 Auction Friday, June 12 4:00 p.m. Buyer's Dinner Buyer's Registration 5:30 Awards 6:00 CF&R Livestock Auction Held inside the Rock'n C Arena Parking Inside the Crosby Rodeo Fairgrounds Show**

**Sunday, June 7: Registration Closes at 6:00 p.m. Tack Move In breeding rabbit registration online only at <https://crosby.fairmanager.com/>**

**Monday, June 8: Grounds Open at 7:00a.m. 5:00 p.m. judging rabbits 7:00 p.m. Market Broilers then Turkeys. Registration of Open Market Swine only at <https://crosby.fairmanager.com/> Must show off trailer. No pens available for open show.**

**Tuesday, June 9: Ag Mechanics to be judged. Registration of Market Lambs & Goats only at <https://crosby.fairmanager.com/>, closes 6:00 p.m. No pens available for open show must show off trailer.**

**Wednesday, June 10: 8-10 a.m. Food/Sewing-Craft/Photography/Open Art to be checked in by 6:00 p.m. Begin judging lambs, followed by lamb showmanship following lambs is goats.**

**June 11: Registration for Open Breeding Cattle & Open Steer is on line only at <https://crosby.fairmanager.com/> and closes 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 11 5:30 Cattle & Steers must be in place. Judging begins at 6:00p.m. Cattle Showmanship begins following Judging Market Steers then begin judging breeding cattle.**

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Barbours Hill Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 pm, June 22, 2020 in CT Joseph Room, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.8847/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.2698/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	19.88 % increase
Debt Service	38.12 % increase
Total expenditures	24.25 % increase

### Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$12,686,344,494	\$14,545,495,660
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$675,929,743	\$1,504,118,050
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$5,594,898,193	\$7,195,169,473
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$656,196,003	\$1,503,051,330

\*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.  
 \*\* "New property" is defined by Section 26.01(2)(7), Tax Code.  
 \*\*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

### Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$268,730,000

\*Outstanding principal.

### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.99000	\$0.26980*	\$1.25980	\$12,232	\$124
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.85519	\$0.18772*	\$1.04291	\$12,447	\$370
Proposed Rate	\$0.88470	\$0.26980*	\$1.15450	\$13,517	\$383

\*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

### Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$214,570	\$249,772
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$144,136	\$164,341
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.25980	\$1.15450
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,815.83	\$1,897.32
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$81.49

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.2371. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.2371.

### Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$49,900,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$12,300,000

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.