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SATURDAY



These stories
in the **PRESS:**

- Chambers County Order to wear masks
- Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital visitors policy
-And more, Page 3

Brown Bag Lunches Suspended

Harris County Precinct 2 has suspended its brown bag lunches until further notice. At this time, the Be a Champion food events have not been suspended but the Precinct advises to check social media pages for live updates.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON
832-393-4220

HARRIS COUNTY

713-634-1110
ASK A NURSE

MOBILE TESTS
713-439-6000

PRE-SCREENING

HARRIS COUNTY
832-927-7575
readyharris.org

METHODIST HOSPITAL BAYTOWN
Download mymethodist.app.

MD MEDICAL
1-888-776-5252

BIRTHDAYS

- Jun 25-Pam White
- Larry Marlin
- Andrew Waldrip
- Jun 26-C.L. Morgan
- Jim White
- Jun 27-Josh Lisenbe
- George Welshimer
- George Thurmond
- Jun 28-Jeanne Webb
- Ethan Hill
- Jun 29-Sarah Muldrow
- Peggy Smith
- Jun 30-Hannah Barron
- Alan Boudreaux
- Lisa Boudreaux
- Rosetta Farrar
- Jul 1-Susan Butler
- Deanna Hildebrand
- Otis McGaffet
- Lewis Spearman
- Jul 2-Mark Whittaker

ANNIVERSARIES

- Jun 29-John & Jean Lee
- K.D. & Linda Strickland
- Don & Anna Mattingly

COVID-19 SPREAD CONTINUES

Harris County raises threat level to 'Severe', advises masks, stay home

Judge Hidalgo Urges Residents to Stay Home, Leave Only for Vital Needs

Harris County, Texas - June 26, 2020, Today at noon, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo updated the county's COVID-19 public threat level from significant (orange, level two) to severe (red, level one). Level one indicates a "severe and uncontrolled" level of COVID-19, meaning outbreaks are worsening, contact tracing capacity is strained or exceeded, and healthcare surge is likely. The elevation to threat level 1 - the high-



est in the system - comes as a variety of data demonstrate alarming trends that are on track to overwhelm the local healthcare system. "The harsh truth is that our current infection rate is on pace to overwhelm our hospitals in the very near future," Judge Hidalgo said. "We hope this serves as a wakeup call to everyone that the time to act is now. I'm calling on all residents and businesses to take immediate action to help our medical community get this virus back in check before it spirals beyond control and more lives are needlessly sacrificed. Stay and work

from home except for essential business. Wear a face covering if you absolutely have to be out. We've flattened the curve before, and we can do it again, but we need to buckle down and do this together." Under a level one threat, the public is urged to:

Stay home, except for the most essential needs like going to the grocery store for food and medicine

Avoid and cancel all gatherings of any size.

See *Severe Level*, Page 8

Highlands Rotary installs new officers

The Rotary Club of Highlands installed their new officers for the 2020-2021 Rotary year on June 19. Judge Mike Parrott was the installing officer for the evening's banquet, hosted by Robert & Ann Woodall. Larry White led the group in prayer, then Denise Smith led the pledge of allegiance. The event was catered by Catfish on Wheels.

Scott Rainey, District Governor-Elect gave a welcome from the district and commended the Rotary Club of Highlands on their hard work for the year. Numerous recognitions and awards were presented to various members for their contributions through the year, as well as perfect attendance awards. Officers for the 2020-2021 year, which begins July 1, are: Andy Scott,



Judge Mike Parrott swears-in Andy Scott as the President of Highlands Rotary for 2020-2021.

President; Jerry Fallin, President-Elect; Teresa Martin, Secretary; and Sheila McDonald, Treasurer. Additional officers are: Johnny Gaeke, Sergeant at Arms; Betty Brewer, Membership Chair; Tricia Scott, Foundation Chair; Denise Smith, Public Image Chair; Diana Weaver, Community Service Chair; Weston Cotton, International Service; Larry White, Scholar-

See *ROTARY Install*, Page 8

Early voting in Run-off underway

HARRIS COUNTY - Voters are being asked to return to the polls on July 14, or earlier if voting in an Early Voting location or by mail.

Run-offs are scheduled on the Democratic ticket for US Senator, between Mary MJ Hegar and Royce West, and US Representative in District 10, Mike Siegel vs. Pritesh Gandhi.

For Railroad Commissioner, Roberto Alonzo is opposed by Christa Castaneda; for State Board of Education, Michelle Palmer vs. Kimberly McLeod.

Of major interest in this area are Democratic

State Representatives, County Commissioners, and Constables.

In District 138, Akilah Bacy is opposed by Jenifer Rene Pool. In District 142, Harold Dutton Jr. is running against Jerry Davis. In District 148 Anna Eastman vs. Penny Morales Shaw.

For County Commissioner, Precinct 3, Michael Moore is running against Diana Martinez Alexander.

In the Constable races, Precinct 2 has Chris Diaz vs. Jerry Garcia; Precinct 3 Sherman Eagleton vs.

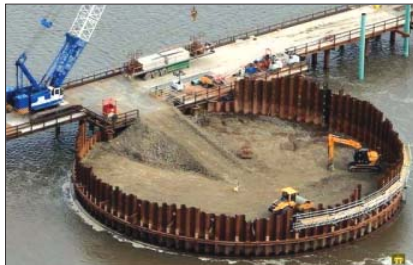
See *Early Voting*, Page 6

Update on San Jacinto River Waste Pits
EPA says deeper toxic waste means more time & money

By Jennah Durant
EPA Press Office

Here is more information on recent SJR waste pits questions:

1. Have you received the 30% Design package for the South impoundment?
Yes. The 30% design package for the south impoundment was submitted to EPA on April 13, 2020.
2. Have you received the 30% Design package for the North impoundment?
Yes. The 30% design package for the north impoundment was submitted to EPA on May 28, 2020.



This illustration of a typical cofferdam and dewatering process, furnished by the EPA, may be the type called for in the Design Package.

3. Will these documents be available to the public? When?

The documents are currently under review by the regulatory agencies. Following EPA's review of the document and determination that the design is appropriate based on the remedy selected in the Record of Decision, EPA will make the document available to the public.

4. Regardless of whether the reports are public, could you furnish me with an executive summary or your own summation of what they say?

See *EPA update*, Page 8

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★ **COMMUNITY NEWS** ★

Harris County Fire Marshal encourages fireworks safety

Harris County, Texas -- Fireworks are synonymous with the Fourth of July. They are beautiful, but can also be very dangerous if not used properly. The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office not only encourages residents to attend professional fireworks displays and practice fireworks safety but to also practice social distancing and wear masks.

"Professional fireworks displays are a great way for residents to safely enjoy fireworks, but with the spread of COVID-19 we are also encouraging everyone to practice social distancing and to wear masks," said Harris County Fire Marshal Laurie L. Christensen. "If you choose to use consumer fireworks, please read the cautionary labels and dispose of your fireworks properly."

The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office encourages residents to follow these recommended safety tips: Follow the law. Make

sure fireworks are legal in your community.

Read and follow the directions and warning labels on fireworks packaging.

Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.

Light only one firework at a time.

Do not point fireworks at homes, buildings, or people.

Never consume alcohol or drugs while shooting fireworks.

Make sure there is a bucket of water or water source nearby for emergencies and to soak used fireworks prior to disposing of them in the trash.

Be considerate of neighbors when it comes to noise and the trash left behind.

Pets and fireworks don't mix. The loud noises can cause pets to become anxious or afraid.

Consider celebrating the Fourth of July with fireworks alternatives. For example, glow sticks are a

great alternative to sparklers. Sparklers may seem safe, but sparklers burn more than six times hotter than boiling water.

"Using consumer fireworks safely, attending a professional display, or finding alternative ways to celebrate, will reduce the number of incidents that require a response from first responders," said Fire Marshal Christensen. "Stay safe this Fourth of July holiday and help keep our first responders safe as well."

Fireworks sales run from June 24 through July 4. Complaints regarding the sale or illegal use of fireworks in the unincorporated areas of Harris County can be made by calling (281) 999-2200 or emailing fmosupport@fmo.hctx.net.

For additional information on fireworks contact the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office at (713) 274-1700, or visit www.hcfmo.net.

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS TO STOP COVID-19 SPREAD

Containing spread of COVID-19

Limits certain businesses and services with link to infections

AUSTIN – June 26, 2020 – Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order limiting certain businesses and services as part of the state's effort to contain the spread of COVID-19. This decision comes as the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 and the number of hospitalizations have increased and the positivity rate in Texas increased above 10%, which the Governor previously stated would lead to further preventative action. The targeted, measured directives in the executive order are based on links between certain types of businesses and services and the recent rise in positive cases throughout the state.

The order includes the following:

All bars and similar establishments that receive

more than 51% of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages are required to close at 12:00 PM today. These businesses may remain open for delivery and take-out, including for alcoholic beverages, as authorized by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Restaurants may remain open for dine-in service, but at a capacity not to exceed 50% of total listed indoor occupancy, beginning Monday, June 29, 2020.

Rafting and tubing businesses must close.

Outdoor gatherings of 100 or more people must be approved by local governments, with certain exceptions.

"As I said from the start, if the positivity rate rose above 10%, the State of Texas would take further action to mitigate the

spread of COVID-19," said Governor Abbott. "At this time, it is clear that the rise in cases is largely driven by certain types of activities, including Texans congregating in bars. The actions in this executive order are essential to our mission to swiftly contain this virus and protect public health. We want this to be as limited in duration as possible. However, we can only slow the spread if everyone in Texas does their part. Every Texan has a responsibility to themselves and their loved ones to wear a mask, wash their hands, stay six feet apart from others in public, and stay home if they can. I know that our collective action can lead to a reduction in the spread of COVID-19 because we have done it before, and we will do it again."

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

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Additional reopening phases temporary paused

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott today announced that the State of Texas will pause any further phases to open Texas as the state responds to the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Businesses that are permitted to open under the previous phases can continue to operate at the designated occupancy levels and under the minimum standard health protocols provided by the

Texas Department of State Health Services.

"As we experience an increase in both positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, we are focused on strategies that slow the spread of this virus while also allowing Texans to continue earning a paycheck to support their families," said Governor Abbott. "The last thing we want to do as a state is go backwards and close down businesses. This tempo-

rary pause will help our state corral the spread until we can safely enter the next phase of opening our state for business. I ask all Texans to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, washing their hands regularly, and socially distancing from others. The more that we all follow these guidelines, the safer our state will be and the more we can open up Texas for business."

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

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Dayton

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VOL. 25, NO. 27/28- 40¢

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THURSDAY, JULY 2 & JULY 9, 2020

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ROUND-UP

Letter to Chambers County Residents

Friends,
I have received a lot of comments, criticism and overwhelmingly positive responses regarding my decision to implement Executive Order JS-7 mandating that all Chambers County businesses require the wearing of masks by both employees and clients. I want you to know that our team reads every single comment, message and email and, though we are not able to respond to each one, I do consider your opinions and wellbeing when making decisions.

I want to clarify that this decision was made based on facts and sound guidance from Public Health Professionals, including Local Health Authority W. Clay Brown, MD, and other regional resources.

The number of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 has risen exponentially over the past few weeks. From March 16 – the date our first case was diagnosed – to May 31, Chambers County reported 68 cases. In the past 25 days, we have nearly doubled that number with 123 new confirmed positive cases, for a total of 191 cases. In fact, there has been a 123 percent increase in the number of active cases over the last 10 days alone. We have also, sadly, reported our first two COVID-19 related deaths. An announcement that I hoped we would never have to make.

Regional hospital Intensive Care Units are nearing capacity. As of June 24, the Texas Medical Center reported that ICU's were 97 percent full and that, based on normal capacity counts, there were only 32 beds available.

I understand that not all ICU patients are hospitalized because of COVID-19. Instead, the concern is that should a Chambers County resident become ill – either with COVID-19 related illness or any other illness – climbing COVID-19 numbers means that hospital bed space may not be available for those who need care, especially critical care bed availability.

We must also all remember that there are 7,169,252 people living in the Houston region, all vying for care at the same hospitals. Many other counties are experiencing the same surge in COVID-19 cases that we are, which means that the available bed space will dwindle rapidly if we do not act.

Additionally, while Governor Greg Abbott did mandate that individuals cannot be fined for not wearing masks (something we would never want to do, regardless), he did state in an interview with KWTX-Waco that "local governments can require stores and businesses to require masks." He continued, "they have always had the opportunity and ability. Just like they can require people to wear shoes and shirts, these businesses can require people to wear face masks."

So, why all of the confusion caused by the CDC changing their position over wearing a mask? This virus is novel – or "new" – and little was known about transmission. Initial guidance and policies were based on emerging data and, as time passed and more evidence became available, the CDC changed their guidance and recommendation to better align with scientific studies.

Finally, increased case counts across Texas has led other states – including New York – to place restrictions on travelers returning from those states. So the tables have turned. Whereas Texas once placed restrictions on New Yorkers, they have now restricted our travel to their state.

Ultimately, I was elected to serve Chambers County residents. The crux of that mantle is that I sometimes have to make decisions that are hard and unpopular, but that protect the greater good of all. I assure you that this decision was made with much research, conference with medical professionals and thought. It was not taken lightly and most certainly not influenced by political motives.

Moving forward, I encourage all Chambers County residents to do their research regarding current COVID-19 facts and trends. Please remember that you do more harm than good when sharing false or inflammatory messages or from sources that are not rooted in hard, scientific data. Use discernment.

Thank you all for your support and cooperation. As always, stay safe.

Jimmy Sylvia
Chambers County Judge

Judge Sylvia issues order requiring wearing of masks

Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia issued Executive Order JS-7 mandating that all businesses require the wearing of face masks beginning Thursday, June 25, 2020.

"The number of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 is rising rapidly and we just reported our first deaths," said Judge Sylvia. "We all have to take action to contain the spread of this disease."

According to Judge Sylvia's Order, all commercial entities providing goods or services directly to the public must require that all employees or visitors wear face coverings within areas where they will be in close contact or proximity to others.

"I understand that this may be an unpopular decision," said the Judge. "We are doing everything we can to keep businesses open, though, and this is a step that we have to take to do that."

All Chambers County residents over the age of 10-years-old are required to wear a face covering over their mouth and nose when in a business or when working in close proximity to others, except:

- When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside;
- While driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;



- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk;
- While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment;
- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening (i.e. banks); or
- When consuming food or drink.

Acceptable face coverings include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas or a handkerchief. It is strongly recommended that people do not obtain or wear medical masks or N-95 respirators, as they are a needed resource for healthcare providers and first responders.

"Please remember: face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing, frequent hand washing and self-isolation when sick," continued Judge Sylvia.

Residents should maintain the following habits while in public:

- Washing hands before you leave home and when you return;
- Staying at least six feet

away from others;

- Avoiding touching nose or face;
- Not using disposable masks more than three times; and
- Washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

Chambers County Judge's Executive Order FAQ

1. When does this Executive Order go into effect? a. The Judge's Executive Order becomes active at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020 and remains active until 11:59 p.m. on June 30 unless extended, modified or terminated early by Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia.
2. What entities have to require masks? a. All commercial entities in Chambers County providing goods or services directly to the public must require that all employees and visitors to the business' premises or other facilities wear face coverings.
3. Where, exactly, must businesses require face masks to be worn? a. Face covers must be worn on the premises of all businesses in areas which will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to coworkers

See Order to wear masks, Page 6

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital implements revised visitation policy

BAYTOWN — (June 26, 2020) — Due to the current rise in positive COVID-19 test results and hospitalizations throughout the Greater Houston Area, effective Friday, June 26, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital implements a revised inpatient visitation policy that no longer permits visitors for admitted hospitalized patients.

The policy is implemented in order to ensure the safety of patients and caregivers. In effect at all Houston Methodist facilities, the policy allows for compassionate exceptions to be made for visitors over the age of 18 in certain situations, including:

- Hospitalized maternity, postpartum and NICU patients: One healthy partner/parent
- Disabled or impaired patients: One healthy visitor to escort and provide wheelchair assistance
- Critical patients (until stabilized): One healthy visitor
- End-of-life patients: Two healthy visitors at a time, for one brief visit
- Discharged patients: One healthy visitor for education at discharge
- Family conference, temporary need for family support (i.e.: following diagnosis): As requested by physician

SURGICAL, PROCEDURAL AND DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURE PATIENTS

Patients are allowed one visitor 18 years or older who may stay until visiting hours end at 8 p.m. (on the day of surgery). This is a single visitor, not a rota-

tion of visitors. This single visitor is not permitted to stay overnight or return the next day.

DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS

Patients are limited to one visitor 18 years or older. However, they are encouraged to come to the appointment alone. Visitors will be subject to the clinic's screening and protection criteria.

There are no visitors allowed in the emergency room. Only an ER doctor may permit an exception to this policy. Patients who have tested positive or are under evaluation for COVID-19 will not be permitted visitors.

Patients are encouraged to utilize electronic communication, such as smartphone or video chat in place of in-person visitation whenever possible. Patients or family members should reach out to a patient relations representative or their caregiver to inquire about receiving an exception to the policy.

As the number of local COVID-19 cases increases, Baytown area residents are urged to wear masks while in public spaces, practice social distancing and wash their hands thoroughly and frequently to help prevent virus spread.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is committed to providing its full range of medical services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rest assured that the safety, health and wellbeing of all of our patients is our top priority. We have implemented the following

safety precautions:

- Screening all patients and essential visitors when entering our facilities
- Requiring all patients, visitors and employees to wear a mask
- Implementing social distancing in our waiting rooms
- Minimizing waiting in public spaces
- Elevating our cleaning and housekeeping practices
- Offering remote check-in

VIRTUAL URGENT CARE

Virtual urgent care, available through the MyMethodist app, provides easy access to services, allowing patients the opportunity to see a provider via video. With virtual urgent care, a patient can get help for minor illnesses from the comfort of their own home. In addition to virtual urgent care, the MyMethodist app also provides access to virtual behavioral health and virtual nutrition counseling.

The physicians, nurses and staff of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital put the safety of our patients and caregivers at the center of everything we do. We thank the residents of Baytown and surrounding communities for their understanding and cooperation.

For the latest announcements, visitation policies and hospital entrance information, visit houstonmethodist.org/coronavirus/update-for-patients.

City of Dayton seeks residents for citizen boards

Participate in local government and give back to the community by serving on one of the City of Dayton's citizen advisory boards. The City is currently seeking passionate, community-minded individuals to be a part of three boards that help guide development, future needs, regulations, and library services for Dayton.

Applications are being accepted for the following boards:

- Zoning & Planning Committee
- Library Board
- Zoning Board of Adjustments

Applicants must live within the city limits or the city's ETJ or extraterritorial jurisdiction.

An application and information about these and other boards are available online at daytontx.org/boards.

Productive citizen committees can provide insights and energy essential for creating better communities. They help make important decisions, bring expertise and resources needed to address problems and provide a valuable link to public and private groups and the community.

For more information, contact the City of Dayton Planning Office at 936-258-2642 ext. 1123 or by email at planning@daytontx.org.

Nurses recognized as DAISY Award Winners

BAYTOWN — (June 30, 2019) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital recognized three nurses as winners of the June 2020 DAISY Awards.

Julie Alvarado (2 East) and Kaitlynn Hall (2 North) and Yuri Velasquez (3 West) were recognized as the DAISY Award winners in June. The DAISY Award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the "super-human" tasks nurses perform every day. Community Resource Credit Union serves as the sponsor of the DAISY Award program at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

Alvarado was recognized for having an "awesome bedside manner" and for her outstanding listening skills by a patient, who also applauded her "positive, uplifting and compassionate" personality. Hall received praise for her welcoming and accommodating attitude and for helping a patient dealing with a difficult recovery to "build my confidence and self-esteem." She was also recognized for helping the patient stay calm and relaxed. Velasquez's nominating letter noted her "caring and loving" manner and the compassion she provided for the family of a loved one coping with a serious illness. The letter states, "She made our day feel like we had a ray of sunshine in our room."



Julie Alvarado



Kaitlynn Hall



Yuri Velasquez

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, Calif., and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died in 1999 at the age of 33 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. The care Barnes and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families. Each month, a nurse is selected by a nursing committee to receive the DAISY Award.

At a presentation in front of the nurse's colleagues, physicians, patients, and visitors, the honorees receive a certificate commending them for being an "Extraordinary

Nurse." The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." The honorees are also given a beautiful sculpture called A Healer's Touch; hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe of Zimbabwe, Africa.

One day while Barnes was in the hospital, he asked his family to bring him a Cinnabon cinnamon roll plus enough for all the nurses in his unit. With the help of Cinnabon's parent

See Daisy Awards, Page 6



Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – About Special Extra Earnings for Military Service

Dear Rusty: How do I find out if I get any extra earnings for my military service of 28 years (Navy, 1982-2011), when I begin collecting my full Social Security retirement benefit next year (in July 2021)? Signed: Retired Veteran

Dear Retired Veteran: First, as a fellow veteran, I want to thank you for your 28 years of military service, but I need to clarify what those "special extra earnings" are. That's not an additional amount which will be added to your monthly Social Security benefit as a bonus for serving. Rather it is an additional dollar amount which has already been added to your earnings record for the years you served in the military.

Those receiving active duty military pay have contributed to Social Security since 1957, and that record of your military pay is already on file with Social Security. But a long time ago Congress decided to bump up the recorded earnings of those with earlier military service to make it easier for them to qualify for Social Security, and to possibly provide a slightly higher benefit when the earnings from those years in the military are included in the computation of SS benefits.

To compute your benefit, Social Security uses the 35 highest earning years from your lifetime earnings record (adjusted for inflation). So, if your earnings during the years you were in the military are among the 35 years used to calculate your SS benefit, those military earnings were supplemented with an additional amount to make them up to \$1200 per year higher than you were actually paid. And that higher earnings amount possibly means a higher Social Security benefit because it could make your lifetime Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (AIME) higher (a higher AIME translates to a higher benefit amount).

In your case, an extra \$100 for every \$300 in your actual military pay should have been added

to your earnings record for each year you served between 1982 and 2001 (maximum of \$1200 for each year).

For service years after 2001, no additional "special credits" are awarded. To verify this, you may wish to obtain a copy of your lifetime Earnings Statement from Social Security and verify that your recorded earnings for 1982 – 2001 are \$1200 more than you were actually paid while serving. And if not, you should supply a copy of your DD-214 when applying for your Social Security benefits. You can obtain a copy of your lifetime Earnings Statement online if you have a personal "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount; otherwise you'll need to request a copy directly from Social Security.

For general information applicable to those who served prior to 1978, computation of their "special extra earnings" were computed a little differently. For those veterans, the maximum annual "special extra earnings" supplement was still \$1,200, but the method for computing their extra earnings was to give an extra \$300 for each calendar quarter of active duty military service. But in any case, the special extra earnings are an addition to your military pay record on file with Social Security, not an additional dollar amount added to your Social Security benefit.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org) / programs / social-security-advisory or email us at sadviser@amacfoundation.org



Governor's order restricts alcohol-serving establishments

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott ordered the state to slow down the reopening process for bars and other venues as coronavirus-related infections, hospitalizations and deaths continued to increase in Texas last week.

"As I said from the start, if the positivity rate rose above 10%, the State of Texas would take further action to mitigate the spread of COVID-19," Abbott said. "At this time, it is clear that the rise in cases is largely driven by certain types of activities, including Texans congregating in bars."

Abbott ordered bars and other state-licensed establishments that receive more than 51% of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages to close at noon on June 26, but allowed them to continue offering delivery and take-out services until further notice.

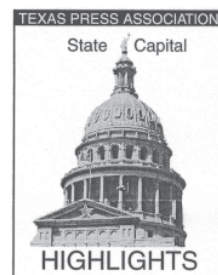
The governor allowed restaurants, beginning June 29, to remain open for dine-in service, but at a capacity not to exceed 50% of total listed indoor occupancy.

Also notably, the governor ordered rafting and tubing businesses to close and that outdoor gatherings of 100 or more people obtain the approval of local governments before the event.

While stopping short of issuing a statewide order for Texans to wear nose-and-mouth-covering masks in public, Abbott did say every Texan "has a responsibility to themselves and their loved ones to wear a mask, wash their hands, stay six feet apart from others in public and stay home if they can."

Meanwhile, after news that the Trump administration planned to cut funding for COVID-19 testing stations in Texas and other states, Abbott announced that the federal government had granted his request to extend operations of community-based testing sites across

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



Conversely, from June 1-6 the Texas Democratic Party held its convention in fully online mode to minimize health risks related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Study: Impact of military

A study conducted by the comptroller's office estimates that military installations in Texas contributed at least \$123 billion to the state economy in 2019 and supported more than 630,000 direct and indirect jobs.

In a June 22 joint news release with the governor's office, Comptroller Glenn Hegar said the military's impact on the state economy "can be felt by every Texan."

Gov. Abbott said, "Now more than ever, these jobs add critical stability for communities focused on economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic."

Military installations listed in the news release include:

Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene; U.S. Army Futures Command, Austin; Corpus Christi Army Depot; Corpus Christi Naval Air Station; Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio; Fort Bliss, El Paso; Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base; and Ellington Field, Houston.

Also, Fort Hood, Killeen; Naval Air Station Kingsville; Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo; Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston-Lackland Air Force Base-Randolph Air Force Base; Red River Army Depot, Texarkana; and Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls.

Paxton cheers SCOTUS

A request by the Texas Democratic party and other plaintiffs to have a San Antonio U.S. district court ruling reinstated that would allow all registered voters to vote by mail instead of in person was denied June 26 by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito.

The action leaves in place an order issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, blocking the lower court ruling. "Universal mail-in ballots, which are notoriously vulnerable to fraud, would only lead to greater election fraud and disenfranchise lawful voters," Paxton said.

Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa said, however: "The case proceeds on in other filings before the U.S. Supreme Court and the Fifth Circuit, and therefore hope remains that the federal courts will restore equal voting rights in time for the November elections."

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"The World of Birds"

The raven nest was the big news this spring.

Our neighbor, Joe, who belongs to every social organization in town, found himself with very little to do. So, every afternoon, Joe parked himself in his Adirondack chair and watched the ravens—frequently with a cocktail.

This pair of ravens got a late start, I thought. There was another pair I passed on my walk every day. They did some quick renovations on an existing nest and got right down to business. But this pair in our backyard seemed (like so many young couples) to realize a little late that they were going to need a home for their babies.

"Oh my gosh! We better get building a nest!" they frantically began collecting sticks to build the giant structure about sixty feet in the air, in the crown of the neighboring pine tree. Then, one day not too long later, we could hear the unmistakable sound of baby ravens demanding food.

From then on, it was a nonstop show, with parents madly flying back and forth trying to keep their demanding brood fed. That is when Joe began his permanent residency in the blue Adirondack chair. Both my husband, Peter, and Joe are retired and the raven nest is between our houses. Comparing raven notes became the new thing that replaced all the other things Joe and Peter used to do.

It was last Saturday night that everything went wrong.

Peter woke up around midnight to the sound of ravens screaming.

"What's going on out there?" Peter asked. After a terrific lot of noise, the commotion died down. But then, just before sunrise, it started up again and this time it even woke me. It sounded like there was a war happening in the backyard.

The next morning, the nest was vacant.

"What happened?" Peter wondered. Nothing good for the ravens, that was for sure.

There were no more baby ravens screaming for food, no more parents flying back and forth, no more pairs of ravens flying at sunset. The sky was empty—except for hummingbirds, but they don't really count.

Peter wrote to a friend who used to be an animal control officer in town. He said it could have been a hawk or an eagle or an owl. He said ravens were ferocious fighters and they might have moved the chicks to another location.

But I talked to our neighbor down the street who knows all about the world of birds. "Great horned owl," he said and he sounded like he knew what he was talking about.

"There are two pairs in the neighborhood. Ravens are very vulnerable in the nest. A great horned owl can kill a skunk with no problem. The middle of the night is when they do their work." He did not think the little ravens had survived the night.

"There's a whole world of things going on with birds that I never guessed." I told him. "And it's violent!" My neighbor agreed.

I brought the news home to Peter. He nodded. He didn't really think the raven chicks made it either. Peter calls it the "Saturday night massacre" and he still watches the nest in the evenings. No one is there.

I lay in bed last night with the window open. The wind was strong and I could hear it blowing through the pine trees. I thought about all the things happening right in my backyard that I would never know about. I thought about all the dangers I never considered—just because they were not a danger to me.

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



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Star Courier
USPS 244-500
and the
Barbers Hill★Dayton PRESS

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Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the newspaper. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

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Tips to spend less money on cooling your home this summer

Crosby, Highlands, Huffman, Baytown

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Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby, 832-661-9693.

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands, 281-426-4133

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516

First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170

Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST

Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409

Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470

Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723

Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223

Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"

BAPTIST-Missionary

Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.

First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634.

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650

True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

BAPTIST-Southern

First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564

First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551

First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888

Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, nsbchighlands.org

Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557

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

BRETHREN

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

CATHOLIC

Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448

Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871

St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451

St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422

St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496

Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742

Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882

CHURCH OF GOD

First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518

Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

OmT. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL

Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Churhc St., Crosby.

INDEPENDENT

Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310

Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705

New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315

Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000

Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

LUTHERAN

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

METHODIST

Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616

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

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

NON DENOMINATION

Lifepoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, Tx. 77523. ☎281-576-5452.

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Channelview, Jacinto City, Galena Park, Houston

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

Uvalde Baptist Church, 901 Uvalde, Houston, TX 77015. 713-453-2235

New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082

Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232.

Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.

St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.

First Baptist Church, 1505 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.

Macedonia Baptist Church, 1230 Maxnie Street, Houston, TX. 77049. 713-674-6607.

BAPTIST-Southern

Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.

South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.

First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.

Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houston, TX. 77049.

First Baptist Church of Galena Park, 206 Woolfe St., 77547. 713-455-1261.

CATHOLIC

St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.

Our Lady of Fatima, 1705 8th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-675-0981.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ, 15821 2nd St., Channelview, TX. 713-826-2884.

Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Tx. 281-452-7129.

Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.

EPISCOPAL

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.

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Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City. 713-671-3500.

METHODIST

Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.

Jacinto City United Methodist, 10730 Wiggins, Houston, TX. 713-673-7132.

Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, TX. 713-453-7203.

For corrections or new listings, call 713-266-3444

(StatePoint) Keeping your home cool and comfortable on hot summer days doesn't need to cost a fortune. These tips can ensure your heating and cooling equipment lasts a long time and operates at maximum efficiency:

Clean and change filters: Dirty air filters can cause a system to suffer from pressure drop, which can lead to reduced air flow or "blow-out," which can result in no air infiltration at all. When this occurs, your HVAC equipment is working harder, which means increased energy bills and ultimately, more wear and tear. To avoid costly repairs and replacements and enjoy lower utility bills, clean your air filters monthly.

As far as replacing air filters is concerned, one general guideline to follow is to change them every three months. However, the truth is that optimal frequency for this maintenance task depends on a variety of factors, including the type of filter in your HVAC unit, the size of your home, if anyone in your family has allergies and whether or not you have pets. No matter how often

you change air filters, be sure they are properly-sized for your system.

The importance of cleaning and replacing air filters can't be overstated. Dirty air filters won't just cost you more money, they can compromise your home's indoor air quality and aggravate allergies and respiratory issues.

Get annual service: Your HVAC or furnace technician should service your unit annually in order to check that all its various components are in working order. A service check may actually detect a problem before you notice it, and catching it in time could extend your unit's life. Be sure to schedule this service before it's an emergency (i.e. don't wait until it's the hottest day of the year and your unit is in disrepair.)

Replace older units: Consider whether it's time to replace your unit, factoring in its age and regularity of service. Newer units, especially those with ENERGY STAR labels, operate more efficiently. Indeed, a properly sized and installed ENERGY STAR air conditioner uses up to 20 percent less electricity than older models. So, even if your heating or cooling system is properly maintained, you may be spending more money than is necessary each month.

Do it right: For ultimate savings, it's best to ensure your HVAC equipment is installed and serviced properly. The best way to ensure fast, efficient service done right the first time is by hiring a technician certified by North American Technician Excellence (NATE) for all installations, repairs and maintenance. NATE-certified technicians have demonstrated their knowledge of today's increasingly sophisticated heating and cooling systems by passing a nationally recognized test developed and supported by all segments of the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning industry. To find a NATE-certified technician in your area, visit Natex.org.

If reducing cooling costs, increasing home comfort and helping protect the environment are all important to you, there's good news, with proper HVAC installation and maintenance, these don't need to be competing priorities.

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What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later ROMANS 8:18

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I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. PHILIPPIANS 4:13 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. -- 1 JOHN 4:18 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. --2 Timothy 1:7

★ ASK THE EXPERT ★

AgriLife Extension experts: Time to say 'no' to mosquitoes

By Susan Himes

Mosquitoes carry a host of diseases and viruses that can be dangerous to people, pets and livestock.

Mosquito basics

Male mosquitoes feed only on nectar, unlike their blood-sucking counterparts. Females also feed on nectar but need blood for egg production.

There are species of mosquitoes that feed during the day and species that feed at night. That may be why it seems like there are so many mosquitoes out at dawn and dusk — during these periods, the day and night feeders may overlap.

Mosquitoes are cold-blooded and can't regulate their body temperature. That's why on warmer days, they seek shade and why they typically aren't around when the thermometer dips below the mid-50s.

The species of mosquito that carries West Nile virus typically lives in more urban areas, so people in cities are more likely to contract West Nile virus and need to be aware.

Mosquitoes hibernate in the winter. Some mosquitoes spend their winter as eggs that then hatch when the weather warms up, while others hibernate as adults or larvae. Areas with a hot and humid tropical climate can experience mosquitoes year-round.

Mosquitoes and disease

Mosquitoes can transmit viruses such as Zika, West Nile, malaria, dengue and more to humans.

In 2012, Texas experienced its largest outbreak of West Nile virus in history with over 1,800 confirmed cases.



The Asian tiger mosquito, one of 85 species found in Texas. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Mike Merchant)

Most of these victims reported they were bitten at home. So, it's important that Texans be aware at all times and use repellent when necessary.

Dengue is the other most important mosquito-related disease Texans need to be aware of. While it is primarily seen in South Texas, the Lower Rio Grande Valley and areas bordering Mexico, someone that contracts it could travel anywhere.

We also need to remember that Zika is still out there. That is something that pregnant women in particular need to be aware of.

Mosquito protection

When you are outdoors in any area where there could be mosquitoes, it is wise to wear long sleeves and long pants. The tighter the weave of the fabric, the better protection it will offer from bites.

When it comes to topical protection, proven effective mosquito repellents will have at least one of these ingredients: DEET, IR3535, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus, which

may also be listed as parmenthane-3, 8-diol.

Mosquito prevention

The first step in mosquito prevention involves finding and eliminating mosquito breeding grounds. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in or near standing water, so any stagnant water is a potential problem. Any place around the home or property where water can collect and sit for seven to 10 days is a problem to address.

Check property for standing water in clogged rain gutters, birdbaths, old tires, children's play equipment, potted plant trays, tarps, holes in trees, bowls and buckets — literally anything that can hold standing water. Make sure to regularly change the water in any pet bowls outside.

Dump or drain stagnant water and turn over or cover items that catch and hold water. Gravel or sand can be used to fill places where stagnant water collects.

Mosquito eradication

If a mosquito problem needs wider control, it may be necessary to call a pest control company that specializes in mosquito management. For some do-it-yourself options, AgriLife Extension experts suggest:

— Treating standing water with insecticide/larvicide.

— Applying residual sprays on yard surfaces.

— Using mosquito foggers in the yard.

If opting for a chemical solution, always read the label first and carefully check to determine if it is harmful for human, animals, plants or beneficial insects.

New Energy Storage Technologies to Support Renewables Post COVID-19

(NAPSI)—Cleaner air can improve public health, maybe even save lives. Fortunately, renewable energy resources—wind, sun, hydropower and the like—are now producing more electricity than coal. That's where innovative energy storage solutions come in. They help create a cleaner world, encouraging investment into clean, green, renewable energy. To help, engineers and policymakers are increasingly turning their attention to energy storage solutions. New bi-partisan efforts in states such as New York and the Trump administration are in alignment to support new energy storage technologies that drastically improve the economics of wind and solar projects.

The global rise in electricity generation from renewable sources has led to increased demand for advanced batteries that can be used to firm up this intermittent supply. This requirement is particularly important in areas where grid connections may be tenuous, unreliable or even non-existent. Additional demand for advanced bat-

teries is presented by grid applications such as peak-shifting and Transmission and Distribution (T&D) capital deferral.

Energy storage systems provide many ways to manage the power supply for a more resilient energy infrastructure, and bring cost savings to utilities and consumers. Batteries allow the use of electricity whenever it's needed, not only when it's generated. However, traditional battery economics and performance have not proved helpful as utilities look to increase renewable penetration through long-duration energy storage.

The Problem

One of the challenges to growing a North American energy storage industry, however, has been a dependency on a supply chain of hardware components, metals and chemicals, many of which come from outside North America. As well, metals such as lithium and vanadium used in some batteries are impacted by price volatility and security of supply.

An Answer

Those same risks do not apply to zinc-air batteries.

Zinc is abundant and inexpensive, with a significant North American supply. Its chemistry is robust and safe. A zinc-air battery has decoupled energy and power, making it one of the lowest-cost long-duration battery storage solutions available.

A safer, cleaner future requires less polluted air which means replacement of carbon-based power generation with renewable, sustainable sources of electricity. Long-duration, low-cost energy storage systems such as zinc-air will be a key driver to a quicker path towards a greener future. A "bet" on energy storage is a wager that will deliver a cleaner planet that will thrive for current and future generations, suggests Ron MacDonald, president and CEO of Zinc8 Energy Solutions, the leader in zinc-air battery technology, a unique flow battery technology using zinc and air as fuel.

Learn more

You can find further facts and stats on energy storage at www.zinc8energy.com.

Daisy Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 - PRESS

company, FOCUS Brands, the DAISY Foundation carries on this tradition by serving Cinnabons to all the nurses in the award recipient's unit in thanks for everything they do for their patients and families.

Bonnie Barnes, president and co-founder of the DAISY Foundation, stated, "When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced first-hand the

remarkable skill and care nurses provide acutely ill patients every day and night. Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognized for the super-human work they do. The kind of work the nurses at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of the DAISY Award."

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is proud to be among the hospitals participating in the DAISY Award program. Nurses are heroes every day, and given the current national nursing shortage, the Daisy Award plays an important role in letting our nurses know their work is highly valued.

Order to Wear Masks,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 - PRESS

or the public.

4. Who all has to wear a mask? a. All people 10 years or older shall wear a face covering over their mouth and nose, except: i. When exercising or engaging in physical activity outside; ii. When driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver; iii. When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk; iv. While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment; v. While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening (i.e. banks); or vi. When consuming food and drink.

5. Masks are not required while consuming food and drink, does this mean that restaurants don't have to require masks? a. Per Judge Sylvia's Executive Order, all restaurants in Chambers County must require their employees to wear masks when working in areas where they are in close proximity to coworkers or members of the public. b. Clients should wear masks while waiting to be seated and in all common areas of the restaurant,

such as bathrooms. Clients do not, however, have to wear masks while seated at their tables.

6. What type of face coverings are acceptable? a. Homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas or handkerchiefs are all acceptable face coverings.

7. Should I wear a medical mask or N-95 respirator? a. It is strongly recommended that people not obtain or wear medical masks or N-95 respirators as they are a needed resource for healthcare providers and first responders.

8. What is the penalty for businesses who do not require employees and members of the public to wear masks? a. Businesses who fail to comply with the Judge's Order could face a fine of up to \$1,000.

9. Do organizations like churches have to require masks? a. No, those entities who do not provide goods or services are not required to wear masks. They are, however, subject to the Governor's Guidelines to Reopen Texas. (Guidelines available at gov.texas.gov/opentexas)

Early Voting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ken Jones; and Precinct 5 Randy Newman vs. Mark Alan Harrison.

On the Republican runoff ticket, US Representative race in District 18 has Robert Cadena vs. Wendell Champion; and in a much watched race, District 22 has Troy Nehls vs. Kathaleen Wall.

For Sheriff on the Republican ticket, Paul Day is running against Joe Day. Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5 has Russ Ridgway vs. Mike Wolfe.

Early voting will start June 29 through July 2, from 7am to 7pm.

On July 5, polls are open 10am to 7pm. On July 6 through July 9, polls are open 7am to 7pm. On July 10 polls are open 7am to 10pm.

On Election Day, July 14, polls will be open from 7am to 7pm.

A reminder that this year you may vote at any location, not just the one in your area.

If you voted in a particular party in May, Democratic or Republican, you must vote in the same party in the run-off. If you did not vote in May, you may choose either party to vote.

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LEGAL NOTICE

- TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED FIVE VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATIONS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:
- MR. FIDENCIO MORENO AT 11201 VERANO IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO USE FOUR (4) FEET OF THE CITY RIGHT OF WAY FOR A FENCE THAT HE HAS BUILT.
 - MR. RUBEN MACEDO AT JC TIRE AT 10602 EAST FREEWAY IS WANTING TO SELL USED CARS AT THAT LOCATION.
 - MR. RAUL VILLARREAL AT 10324 PALESITNE IS REQUESTING TO HAVE A BUSINESS TO MANUFACTURE WINDOWS.
 - MR. ISIDRO CERDA AT 10430 PILOT IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO KEEP A DRIVEWAY APPROACH THAT HE POURED INCORRECTLY.
 - CISNEROS DESIGN GROUP AT 1002 MERCURY/10222 RUMAR IS WANTING TO BUILD A CONVENIENCE STORE.

THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON JULY 7TH, 2020 STARTING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
City of Jacinto City

The City of Jacinto City plans to apply for Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding from the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and is soliciting proposals to provide administration and/or planning services for CDBG-MIT contract(s), if awarded. Please submit 5 copies of your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the address below: Attn: City Secretary, Joyce Raines, City of Jacinto City, 1301 Mercury Drive, Houston, TX 77029. Proposals must be received by the City no later than 5:00 pm on July 23, 2020, to be considered. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Jacinto City is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles per petición.

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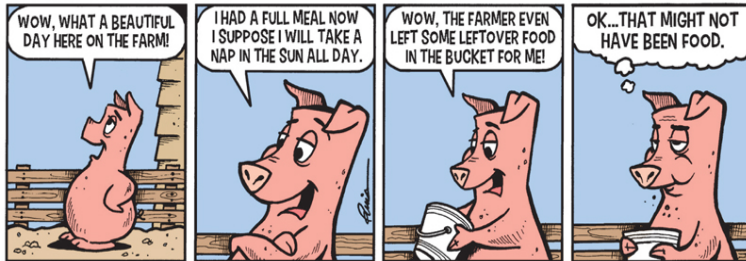
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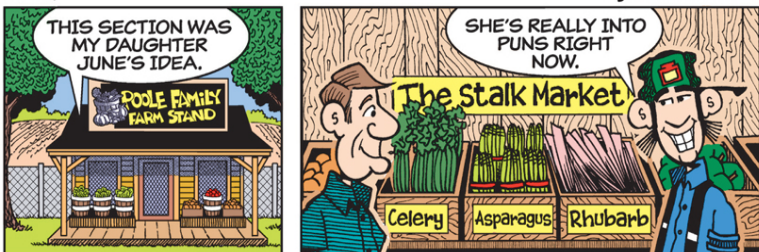
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Table is different 2. Picture has moved. 3. Hair is missing 4. Water level is higher 5. Woman's hair has changed 6. Boy's necktie is different.

Posting Date June 29, 2020

King Crossword

ACROSS

- and call
- Promptly
- Despot
- Verve
- Rd.
- Regulation
- Not yet final, in law
- relief
- Blind as —
- Body art
- Pack down
- Half a fluid ounce
- Short
- Swiss canton
- Tokyo, once
- Bergman, in "Casablanca"
- Action star Diesel
- One
- Mel of Cooperstown
- Programmer's woe
- Foolish
- Skiers' carriages
- Summertime pest
- Starry
- Honeycomb compartment
- Web address
- Wander
- Met melody
- Dos' neighbors
- Yemeni port

DOWN

- Crooked
- Director Kazan
- Group of actors
- Made a sweater, maybe
- Biz big shot
- Eggs
- Oater
- Chaplin persona
- Court sum-
- Helen's home
- Previous night
- Saucy
- Pensioned (Abbr.)
- Lummox
- "— was saying ..."
- Playwright Pirandello
- Valhalla VIP
- Memo
- United nations
- Naomi's daughter-in-law
- Incised printing method
- Predatory sort
- Remove a seat belt
- Underwear with underwire
- "Monty Python" opener
- Dental filling
- Untrue
- Took the bus
- State with certainty
- Gave temporarily
- Garfield or Heathcliff
- Blunder
- Gun the engine

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King Crossword

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

ACROSS

1. The Sandwich Islands; 2. "Blue Hawaii"; 3. Purplish red; 4. Jonas Grumby; 5. Sedimentary; 6. Chile; 7. Houseflies; 8. Two; 9. John Dryden; 10. The Treaty of Paris

Trivia test
by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: What was the former name of the Hawaiian Islands?
- MOVIES Which Elvis Presley movie features the theme song "Can't Help Falling in Love"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What color is fuchsia?
- TELEVISION: What was the real name of the Skipper's character on "Gilligan's Island"?
- GEOLOGY: What kind of rock is sandstone?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which country has a wine-producing region called the Rapel Valley?
- MEDICAL: What kind of insect can transmit diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many standard bottles are contained in a magnum of champagne?
- LITERARY: Who was the first official poet laureate of England?
- HISTORY: Which treaty ended the American Revolution?

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★ **COMMUNITY NEWS** ★

Rotary Installation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Judge Mike Parrott swears-in Jerry Fallin as President-elect.

ship Chair; and Robert Woodall, Youth Service Chair.

As with all Rotary events, the evening was ended with the asking of the questions in the Four Way Test: Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendship? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

We wish all these officers the very best of luck this Rotary year.

The Rotary Club of Highlands meets every Tuesday at noon at United Methodist Church in Highlands, TX. Membership is open to men and women in the community.

The Rotary Club of Highlands is a member of Rotary International, a 501(c)3 organization. It is an organization of business and professional people united worldwide with 35,000+ clubs who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. They work together to: Promote peace, Fight disease, Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, Save mothers and children, Support education, and Grow local economies.

Join the club and get involved! For more information visit 281-426-3558.

Severe Level,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Essential workers practice special precautions to prevent spread.

All vulnerable individuals (65+ or with pre-existing health conditions) stay home.

Self-quarantine for 14 days if in close and prolonged contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19.

Wear face coverings to protect others.

Avoid non-essential business and personal travel. Avoid public transportation where possible.

Cancel visits to nursing homes, long term care facilities, and hospitals.

Avoid and cancel all indoor and outdoor gatherings, including concerts, rodeos, large sporting events, etc. Schools and after-school activities for youth close, as directed by educational authorities.

Area hospitals have reached their full ICU base capacity and are now relying on surge space to treat patients. The number of daily cases and hospitalizations have also reached their highest point since the beginning of the pandemic.

Additionally, Judge Hidalgo announced effective immediately, she will implement a ban on all gatherings of 100 or more people in unincorporated Harris County and encourage cities across the county to do the same.

Harris County is ready to deploy a medical shelter at NRG to serve as a backup should the hospital system become overwhelmed by new cases beyond the existing surge capacity space that remains. The costs for the medical shelter are expected to be 100 percent reimbursed federal funds, either from FEMA funds or CARES Act funding already allocated to the county.

For a complete list of indicators, including stay home guidance visit ReadyHarris.org.

Troup tries rip-off of elderly Crosby residents



Last Sunday, near FM 1942 and Bohemian Hall three people in the S.U.V. above evidently tried to snatch a wedding ring from a local resident under pretense of selling them a ring. The vehicle is a late model Dodge Journey with paper tags.

Sunday evening at about 5:00 p.m. two males and a female each described as Hispanic entered the driveway of a resident and asked if someone would like to buy a wedding ring for only \$50. The woman in the back seat displayed a wedding ring and each repeatedly asked if the "mister" was home. The resident answered, "Yes." At this time the resident was asked to show her left hand, when she did the woman in the back seat grabbed at her hand, which the resident yanked away. Other residents are advised to remain on the lookout and contact law enforcement, there is little doubt where they came up with the cheap wedding ring.

Judge Lina Hidalgo self-quarantining after potential COVID-19 exposure

HOUSTON – Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced that she is self-quarantining after being potentially exposed to COVID-19 last week.

The exposure came on Monday from a member of the Harris County Judge's office, who tested positive and now is self-isolating.

Hidalgo and staff who were potentially exposed will be tested and are self-quarantining for 14 days from exposure until Monday, July 6, following the CDC guidelines. Hidalgo has not shown any symptoms.

"Given what we have learned, I will be quar-



antining at home. The reality of it is, there are thousands of residents across Harris County that are increasingly finding themselves in the same position I am in today," said Judge Hidalgo. "There are rising numbers of residents testing positive for this virus, and more and more requiring hospitalization. We are at Threat Level 1 - Red -

and I continue to call on everyone to stay home except for essential activities. That is the only way we avoid a crisis in our hospital system and put our community in a position to reopen in a smarter and more sustainable way. We will beat this threat together as a community and I will continue to ensure we are pursuing every option we have to bring this back under control."

Hidalgo said her staff has already been following work from home protocols. The limited staff working from the office have been consistently wearing masks in the workplace and maintaining social distancing practices.

EPA Update,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

• The pre-design investigations have refined the volume of waste to be removed in the north and south impoundment;

• Waste in some areas of the northern impoundment are deeper than presented in the Record of Decision;

• Excavation of waste will occur during periods of the year that are not prone to flooding and hurricanes

• The waste will be excavated in cells. The size and number of cells will be based on the volume of waste that can be removed during periods of the year that are not subject to flooding or hurricanes.

5. Is there a new timeline or schedule for remediation, due to the fact that the material in the pits may be deeper than originally expected? Jackie Young said that the toxic waste may go down as far as 25'.

The remedial design documents have been submitted by the due dates outlined in the remedial design legal order.

Concurrent with the remedial design work, EPA along with the Department of Justice are working on a settlement agreement with the responsible parties. This settlement agreement will detail how the final remedial design packages will be implemented.

Cleanup of the northern impoundment will take longer than presented in the Record of

Decision. The cleanup will take longer because the volume of waste has increased, and excavation of the waste will be done in cells during periods of the year that are not subject to flooding or hurricanes. A preliminary cleanup schedule is presented in the 30% design package. The schedule will be updated and refined as part of the pre-final design.

6. Will there be a public meeting in the local area before the end of the year to update the community on progress? What would be an approximate date? Also, please feel free to make a report to the public through our publications, we still reach 12,500 every week on both sides of the river.

It is unknown if there will be a public meeting in the local area before the end of the year due to COVID-19. As regional travel restrictions are lifted EPA will begin looking into safe and effective ways to interact with local community members, whether in person or virtually.

7. The PRP have removed their website, keepitcapped.org, from the internet. Is this a sign they are being more cooperative toward remediation?

EPA does not know why the website "keepitcapped.org" has been removed from the internet.

Jennah Durant
US EPA Region 6
Press Office
214-676-0655

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