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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories
in the **PRESS:**

- Events at the Crossroads cancelled
 - Dayton Gigabit fiber internet
 - Chambers County: No facility rentals
-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 July 14, 2020

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

74,668 POSITIVE
774 DEATHS
26,598 RECOVERED

TEXAS

277,712 POSITIVE
3,330 DEATHS
142,398 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

3,424,304 POSITIVE
136,432 DEATHS
1,049,098 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

13,271,756 POSITIVE
576,980 DEATHS
7,367,106 RECOVERED

Run-off election results hold surprises

HARRIS COUNTY – Tuesday, the Democratic and Republican Parties held their Run-Off Primary elections and the results were different than many predicted.

Substantially more people voted for the Democratic Party in early voting at the Edith Faye Cook Cole Crosby Branch Library. Early voting counts for Crosby were 744 Democratic and 434 Republican most probably due to the hotly contentious local Precinct 3 Constable election and the fact that there were more contests at issue for the Democrats. Over 150,000 votes were cast county wide on the

Winners in Constable Races



Incumbent Constable Sherman Eagleton won the race in Precinct 3, defeating Ken Jones with 77.5% of the votes cast. Jones had held the office prior to his retirement.



Jerry Garcia ran against incumbent Constable Chris Diaz in Precinct 2, and defeated him in a close race, with 51.2% of the votes cast. Garcia was able to declare victory just before midnight.

Democratic ticket. The Republicans drew about 60,000 on their ballot.

Voters are no longer designated to specific voting precincts but habitually tend to vote at locations near where they live and with which they are familiar.

Jacinto City and vicinity had a showdown between Precinct 2 Constable incumbent Chris Diaz against challenger Lt. Jerry Garcia. This was a close race, with Garcia winning by only 229 votes of 9,505 cast. This race had been marked with negative charges of unethical practices and favoritism on both sides.

Nearby, at the Kashmere MultiService Center, 1348 Democrats voted early and 48 Republicans. The Martin Flukinger Community Center had 1458 to 145 Republican early voters. Alvin D. Baggett Community Center saw 1051 Democrats early voting and only 122 Republicans. Ripley House Campus had 954 Democrats and 87 Republicans. The John Phillips Courthouse had 346 Democrats vote early with 197 Republicans.

This election had two early news breaks for the Democrats, Diane Traut-

See Election Results, Page 8

Application period opens for Harris County small business recovery fund

Grants of up to \$25,000 Available; Recipients Will be Selected at End of 10 Day Application Window

Harris County, Texas - July 13, 2020, Eligible businesses can apply for financial assistance through the Harris County Small Business Recovery Fund today through Friday, July 24. The \$30 million grant program, which was unanimously approved by the Harris County Commissioners Court on June 30, prioritizes struggling small businesses that have not yet received funds from other COVID-19 relief programs.

"Small businesses are the backbone of Harris County's economy, and the pandemic has hit them especially hard," said County Judge Lina Hidalgo.



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo at a news conference Monday, explaining the new Small Business Recovery Fund. She also strongly advised everyone in Harris County to wear a face mask and practice safe distancing.

"While county government alone cannot make up for all of the loss, we must do all we can to help as many as we can."

To be eligible for grants of up to \$25,000, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must conduct business

in Harris County, within Precincts 1-4. Businesses located in the City of Houston are not eligible unless located within Precinct 1

- Must employ fewer than 30 employees (including owner(s))

- Must have been in business for the entire calendar year 2019

- Must be in good standing with local, state, and federal governments with no outstanding tax obligations or liabilities

- Must be able to verify negative impact on operations due to the pandemic

After the application process closes on Friday, July 24, at 3:30 p.m., eligible businesses will be entered into a weighted lottery based on the size of their operation. Program funds are limited and only a subset of qualified applicants will receive grants. Those selected will receive 75 percent of the funds

See Recovery Fund, Page 8

BIRTHDAYS

- Jul 16-Patricia Hoffman
Polly Lowden
Dianna Parker
- Jul 17-Cindy Broadbent
Joan Brumfield
Brenda Carroll
Tara McKinney
Maggie Williamson
- Jul 18-Geenee Parrish
- Jul 19-Jeanett Jett
Pat Yates
- Jul 20-Joshua Hildebrand
Johnny Gaeke
- Jul 21-Glenns Plochek
Lydia Moore
- Jul 22-Tricia Schultz

ANNIVERSARIES

- Jul 3-Larry & Shirley Marlin
- Jul 6-Tommy & Jacqueline Criner
- Jul 7-Skyler & Kacy Browning
- Jul 12-Earl & Doris Roach
John & Lisa Cutbirth
- Jul 13-Harvey & Sherry Little
Jerry & Debbie Moore
- Jul 15-Bobby & Melinda Horn
- Jul 20-Harry & Laura New

ENVIRONMENT: Precinct 2 ready for Hurricanes, flooding

Environment: Precinct 2 ready for Hurricanes, Flooding

Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia has been planning for a busy hurricane season, and possible street flooding, he recently reported in an interview on a local news blog. Garcia told Michael Palmer of NNB that his precinct prepares every day of the year, not just hurricane season, for responses to natural disasters, man-made accidents, and even a pandemic. He noted that last year the county saw a series of natural disasters that they



responded to. These included the ITC fire, the KMCO explosion, a lightning strike at a refinery, a barge accident under I-10 and another in the ship channel, and the flooding

from Tropical Storm Imelda.

Garcia noted his own experience with disasters includes hurricanes such as Alycia, Katrina, and Ike. And so I understand these events, he said. We have good coordination with our area mayors, and work closely with all of the entities necessary when it comes to a disaster of any sort.

Garcia also spoke about flooding from storms, and areas in his Precinct that have been inundated.

See PRECINCT 2, p. 6

Free COVID-19 testing sites

The Houston Health Department and its agency partners are announcing the schedule for sites offering free COVID-19 tests the week of July 13, 2020.

Texas Division of Emergency Management

The Texas Division of Emergency Management and the department will open four drive-thru test sites:

- Crump Stadium, 12321 High Star Dr.,
 - Cuney Homes Community Center, 3260 Truxillo St.,
 - HCC-Northeast Campus, 555 Community College Dr., and
 - HCC - South Campus, 1990 Airport Blvd.
- TDEM sites require ap-

pointments, available by visiting texas.curativeinc.com.

TDEM will also operate a walk-up site that doesn't require appointments at the Merfish Teen Center, 9000 S Rice Ave, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, July 12, through Friday, July 17.

UNITED MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC) will offer weekday testing at drive-thru test sites at the Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star, Houston Community Col-

See Testing Sites, Page 8

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GCCISD students honor teachers through students choice awards

By Susan Passmore

Despite the abrupt end to their senior year due to the COVID-19 crisis, 15 Goose Creek CISD seniors honored their teachers by nominating them for the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation's 2019-2020 Students Choice Awards. Each year, seniors are asked to write a letter nominating a teacher who has had a positive impact on their life.

Sponsors for the annual event, in its 11th year, were Awards & Engraving, which provided the plaques for teachers, and Hutchinson, Shockley, Erley & Co., which provided the gift cards presented to students and teachers. Although the dinner was not held due to safety protocols, a program with highlights of the nomination letters written by the students and a video, created by the Goose Creek CISD Communications Department, were presented to the students and teachers.

Honorees were Samuel Laird from Goose Creek Memorial High School and his student Trenton Brown, also from GCM; Mariela Chen-Barboza and her student Claudia Rosas, both from GCM; Rosie Adolphin and her student Angelique Vazquez, both from GCM; Peter Cushman from Ross S. Sterling High School (RSS), previously at Baytown Junior School, and his student Kera Adamson from RSS; Misty Dolgner from Goose Creek Memorial High School, previously at Baytown Junior, and her student Johanna McK-



Michelle Bitterly (right) of Awards & Engraving shows Erika Foster, director of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, the awards donated for the Students Choice Awards.



Peter Cushman from Ross S. Sterling High School, previously at Baytown Junior School, was nominated for the Students Choice Awards by his former student Kera Adamson.

ay from Robert E. Lee High School; Michele George from Cedar Bayou Junior School, previously at Gentry Junior School, and her student Caleb Echols from GCM and Roman Huizar from GCM and his student Tania Rodriguez from GCM.

Also honored were Kimberly Kelley from Horace

Mann Junior School and her student Stephanie Perez from IMPACT Early College High School; Amy Maddie and her student Alexandria Lee, both from RSS; Shonna Prentice and her student Gabriella Lopez, both from GCM; Jonathan Richards and his student Christina Rodriguez, both from REL;

Education Foundation Presents Grant Check to Goose Creek CISD



Photo by Mima Trujillo

Ronnie Hotchkiss (right), president of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, presents a check for \$141,430.69 to Dr. Randal O'Brien (left), Goose Creek CISD superintendent, and Jessica Woods, president of the Goose Creek CISD board of trustees, for innovative teaching grants awarded to district teachers to enhance the curriculum.

Kathrine Robinson-Hull from Travis Elementary and her student Victoria Gomez from RSS; Jackie Scales and her student Taylor Richardson, both from GCM; Sheila Southall from San Jacinto Elementary and her student Shelby Torres from RSS; and Clemencia Vigil and her student Sam Balandran from REL.

"It is always heartwarming to hear the stories these students write in their letters and to see how much difference teachers make in the lives of their students," said Erika Foster, director of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation.

Trenton Brown from GCM wrote about the way Samuel Laird, his law enforcement teacher at GCM, helped mold him into the young man he is today.

"I chose Mr. Laird because of how he shaped my character, attitude and education," said Trenton. "My outlook on life has been greatly enhanced through his teaching. To me, Mr. Laird is more than a teacher; he's a mentor and a lifelong friend who will always have my back and give advice to help navigate through challenges I have and will face."

Christina Rodriguez nominated her teacher engineering teacher Jonathan Richards at REL for the award. With an incredible number of homework assignments in her Advanced Placement classes, she felt overwhelmed.

"When I finally fell into the process of retrieving work and finishing it timely, my grandmother was diagnosed with metastat-

ic kidney cancer, and while I know many have felt the pain of having a loved one struggle through cancer, Mr. Richards' own journey from cancer was the hope I needed to get through the toughest days," Christina said.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation has recognized 165 teachers as Students Choice Award Winners over the past 11 years in keeping with its goal of recognizing staff for exemplary teaching.

"I so look forward to the Students Choice Awards every year. It is a reminder of the wonderful teachers I had as a student here in the Goose Creek schools who helped set me on my path to success," said Ronnie Hotchkiss, president of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation.

Maximum Tax Savings Open for appointments



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

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CROSBY'S HOME
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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ROUND-UP

Events at THE CROSSROADS Suspended Until Further Notice

The City of Dayton is suspending all events at THE CROSSROADS until further notice, including the weekly Food Truck Friday and the Farmers Market.

"In light of the recent increase in active COVID 19 cases in Liberty County, and in response to Governor Abbott's Proclamation limiting gatherings larger than 10, we felt it was the right thing to do," said Marketing and Communications Director Patti Jett. "We know it's disappointing for our community members who enjoy these events and the vendors, but the health and safety of our residents and our staff is our top priority. We're disappointed too, but we want to reassure people that THE CROSSROAD events will resume as soon as it is safe to do so."

Events will resume at the outdoor event location once restrictions are lifted.

CORVID-19 CASES CHAMBERS COUNTY

As of July 14, 2020

Tested-4,193
Recovered-396
Hospitalized-4
Confirmed Cases-618
Deaths-5

DAYTON

Municipal Court wins honorable mention for traffic safety education



Dayton Municipal Court Staff left to right Julian Cruz, Brittni Vestal, Shawna Pafford, and Jennifer Billings (Not pictured Judge Alan Conner)

The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center's Municipal Traffic Safety Initiative, funded by a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation, recently sponsored a Traffic Safety Award to recognize those who work in local municipalities that have made outstanding contributions to their community in an effort to increase traffic safety. This competition was a friendly way for municipalities to increase their attention to quality of life through traf-

fic safety activities. All municipal courts in the State of Texas were eligible to apply.

Dayton Municipal Court received "Honorable Mention" for its contributions during the past year to increase awareness on traffic safety. Throughout the year, but especially during National Night Out in October and Municipal Court Week in November, clerks share information on DWI and promoting responsible and safe driving.

"Our Municipal Court

team does a great job with public outreach," said City Manager Theo Melancon. "They make the most out of every opportunity to get information to our residents and those who come to the court. They definitely have made outstanding contributions to the safety of our community."

To learn more about the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center or the Municipal Traffic Safety Award, contact TMCEC at 512.320.8274 or visit tmcec.com.

City of Dayton to resume COVID-related closures

With the State of Texas and Governor Abbott rolling back the reopening of certain businesses and returning to earlier stage restrictions, and increasing numbers of COVID positive cases in Liberty County, the City of Dayton will resume some of its earlier precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the virus and ensure the continuity of city services.

"We're resuming our previous COVID 19 processes to ensure that city staff remains healthy and ready to serve our residents," said City Manager Theo Melancon. "While City facilities will mostly close to foot traffic, the services we provide will continue unabated."

City facilities, including City Hall, Planning, and the Library will be closed to the public beginning July 1. The Library will resume curb-

side service and City Administration and Planning offices will be open by appointment only.

Those seeking to schedule inspections, submit plans, or apply for permits from the Planning Office can do so online at daytontx.org/planning.

Utility bill payments can be made online at daytontx.org, by calling 936.258.2642, or through the payment kiosk, located outside of City Hall. Both online and kiosk payments are possible 24-hours a day, seven days a week, while payment by phone is accepted Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm. Online and phone payments are credit/debit card only, while the kiosk accepts credit/debit, check, and cash payment. Cash payments should NOT be made in the City's dropbox, as their receipt cannot be

Chambers County halts facility rentals through end of the year

Chambers County Community Buildings, Arenas, Pavilions and other facilities will remain unavailable for rent through December 31, 2020.

"The number of COVID-19 cases in Chambers County continues to grow and we simply cannot condone large gatherings - especially in County facilities," said Judge Sylvia.

This decision was made amidst concerns that large gatherings appear to contribute to the increase in confirmed positive cases.

Local Health Authority W. Clay Brown, MD, echoed the Judge's sentiments. "From a Public Health standpoint gatherings are discouraged. Although there is minimum guidance from the Governor, it is just that... minimum guidance. Recent case counts are rising in part due to

gatherings, lack of social distancing, etc."

"We debated holding off on making this decision, but there are too many variables," said the Judge. "We can't predict what the future holds and we would hate to rent our facilities and then have to cancel the events that are planned at a later date."

Chambers County residents are encouraged to continue following guidelines issued by both the Centers for Disease Control and Texas Governor Greg Abbott and stay home as much as possible, practice social distancing and wear a face covering when in public.

"We have to keep working together. We all have a part to play in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Chambers County," said Judge Sylvia.

DAYTON

Fiber Network Team Canvass City

Residents within the Dayton city limits may be seeing something a little unusual, but there's no cause for alarm. What they'll see is a team from the City's planned gigabit fiber internet utility project canvassing the city. The four-member "fielder" team is physically walking all city streets to map out the network.

"Our fielders are easy to identify as they'll be wearing safety vests and carrying an iPad," said Marketing and Communications Director Patti Jett. "They'll also have ID, showing that they work for our contractor, Magellan Advisors, but the important thing to know is that they will be staying in the right of way and won't need to enter your home or backyard."

"Reliable high-quality internet service is vital to both our residents and our businesses," said City Manager Theo Melancon. "With gigabit service as a utility, our customers can expect service at a price that's cheaper than most national providers and a speed that exceeds anything currently offered in the area."

The service offered by the City will be similar to that currently offered in Mont Belvieu and will be available in early 2021.

The work is part of the project's planning process and will ensure that fiber is laid out to accommodate Dayton's residential and commercial customers. When complete, the City will be able to offer reliable and fast gigabit internet service city-wide.

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Prepare for Summertime Dangers

BAYTOWN — (July 10, 2020) — Being outdoors can provide some needed relief for many during these stressful times, but participating in outdoor activities requires planning to deal with common summertime health hazards.

Sun Smarts

Dr. Pooja Kulkarni, a primary care physician in Baytown with the Houston Methodist Primary Care Group, says overexposure to the sun is the leading cause of skin cancer. Your best defense is to avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. if possible.

When out in the sun:

- Wear a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and protective clothing.

- Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher and reapply often.

"If you get sunburned, apply aloe vera gel or moisturizer, and take an over-the-counter pain reliever with your doctor's OK to ease minor discomfort. Drink plenty of fluids, especially water. Call your health care provider if your skin blisters, or if you develop chills, fever or nausea," Kulkarni said.

Water Safety

Follow these safeguards when enjoying water activities:

- Supervise children
- Swim in areas supervised by lifeguards
- Steer clear of swimming pool drains
- Wear life vests when boating

Learn CPR Beat the Heat

"Heat-related illness can become serious if it is not recognized and treated early. Heat exhaustion may happen with overexertion and not drinking enough water in hot weather. Heat stroke requires immediate medical help," Kulkarni said.

Know these warning signs to prevent a hot-weather crisis. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Paleness and weakness
- Heavy sweating
- Headache, nausea or vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Signs of heat stroke include:
 - Dizziness or confusion
 - Red, hot, dry skin with no sweating



Dr. Pooja Kulkarni

- Rapid heartbeat
 - High body temperature
- "If you suspect a heat-related illness, seek shade or move indoors. For heat exhaustion, lie down, prop up your feet and loosen tight clothing. Sip water and apply a cool, damp cloth to skin.

Seek immediate medical attention if someone becomes faint or confused, or develops a fever higher than 102 degrees Fahrenheit," Kulkarni explained.

Bug Off

Here are some treatments for common insect bites:

Bee stings. Remove the stinger by scraping or brushing it off with a firm edge, such as a credit card. "Wash the area with soap and water, and apply hydrocortisone cream or calamine lotion several times a day until symptoms subside. Use ice or a cold pack, and take an antihistamine to reduce pain and swelling. Seek medical help immediately if someone is having a severe or allergic reaction to a bee sting," Kulkarni said.

Signs of a severe reaction may include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of the lips or throat
- Feeling faint or disoriented

- Breaking out in hives
- Nausea, cramps and vomiting

Tick bites. Check your skin for ticks after being in wooded areas. If you find a tick, use tweezers to remove the head and body. Wash your hands thoroughly after removal.

Mosquito bites. Apply calamine lotion or hydrocortisone cream to reduce itching and redness. Wearing insect repellent helps protect you from spotted fever, West Nile and Zika.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

NEWSPAPERS
By Texas Press Association

*Help journalism.
Help yourself. Buy
a weekly newspaper*

By Helen Sosniecki

You work for GateHouse or Gannett or one of the many groups that have been merging or closing papers right and left across the country.

You've been bought out at one location, gone through a layoff at another and you just aren't sure you want to continue on that treadmill any longer as you anticipate the possibility of another.

If you have an entrepreneurial spirit, maybe now is the time to consider buying a weekly newspaper or starting one in a "news desert," a community that no longer has a newspaper.

It won't be all fun and games. The hours are long. The financial payback may be less than your corporate salary. But the rewards in your accomplishments as a community newspaper owner can overshadow those drawbacks.

Groups buy, sell and trade publications with nothing more than a check of the financials. No one from corporate ever sets foot in most of the communities involved.

You need to approach a potential purchase in much broader terms, because you aren't just buying a weekly newspaper; you are buying into a community and a lifestyle.

You won't be off the clock just because you are out for dinner. At the next table might be the guy who you photographed earlier in the day being taken away in handcuffs in a drug raid. Or an old farmer may ask if you could put a classified ad in the paper to sell his gun, which later turns out to be the murder weapon in the death of his neighbor. Or you might leave the office late at night and have your car stopped and surrounded by deputies on a dark country road by a cemetery after you've written a story about the sheriff's alleged misdeeds. (All true stories.)

But the rewards can be great. So, how do you start if you're an individual or couple ready to make the plunge – or at least explore the option of newspaper ownership?

First, find a newspaper broker who has experience selling weeklies and, better yet, one who has worked at or owned a newspaper. And, contact the state press association(s) in areas where you want to consider buying. Some of the smallest papers may not be listed with a broker but may provide opportunities for seller financing or training with a sweat-equity option.

If you aren't comfortable with financial reports, find someone you trust who can walk you through the process and analyze the P&Ls with you. Look for oddities that could benefit a new buyer. For instance, is the owner paying non-business expenses from the company account? Is the circulation income too low based on the circulation numbers you were provided?

My business partner and husband, Gary, and I always looked at the financials from the standpoint of growth potential. We did not want to buy a paper that was at its peak potential. Financials were only a small part of the decision for us.

Take an objective look at the content of the newspaper. Strong? Weak? Coming from the news side, we always knew we could improve the news product. And, we always operated on the belief that content drives weekly-newspaper revenue. We were local, local, local.

We wanted content that had readers buying at the newsstand rather than by subscription, because they didn't want to wait to get their paper in the mail. We wanted them waiting outside the office on "newspaper day" for the papers to get back from the printer. And, they did. At one location, we even put a bench outside for them.

Does the newspaper have a web presence? If so, is the current owner generating revenue from it?

You've seen the financials. You've checked out sample copies. Now what? For us, with the three times we bought, the next step involved scouting the community both as a potential business location and as our new home. Living there is why individual owners have a chance of succeeding in a community where corporate may claim ownership isn't worth their effort. You'll have more at stake than just the dollars.

So what did Gary and I look for when we scouted out a community?

One of our first stops was the post-office lobby, where we would check the wastebasket. It helped identify the newspaper's direct-mail competition – shopping guides and store flyers – and whether they were popular enough that recipients took them home.

Take a hard look at the storefronts. Are most of them filled? Are they businesses that are – or should be – advertising with the newspaper? Are they well-kept or run down? Are the streets in good shape or crumbling? In other words, is there pride in the business district?

And, a big one: Is there a Walmart in town? A Walmart means the town is a trade center. But if the town doesn't have a Walmart, it's best if one isn't closer than a 30-minute drive.

Do some research on the business owners. Are the majority nearing retirement? (That could mean future sales or closures.) A mix of young, older and middle-age owners is good, because you have both experience and new enthusiasm in the district.

Does the community have an annual festival that brings its citizens – young and old – together to volunteer and celebrate something that connects them?

Are K-12 schools within the city limits? A consolidated district with the school out in the middle of a field miles from town diminishes the community spirit. Look for evidence of school pride around town. If you're in town on a ballgame night, check the parking lot. If it isn't almost full, either the team is having a horrible season or the town doesn't feel connected to the school.

Do the school administrators live in the community? Do the majority of teachers live in the school district?

What's the bank situation? A locally owned bank is the ideal both for a newspaper and the community, but fewer of those now exist.

Find the coffee shop where the locals hang out. Eavesdrop. If it's the day the paper hit the streets, are they talking about "did you see _____ in the paper?" Better yet, are they calling it "our paper," showing they feel close enough to it share a sense of ownership.

Are people talking from table to table, or is it like a room full of strangers who just happen to be having coffee at the same location? The latter isn't a good sign.

And, when scouting the town, check for news racks – both inside and outside. Do the inside racks look like the papers are selling that week?



Governor: Hospitals must expand capacity as COVID-19 cases escalate

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott has again suspended elective surgeries in hospitals in 104 counties located within 11 of the state's 22 trauma service areas.

Each of the trauma service areas has a regional advisory council and a trauma system plan to respond to health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the proclamation, Abbott directed all hospitals in designated counties to postpone surgeries and procedures that are not immediately, medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition or to preserve the life of a patient, as determined by the patient's physician.

GA-27, a similar proclamation issued by Abbott on June 25, remains in effect and applies to the counties of Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, Harris, Hidalgo, Nueces, Travis and Webb.

"We are freeing up more resources to address upticks in COVID-19 related cases," Abbott said in a news release explaining the July 9 proclamation. "The State of Texas will continue to do everything we can to mitigate the spread of this virus and support our hospitals and health care professionals as they care for their fellow Texans. We must all come together and continue to practice social distancing, wear a face covering in public, and stay home when possible," added Abbott.

On July 10, Abbott extended his March 13 COVID-19 disaster proclamation for all counties in Texas. Cumulative figures posted July 12 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed some 258,658 people in Texas diagnosed with COVID-19 and 3,192 confirmed deaths resulting from the disease.

City cancels GOP event

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner on July 8 announced that he had instructed the city's event

When you are to the point of visiting the newspaper itself, check the equipment. It may be "working," but is it up-to-date? Or will new equipment be necessary fairly soon?

Check the circulation numbers through ownership statements for at least the last three to five years. (And, if they are rounded off on all the forms, odds are pretty good they are not accurate.)

When you buy that first weekly newspaper, go into it knowing that one week you'll be loved for what's in the paper and the next week you'll be despised by the same or other readers. You'll have immediate market feedback – both good and bad. You'll have people curse you and threaten you in the morning. Then another reader will drop by with some tomatoes from their garden for you that afternoon.

You live there. You chronicle the town's history. But you're also one of them. It's your town, too. It will fill you with pride when the school basketball team wins that first state championship. It will bring you to tears when you and your neighbors bury that young volunteer fireman with the pregnant wife who died along with another volunteer on the way to a brush fire.

It will be your job, your business and your life – and you'll likely love it more than anything you've ever done.

Helen and Gary Sosniecki of Lebanon, Missouri, are retired from 43-year careers that included owning three weeklies, publishing a small-town daily and serving as vendors to the newspaper industry. They may be reached at sozsez@aol.com.

This article is one of a series distributed by the Texas Press Association for its members. If you wish more information, call 713-266-3444 or email grafikstar@aol.com

LETTERS
To The Editor

Restoration Church explains

I am Pastor Phillip Morris of Restoration Church in Highlands. Last week, the Constables came to our church to follow up on a call they received. I wish to explain to the communities of McNair and Highlands why. As Christians we went to raise a spiritual wall of protection so our neighbors will not suffer the hatred and lawlessness.

In Ezekiel 22:30 it states: "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, ..."

And in James 5:16 it says: "... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

And in Isaiah 59:19 "... When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him."

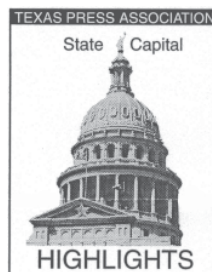
We went to every entrance praying a wall of protection while pouring vegetable oil across the roads.

The oil represents the anointing of the Holy Spirit of God. We were building a spiritual wall of protection against hatred and lawlessness. As born-again believers, we are not concerned about the skin color of people because Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind and His love is for all.

We did not mean to alarm or cause anxiety for anyone. If we did, I apologize from my heart and ask all to please forgive us. We love y'all and will continue to pray for Love, Joy, Peace, and Protection for all.

Pastor Phillip Morris
Restoration Church
Highlands

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



dict what the COVID-19 pandemic will look like in September, the recent surge in positive cases is troubling for all of North Texas. The safest and most responsible decision we could make for all involved at this point in our 134-year history is to take a hiatus for the 2020 season," said State Fair of Texas Board Chair Gina Norris.

Hospitals get Remdesivir

Gov. Abbott on July 4 announced that the Texas Department of State Health Services is distributing 448 cases of the antiviral drug Remdesivir to 157 hospitals across Texas.

The drug is being distributed to the states from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This is the sixth round of distribution from the federal government. The supply is part of a donation from Canada-headquartered drug maker Gilead.

Abbott said Remdesivir "has shown promise in early trials in speeding up the recovery time among hospitalized COVID-19 patients."

Hegar distributed revenue

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on July 8 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$744.2 million in local sales tax allocations for July, an amount 2.6% less than the amount distributed in July 2019.

Allocations are based on sales made in May by businesses that report tax monthly.

Widespread social distancing requirements were relaxed across much of the state in May, thus year-over-year declines were not as steep as they were last month, Hegar said.

State Fair is canceled

The Texas State Fair board of directors on July 7 voted to cancel the 2020 State Fair of Texas.

Only in rare circumstances has the fair been canceled. The last cancellations occurred in war years: 1942 to 1945.

"While we cannot pre-

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★ OBITUARIES ★

Wilma Jean Keyes



Wilma Jean Keyes, 80, passed peacefully into eternal rest on Monday, July 6, 2020. She was born October 24, 1939 in Highlands, Texas to John A. Casey and Bernice (Browder) Casey. She graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, Class of 1958.

Wilma married Emanuel Keyes of Highlands on January 30th 1960 at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Highlands. They enjoyed 60 wonderful years together and were deeply in love throughout. Wilma loved being with family and friends, especially her children and grandchildren. She was dearly loved and honored by her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and all children. She was like a Mom to all. She was a PTA member when her children were in elementary school and was always the room Mom. She was a devout Catholic and a member of St. Jude's, where she also taught CCE classes. Wilma enjoyed gardening and the outdoors. She was a fantastic cook and knew how to cook any type of wild game, seafood, or even bullfrogs. She canned many types of vegetables as well as jams and jellies. She was perfectly comfortable walking barefoot, playing with the kids in the grass, or playing baseball with the boys. She was a country girl at heart. She was somewhat shy, but enjoyed socializing, listening to country music, and dancing. She also loved playing card games of all kinds and dominos as well. Her favorite domino game was the game of 42. She and Emanuel often attended 42 parties with friends, and it was the game of choice at family vacations. Her favorite vacation spots were Concan Texas on the Frio river, a family camp house on the Trinity River near Kenefick, and week long vacation trips camping on

the beach in tents and pop-up campers on Matagorda Bay at Port O' Conner in the early 70s. She and Emanuel also enjoyed an occasional trip to Las Vegas with friends. Wilma also was a baseball fan. She was often the Team Mom during her sons' little league years and attended virtually all events of her children, including Baytown Sterling football games where her daughter participated as a Sterling Star. She was a huge fan of the Houston Astros. She loved Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell. Her favorite singer was George Jones, who sang her favorite song, "A Picture of Me Without You", which references church bells, heaven, and singing angels.

Wilma was a well-known member of the Highlands community, having owned and managed the primary local café called the Cedar Inn in the 80s and also having managed and worked at the town's favorite burger spot, the Snak Shak. She was an enormously hard worker, rising at 3:30am to open the restaurant and closing after 8pm. She knew everyone in town and they all loved her, as did her employees. She was a genuinely kind soul, and was respected by all for her honesty and integrity.

Wilma touched the hearts and souls of everyone she met. She will be dearly missed. She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Bernice Casey, brother Larry, and sister Peggy.

She is survived by her husband Emanuel Keyes, her two sons Doug (Amber) Keyes and John (Maggie) Keyes, and her daughter Cathy (John) Corley, and her son-in-law Chip (Karen) Morton. Also surviving are two grandsons Joe and John Morton, five granddaughters Elizabeth, Olivia, Mary, Anna, and Catherine Keyes, and one great grandson Jude. Also, step grandchildren Veronica, Gabriel, Adrian, Chanel, Dawson, and Chloe.

Serving as pallbearers are Jimmy, Mickey, Tony, and David Keyes, Randy Casey, and Joe Morton.

The family wishes to thank the staff of St. James House for the genuinely loving care given to Wilma during her time there.

Visitation and Rosary will be held at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Highlands, TX at 9am on Mon-

day, July 13, 2020, with funeral mass immediately following at 10am. Graveside service will follow the mass at Sterling White Cemetery, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd, Highlands TX 77562. Online condolences may be made at www.sterlingwhite.com

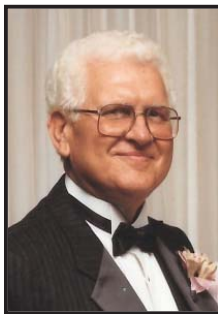
Due to Covid-19 restrictions, masks will be required at all events, including the graveside service. Additionally, the capacity at St. Jude's is limited to approximately 75 people, but the following graveside service at approximately 11:00am has no limit. The family fully understands this presents, but chose to keep all services public to provide opportunity and flexibility for any prospective attendees, and asks that attendees understand any necessary restrictive actions made by the church.

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Melvin Dennis Jasek



Melvin Dennis Jasek joined the heavenly chorus on Sunday, July 5th, 2020.

Service: 2 p.m. Friday at Moore Funeral Home, 1219 N. Davis Dr., Arlington, 76012. Interment: Moore Memorial Gardens. Visitation: 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Moore Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to send donations in tribute to Melvin to Mission Arlington, 210 West South St., Arlington, TX 76010, or First Baptist Church Music Ministry, 301 S. Center, Arlington TX 76010.

Melvin was born on June 8, 1934 to Ignatz Adolph Jasek and Bertha Anna Sirocka on their family farm in Crosby, Texas. He attended Crosby schools, where he was active in Future Farmers of America, band, choir, football, basketball, softball, tennis, and track and field. He also worked as a butcher at the local grocery after school and on weekends.

Upon graduation from high school, Melvin attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas on a four-year music scholarship. He sang in the University Choir under the direction of Dr. Euell Porter. He especially enjoyed being a member of the University Men's quartet, an activity that he was extremely proud of and continued to enjoy participating in throughout his life. He also was involved in ROTC, which prepared him for his future military service. While at H-SU,

he met and married Sharon "Dianne" Mays on December 20, 1953. They remained loving partners for over 66 years.

Upon college graduation, Melvin enlisted in the US Army and served in the Army Security Agency. He was stationed at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts from 1956 through 1958 and served in Korea after the war was over. He was in the Army Reserves from 1958 through 1961. He was recalled to active duty in 1961 for the Berlin crisis and was stationed in Columbia, South Carolina. Captain Jasek was honorably discharged in 1963.

Mr. Jasek was a lifelong learner and eventually continued his education. He received two more degrees from Southern Methodist University — a BBA in Accounting and a Masters of Liberal Arts degree.

During the last part of his military service, the Jaseks moved to Mesquite, Texas. In 1964, Melvin and Dianne moved to Arlington, Texas and became very involved in working, raising their two children, and participating in their community. Melvin took a job as an accountant in the Hourly Payroll department at General Motors. He retired from the company after working there for more than 30 years.

Melvin and Dianne were very active members of the First Baptist Church of Arlington. He was a deacon and a long-time mem-

ber of the adult church choir, and, in his senior years, enjoyed singing in and traveling with the TMS senior choir. He also participated in the ETC Sunday School class, which allowed him to spend time with many close friends each week.

One of Melvin's most outstanding commitments was to Kiwanis. He was extremely devoted to the Sundown Kiwanis Club, its activities, its missions and projects, and its members. He served the club in many capacities — as chairman of numerous committees and as officer in every leadership area (many more than once). He also served in leadership capacities on the district level as well as the Texas-Oklahoma district level. He became a lifetime member and received much recognition and many awards throughout the years for his outstanding dedication and hard work in furthering the goals of the service organization.

Mr. Jasek had a multitude of hobbies. He loved hunting with his dad and his son, as well as fishing and golfing with GM and Kiwanis buddies. He was a part of many social groups that enjoyed camping, dining out, playing bridge or dominoes, and watching theater productions. He loved to travel and had visited all fifty states and many foreign destinations. He also dabbled in photography and captured many wonderful pictures of animals, scenic beauty from his worldly travels, and breathtaking sunsets.

Melvin Jasek is survived by his wife Dianne Jasek; his daughter, Kristy Jasek Hayes and husband, Van, of Abilene, Texas; and his son, Kelly Jasek and wife, Christina Hoag-Jasek, of Arlington, Texas.

Frances Leazar Butler

Frances Leazar Butler, born June 13, 1922, in Jewett (Leon County), TX., to Charles M. and Robbie Cameron Leazar. She passed away June 30, 2020. Frances married Thomas Robert Butler, Sr. in 1943 and was married 63 years until his death. Preceded in death by parents, husband, son (Charles William), two sisters and three brothers,



two nephews, and one niece.

Survived by son, Thomas R. Butler, Jr., daughter-in-law, Carolyn, (Charles' wife), five grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, three nieces and two nephews.

Frances worked at Galena Park High School as a secretary 24 years.

She was a resident of Galena Park and founding member of Galena Park Methodist Church since 1950 where she taught Sunday School for many years. She was also a member of UMW, TEL Sunday School Class, Hilltoppers, Fun Club, Eighty Eight Club, AARP, City Seniors, and Heritage Hall.

"If I had a problem needing help of any kind, several special friends were always there: John Tisdale, Joy Butler, Frances Dean, Jack Brown, Paul and Gayle Henry and Robin, Steve and Mary Yee, Robert Pruitt, and Bob Clowers. They were amazing, may God bless them. I can't forget all my precious friends at the Church and the Centers, you know who you are! Thank you for your friendship and helping me get through rough times."

In celebration of her life, the family will honor her wishes to have a private service.

The family would like to thank Home Care Assistance, Theracare Home Health, Traditions Health Hospice, and her devoted caregivers Joyce McCafferty, Adell Scott, Shirley Scott, and Melissa Vaughan. We would also like to thank the First Baptist Church of Jacinto City and the Believers Class for their love and support. Instead of customary remembrances, please consider donations to the American Cancer Society.

The Journey of a thousand miles begins with one step
-LaoTzu

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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 ★

“Our family helping yours” practiced for Zavala benefit



Crosby Volunteer Fire Dept. applied their motto and hosted the community at Fire Station 2 in Newport on the 4th of July as a benefit for Kent Zavala with Harris County Sheriff's Office working security. Jacob Brown atop the cooker was organizer of the benefit and the firefighters sold 100 pork butts about half and half in dinner plates and whole. The proceeds raised and Kent Zavala's probationary helmet were given to his family in tribute. In addition to sales, generous contributions were also made.

Precinct 2,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Precinct 2 is a Downstream Side of many surrounding counties, and we get 70% of everyone else's water. I supported the \$2.5 Billion flood bond election, but I want to make sure that we're using the money wisely.

The commissioner said that he works closely with the Harris County Flood Control District, to insure that new projects don't add to the flood problem. He said an important step the county took was to adopt the Atlas 14, an environmental regulation to control development and retention.

Garcia said one of the most important projects he has undertaken is ditch maintenance. He said his office has increased the linear feet of ditch maintenance and outfall grading almost 3 times what it has been in the past. Ineffective local drainage is by far the single most significant way to protect our neighborhoods from flooding. Garcia said that during

the lockdown mandated by the county, his public works staff has continued to work when possible, to send a message that the community will survive the pandemic and come out better in the future. He said that his precinct has bought new excavators for ditch work with the latest technology, to replace the older machines, so that he can continue the high pace of maintenance and preparation for all disasters in the county.

Pay Attention to Common Symptoms

BAYTOWN — (July 2, 2020) — Paying close attention to common aches, pains and rashes and not delaying treatment due to COVID-19 concerns can help prevent minor conditions from developing into more serious health threats.

“There are a lot of health problems that can be treated better when caught early,” said Dr. Sanjeeda Jabeen, board certified primary care physician at Houston Methodist Primary Care Group at Baytown. “Big problems usually start small, so it's worth paying attention to your body.”

Uncover clues about your health by taking a look at the following:

1. Your tongue should be pink and covered with small nodules. If you're noticing changes in appearance or pain in your tongue, it could be a sign of a bigger issue.
2. Your sweat is essential for keeping your body cool. But there are times when sweating is a sign of something more serious.
 - Sweating excessively may be a symptom of a condition called hyperhidrosis. People with hyperhidrosis may sweat so much that it soaks through their clothes or drips off their hands.
 - Being unable to produce sweat means the body can't cool itself (due to heat stroke, diabetes, a genetic disorder or something else), and immediate medical help is needed.
 - Heavy sweating that comes on suddenly could be a symptom of a heart attack, or it could be linked to metabolic issues, cancers, menopause and stress disorders.
3. Your urine's color can tell you about the general state of your health and your level of hydration.
 - Clear or transparent yellow urine indicates that you're well-hydrated.
 - Dark yellow or amber urine usually means that you should drink more water.



Dr. Sanjeeda Jabeen

- Pink or reddish urine may be due to blood in your urine, and could be related to urinary tract infections, prostate problems, kidney disease or something else.
- Dark-brown urine can indicate a liver disorder.
- Cloudy or milky urine can be a result of inflammation in the prostate or vagina, kidney stones, diabetes or a urinary tract infection.
- 4. Your nails can provide clues to your overall health. Nails that turn yellow or red could indicate nail fungus or even skin cancer. Clubbing of the nails, which is severe curving, can be a sign of lung disease or heart disease. Dimpling, splitting or indentation of the nails could point to psoriasis or an inflammatory skin disorder.
- 5. Your eyes are a reflection of many other aspects of your health. During an eye exam, your doctor checks for clues in the eyes that may point to conditions elsewhere in the body. Inflammation, damage or swelling within the eye may be a warning sign of diabetes, high blood pressure or inflammatory conditions, such as inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU NEED A DOCTOR NOW

Preventive care is more important than ever. This is especially true for vaccines that may have been put on pause

due to COVID-19 concerns and should now be pursued. Check with your primary care provider for scheduling necessary vaccines for you or members of your family.

You can also connect with a primary care physician virtually through telemedicine visits, including virtual urgent care, available through the MyMethodist app and E-Visits, same day sick visits conducted through an online form and guided message through the virtual care team. MyChart video virtual visits, similar to in-person appointments, are also available. Learn more by visiting houstonmethodist.org/virtual-urgent-care.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is open and caring for all of our community and has implemented the following enhanced safety measures in all of its doctors' offices and clinics in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the health and well-being of our patients:

- 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 (PPE) while providing patient care
- Reorganizing waiting rooms and check-in lines to ensure social distancing
- Implementing additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces
- To schedule an appointment with a Houston Methodist Baytown primary care physician, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 832-556-6936.

Don't Let Pain Keep You From Walking

BAYTOWN — (July 10, 2020) — Stay at home recommendations and other restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic have prompted many people to seek safer exercise options, like walking. But for those dealing with joint pain, this simple activity can be very difficult.

“Unfortunately, pain in one of the many joints, muscles and tendons involved in walking can sidetrack even the most determined walker's routine,” said Dr. Andrew Friedmann, an orthopedic surgeon specializing in foot and ankle surgeries at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. “A sore back, aching knees, stiff hip, tender ankle or throbbing toe can make taking a stroll difficult.” Fortunately, most common injuries are treatable. Friedmann offers information on injuries and condi-



Dr. Andrew Friedmann

tions that may have an impact on your ability to walk comfortably. Shin splints. Common in new walkers, shin splints includes pain in the lower leg. It may be caused by over striding or wearing heels that are too high. Plantar fasciitis. Plantar fasciitis can cause severe pain and occurs when the tissue connecting the heel bone to the base of the toes becomes inflamed. “Walkers who exhibit overpronation (rolling the foot

inward excessively with each step) may be prone to plantar fasciitis,” Friedmann added. Achilles tendon injuries. The Achilles tendon—the thick tendon that connects the heel and foot to the back of the calf muscles—can become inflamed or even rupture due to repetitive stress, an accident or injury, or improper footwear. Knee and hip pain. Pain in the knees and/or hips may be the result of arthritis, an accident or injury, inflammation or misalignment of the joints. Foot pain. Bunions, toe fracture or ill-fitting shoes can contribute to aching feet. “If you suffer from foot or ankle pain, walking can range from mildly or moderately uncomfortable to extremely agonizing. One of the simplest ways to prevent walking injuries is

to wear comfortable, sturdy shoes that have a low heel and flexible sole. Avoid high heels and shoes that are too tight, too loose or are old and have lost their inner support,” Friedmann said. Friedmann offers other preventive tips:

- Stretch your calves and shins before you start your walk.
- Start off slowly and increase walking speed gradually.
- Watch out for cracks, uneven areas or other obstacles on the sidewalk or walking path.
- Be aware of your surroundings and don't wear headphones (they can block out the sound of approaching traffic or bicyclists).
- Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Stay hydrated.
- Walk in a safe place, preferably with a walking

partner (or take the dog along for company). Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is open and caring for all of our community and has implemented the following enhanced safety measures in all of its doctors' offices and clinics in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the health and well-being of our patients:

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- Screening all patients upon arrival with temperature checks and an exposure questionnaire

- Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) while providing patient care

- Reorganizing waiting rooms and check-in lines to ensure social distancing
- Implementing additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces

 The offices of Houston Methodist Orthopedics and Sports at Baytown are located in the state-of-the-art outpatient center (1677 W. Baker Rd, suite 1701). In addition to foot and ankle conditions, our orthopedic surgeons specialize in total hip and knee joint replacements, hand and upper extremity conditions, rotator cuff problems and more. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 281-427-7400.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 478874; Estate of LUCILLE LA VALLEE Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on June 29, 2020.

LEGAL NOTICE

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The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for:

2020 AUTO LIABILITY/SCHOOL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Proposal forms will be available July 20, 2020 on the Barbers Hill ISD website or may be picked up Monday through Thursday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the BHISD Administration Building at 9600 Eagle Drive. Requests for additional information should be emailed to: kkunk@bhisd.net no later than July 27, 2020 at 11:00 am.

Sealed proposals are to be returned to the BHISD Administration Building on or before 1:30 p.m. on Friday, August 7, 2020.

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with proposers as deemed advisable or necessary.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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JAMES KNIGHT

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

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

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this July 8, 2020

Weston Cotten

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate



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★ **COMMUNITY NEWS** ★

Recovery Fund,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

upon approval, and 25 percent of the funds in November 2020.

"As the overwhelming demand for the forgivable loan program that I championed shows, far too many of our small businesses are struggling in a big way right now. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and have historically lifted up our community," said Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "As we face some of the most difficult challenges in a generation, it's time for county government to continue our support of local small businesses. I thank my fellow commissioners for voting in favor of the \$30 million fund, and I have confidence that HBDI will do an excellent job with the expedient and efficient administration of these funds. Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, and this program shows that we have their backs!"

The Small Business Recovery Fund will allocate 60 percent of its total funds to businesses with five or fewer employees. The grants do not need to be repaid, and can be used for a variety of operational costs such as payroll, payments to suppliers, rent/lease/mortgage expenses, and PPE.

"The effects of COVID-19 on our friends and neighbors throughout Harris County are immense and widespread – on our health, our families, our medical community and our economy," said Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle. "Harris County's response to this pandemic must recognize the need to address all these issues. With federal funding from the CARES Act, the Small Business Relief Fund is designed to help alleviate some of the stresses on small businesses through-

out Harris County. I encourage those eligible to take advantage of this program."

In early April, more than 7,000 businesses applied for assistance through the Harris County COVID-19 Forgivable Loan Program. Salon owner Naketha Ross was among the first businesses to receive funds, which will be applied to her lease and electricity bills. "It's good to know I have the funds I need for my business to help pay the rent and the largest expenses," Ross said. "This will help to hold me over until things gradually go back to normal."

All business types may apply to the SBRF grant program, including sole proprietorships, partnerships, self-employed individuals, nonprofits, and independent contractors.

"Helping small businesses survive the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic directly helps the working men and women employed by those small businesses," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis. "The need in our region is immense, but we will support as many of our vulnerable businesses as possible, fairly and transparently, so that the thousands of families who rely on small businesses continue to have the ability to pay their rent, feed their families, and make ends meet."

During the application window, grant applications can be submitted online 24/7 at www.harriscountysbrfund.org. Applicants will need business tax returns for 2018 or 2019; income and expenses for three months; articles of incorporation, business license, or DBA certificate; and W-2 statement, pay stubs, or personal tax return. Call 713-845-2476 for additional information.

Testing Sites,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lege-Southeast, 6815 Rustic, and Houston Community College-Felix Fraga, 301 N. Drennan St.

The sites don't require appointments and offer testing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until reaching its daily capacity of 250 tests.

Other UMMC sites opening weekdays are:

- UMMC Tidwell, 510 W Tidwell Rd., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Forest Brook Middle School, 7525 Tidwell Rd, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Cullen Middle School, 6900 Scott St., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and
- Griggs School, 801 Regional Park Dr., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

People needing information about UMMC test sites can call 1-866-333-COVID or visit ummcscreeing.com.

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The department operates two free drive-thru COVID-19 community-based testing sites open to anyone, regardless of symptoms. Each site has capacity for 650 tests per day and operates Monday through Saturday.

People can call the department's COVID-19 Call Center at 832-393-4220 between 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive an access code and directions to the nearest community-based site.

The department will offer testing at Bussey Elementary, 11555 Airline, Tuesday, July 14 through Friday, July 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until reaching its 250-test capacity.

It will open a one-day testing site Saturday, July 18, at Collins Elementary, 9829 Town Park Dr., from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until reaching its 250-test capacity. The site will offer

drive-thru and walk-up options on a first come, first served basis.

FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS

The health department is providing test kits, lab access and equipment to four local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) so they can expand their COVID-19 testing capacity. The centers and phone numbers people can call to set up testing appointments are:

- HOPE Clinic: 713-773-0803,
- Community Health Network - Scarsdale Family Health Center: 281-824-1480,
- Spring Branch Community Health Center: 713-462-6565,
- El Centro de Corazon: 713-660-1880,
- Avenue 360 Health and Wellness: 713-426-0027,
- Lone Star Circle of Care at the University of Houston: 346-348-1200 and
- Legacy Community Health: 832-548 5000.

FQHC patients pay what they can afford, based on income and family size, and are not denied services due to inability to pay or lack of insurance.

The department and its agency partners may shift locations and schedules of test sites to better meet community needs. Houstonians can visit HoustonEmergency.org/covid19 for current Houston test sites and information about stopping the spread of the virus.

Information obtained through testing, treatment or services will not be used against immigrants in their public charge evaluation.

Voting at the Crosby Library



At the Crosby Library, 339 Judicial District candidate Te'lva Bell has signs a little closer than other candidates as workers correct the curb for the new handicap ramp. The newly installed button for curbside service is also to be moved. The new telephone number for the library is 832-927-7790 and it is in business for curbside pick-up Mondays thru Thursdays 10 - 6, Friday 1p.m. - 6p.m. and Sat. 10-5.

Election Results,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

man resigned due to health issues as Harris County Clerk, her term would lapse in 2022. Andrea Duhon withdrew as Harris County Department of Education (at Large) School Trustee. The Harris County Democratic Precinct Chairs vote at County Executive Committee to be held on computer on August 15 to officially replace these two before the November 3 General Election.

In the U.S. Senate race, M.J. Hegar against Royce West to face incumbent Republican John Cornyn. This was a close race, with West winning 50.5% of the vote in Harris County.

For State Representative in District 142, popular incumbent Harold Dutton jr. was opposed by another local favorite, Jerry Davis. Dutton won with 52.32% of the vote.

Statewide, for Railroad Commissioner Roberto Alonzo opposed Chrystra Castaneda.

Justice Texas High Court of Appeals for Place 7, Tamika "Tami" Craft ran against incumbent Cheri Thomas.

A District Judge 339th Judicial District incum-

bent Te'lva Bell opposed Candace White.

The contest for District Judge 164 pitted Cheryl Thornton against Alexa Smoots-Thomas.

For the State board of Education District 6 Michelle Palmer opposed Kimberly McLeod.

The Republican Primary Runoff will determine who challenges Ed Gonzales for Harris County Sheriff. Paul Day and Joe Danna were the showdown most discussed for Republicans. Danna received 51.46% of the vote, and will face Gonzalez in November.

Another closely watched race, with much money spent on campaigning, was for U.S. Representative in District 22. Kathaleen Wall defeated Troy Nehls with 61.14% of the votes.

James Lombardino and Terry Adams were contestants for the First Court of Appeals.

US District 18 was a match of Robert Cadena against Wendall Champion.

The Justice of the Peace for Precinct 5 Place one saw Russ Ridgeway and Mike Wolfe.



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