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APRIL 12

SUNDAY

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years VOL. 44, NO. 14/15 TUESDAY, APRIL 7&14, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS

TO OUR READERS: The current Covid-19 Pandemic and other economic conditions have caused us to combine some issues change distribution to Pick-up locations. See page 2 for 50 locations where you can get a copy of the Northeast News, and page 4 for email subscriptions. We thank you for your continued support.

COVID-19 Cases as of April 9, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

4,601 POSITIVE **75 DEATHS** 739 RECOVERED

TEXAS

11,485 POSITIVE 223 DEATHS

UNITED STATES

475.749 POSITIVE 17,925 DEATHS 26,645 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

1,650,210 POSITIVE 100,376 DEATHS 368 669 RECOVERED

COVID-19 **RESOURCES**

CITY OF HOUSTON

832-393-4220

HARRIS COUNTY

713-634-1110 **ASK A NURSE**

PRE-SCREENING

HARRIS COUNTY

MD MEDICAL

1-888-776-5252 For Pre-srceening Aldine Mail Rte.

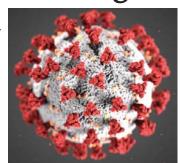
-19 Virus changed everyone's life

People around the world, including Harris County residents are experiencing the biggest changes in their whole life, due to the incredible spread of the Coronavirus known as COVID-19.

School closings, businesses and restaurants closed due to the public orders to "Stay Home Work Safe," financial markets in turmoil, and medical facilities overwhelmed with patients that are sick and dying are the signs of the path of destruction that this virus has wrought.

Starting in Wuhan China, it seemed that the

problems were far away, but modern lifestyles including worldwide travel, brought the deadly virus into hundreds of countries in just a few short weeks. Every country has fought the epidemic on their own terms, but with thousands sick and hun-



dreds dying, the World Health Organization soon labelled this disease a Pandemic.

In this country, federal officials and the President at first tried to minimize the threat and say that they had control of the disease, but eventually had to admit that there was a lack of medi-cines and medical supplies to properly deal with the problem.

In only a short time, since last February, Houston has seen a total of 1995 confirmed positive cases and 14 deaths. Harris County outside Houston has recorded 1052 cases and 20 deaths. Although the common flu is more prevalent each year than Covid-19, the new virus spreads faster

See COVID-19 Virus, page 3

More Test Sites now Open, Aldine Deputy one on Aldine Mail Route



ALDINE - The COVID-19 virus continues to affect the lives of most everyone, and whether you have symptoms or just worry, people are looking for ways to take a test for the disease. Throughout the city and county, a number of free or paid test sites have

See TEST SITES, page 3

SHEILA JACKSON LEE OPENS FOREST BROOK TEST SITE: Above Congresswoman Lee, Dr. Joseph Varon, and others at the opening of a free UMMC drive-thru testing site at Forest Brook Middle School on east Tidwell.

United Memorial Med Ctr. site at 510 w. Tidwell, does not require pre-screening. They have another site in Sugar Land.
 City of Houston call 832-393-4220 for pre-screening. Two

City of Housein Cail 32-37-37-42. To prescreening. Two sites are open, at Butler and Delmar Stadiums.
 Harris County has one site open in East Harris County, in the Baytown area, and another in the Katy area. Prescreening is done at readyharris.com or by calling 832-927-7575.
 MD Medical has opened a drive-thru test site at 5230 Aldine Mail Rte. and another in Cypress. Call 888-776-5252 for prescreening.

hospitalized with virus

ALDINE - One of the favorite deputies serving the East Aldine District has been hospitalized with the COVID-19 flu, according to the Sheriff's office.

Sgt. Ray Scholwinski was listed in the ICU unit, in critical condition, ac cording to Sheriff Ed Gonzalez.

Members of the Harris County Sheriff's office held a prayer vigil last Wednesday evening, and two of Scholwinski's sons attended. One read a note on behalf of the family, thanking the community for its sup-

Scholwinski is assigned to Precinct 2 in Humble, and has been with the Sheriff's office since 1994.



SGT. RAY SCHOLWINSKI

He is part of the contract deputy group that serves the East Aldine District. There are 13 deputies and 2 supervisors in the group. Scholwinski was a presenter of crime statistics at the

See Deputy, page 8

SAY "YES" TO CENSUS, BE COUNTED

HARRIS COUNTY -Since 1790, as mandated by the Constitution, Americans have come together every 10 years to be counted. This record of every person residing in the United States is important as it provides the basis for the reapportionment of congressional seats, redistricting, and distribution of over \$675 billion in vital annual federal funds to support state, county and community programs across the country. For perspective, it's estimated

that our community lost millions of federal funding because of undercounting. This is important for resi dents of Harris County. In 2020, let's make sure ev eryone counts!

CENSUS 101

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invi-tation to participate in Census 2020. There will be four options to complete: By phone, by mail, in person and, for the first time online. Respondents will also have the opportunity to complete the census on



Montrose Bridges over the Southwest Freeway were lighted in Yellow this week to mark CENSUS WEEK

YES! TO CENSUS 2020

To ensure we are not overlooked, the City of Houston and Harris County have created the YES! TO CENSUS 2020 campaign, a local initiative inviting families, friends and neighbors to show pride in our communities by responding to the census

HOW THE CENSUS BENEFITS **OUR COMMUNITY**

Federal funds, grants and support to states,

See YES TO Census,

MARKETPLACE - Please Mention the NORTHEAST NEWS when you visit our Advertisers.







713-595-1226 Veronica Sanches, Director of Services VSanches@haweshill.com

5333 Aldine Mail Rt.

Houston, TX, 77039

713-595-1232 Richard Cantu, Deputy Executive Director



Capt. Mike Koteras District II

911-Emergencies

PREMIERE & GINEMAS

Following guidance from local health officials, we are TEMPORARILY closed.

Stay up-to-date with re-opening information through our website at www.pccmovies.com and through our social media channels.

We'll see you back at the movies SOON!

Open for **Business?**

Let the community know you have take-out, curbside, delivery or in-store. We can list your information in our pages. Call for details.

Thank you.

NORTHEAST NEWS

713-266-3444

SCHOOL / COMMUNITY NEWS

ALDINE ISD SCHOOLS CLOSED Aldine ISD Superintendent Meets With Parent Advisory Committee□ **'UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE'**

Students to continue online learning□

Aldine ISD is committed to creating a safe learning environment. Today Āldine ISD has made the difficult decision to remain closed until further notice to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

All planned events, continue to provide healthalerts.

are officially canceled. Some events will be rescheduled or held virtually. Students will remain at home and will receive online learning and enrichment activi-

Aldine ISD will also

field trips, and activities breakfast and lunch pick-up. The district will provide the most recent updates related to the district's plans, preparations and up-to-date health information impacting our community www.aldineisd.org/

Aldine ISD Announces Learning Packet Pickup Schedule

To academically support students during the school closure, the Aldine ISD has developed learning packets for students in grades kinder-garten through grade 12. Families began picking up the packets on Thursday, April 2, 2020. The learning packets will be available every two weeks starting April 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1

The two goals are to: provide activities and learning opportunities for students PK-12 to minimize loss of learning; and

maintain relationships and connections with students and families during the school

The following packets will be available for pick

- Grade 2 (English and Spanish) Grades 3-5 (English

and Spanish) - Grades 6-8 (English

- Grades 9-10 (English only)

-- Grades 11-12 (English only)

Families do not need the learning packets if they already have access to the online resources found on the At-Home Learning Plan webpage (Plan de Aprendizaje en el Hogar) located on the district website, AldineISD.org. Families with internet access can download the packet from the At-Home Learning webpage (Plan de Aprendizaje en el Hogar). The goal is to reach families that do not have online access. The first packet consists of Week 1 activities reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. Each packet includes a total of 20 non-digital activities (five activities per subject area).

If you have any questions about the materials, please visit our Let's Talks webpage and "Teaching and Learning" from the menu options. You can

write your questions in English and Spanish.

Parents will not need to get out of their vehicles when they pick up the packets.

Pickup Locations: Aldine High School Aldine Middle Anderson Academy

Blanson CTE High ${\bf School}$ Carroll Elementary Carver High School

Davis High School Eisenhower High School Ermel Elementary

Escamilla Elementa-Francis Elementary

Garcia Middle Greenspoint Elemen-

Harris Elementary Jones Elementary Jones Middle School Kujawa Elementary MacArthur High School

Mead Middle Nimitz High School Shotwell Middle

Teague Middle

Despite limited in-person interaction, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTon-ya M. Goffney, met with district parents via Zoom for a virtual Superinten-dent Parent Advisory Committee meeting, hosted by the newly created Family and Community Engage ment department.

The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) department's goal is to elevate district pride by strengthening district partnerships and empowering families.

The FACE department hopes to empower Aldine ISD parents to become more effective advocates for their children," Sheleah D. Reed, APR, chief communications officer, said. "The department is also empowering stakeholders to create opportunities to work with Aldine ISD

schools and students." During the meeting, Dr. Martha Escalante, Family and Community Engagement Executive Director, introduced the newly created department and explained how each parent member will play a big part in helping prepare every Aldine ISD student

for success.

The Superintendent Parent Advisory Commit-tee is made up of parent liaisons from schools across the district. The committee will hold meetings with Dr. Goffney throughout the year.

Dr. Goffney assured parents that the Aldine ISD COVID-19 Task Force is continuing to work for all students during this time. The district is committed to transparency, collaboration, and hones-

Members of the executive leadership team were also able to share specific information and give parents updates about work being done on behalf of students during this disruption of school operations.

Dr. Todd Davis, chief academic officer, shared the latest additions to the



Aldine At-Home Learning website, developed by the Teaching and Learning department.

Beginning next week there will be five non-digi-tal lessons for all grade levels on the at-home site. Additionally, families will be able to pick up work packets at the Child Nutrition curbside meal sites next week. Dr. Davis reminded parents that the at-home learning website materials and lessons are supplemental activities and the work is not grad-

He also explained, the week of April 3, teachers and students will start using Schoology. Allowing teachers to provide lessons, communicate and give feedback to provide highquality interactive learning. Dr. Davis mentioned that students with disabilities will be using virtual ARD meetings moving forward and that there are supports on the at-home website to support extended learning for students.
"District staff are ad-

justing to this new normal to help support parents during this time," Dr. Goffney explained. "The athome learning tools are to help our students continue reading, learning and building their skills."

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa updated parents that Aldine ISD has distributed over 61,000 breakfast and lunch meals at the curbcampuses. Starting Monday, March 30, Child Nutrition Services will be providing breakfast and lunch pickup from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Families will be able to pick up six meals for each student on Mon-day and six meals for each student on Thursday. This change allows both families and staff to remain healthy and safe during meal pickup. Students will now receive an extra meal for the weekend.

Dr. Chapa also reminded the parents that from 9 a.m. to Noon on Friday, March 27, Aldine ISD has partnered with the Houston Food Bank to provide groceries to the community. The event will be held at M.O. Campbell Educational Center, 1865 Aldine Bender. There is no criteria for the food pickup, but it is first come first serve.

Parents on the committee had the opportunity to ask Dr. Goffney and other district leaders specific questions throughout the

meeting.
Dr. Goffney and her executive leadership team answered all parent questions about STAAR tests, community resources, updates for se-niors, and staying connected to the district

"We are truly balancing ensuring what is best for our Aldine students, while also following the rules and guidance of our gov-ernment officials," Dr. Goffney said

NORTHEAST * NEWS Pick-up Locations

Jed's Hardware & Paint 5415 Aldine Mail Rt Greenspoint Mall Greenspoint Drive Lone Star College - Greenspoint 250 Sam Houston Pkwy E. Lone Star College - East Aldine Aldine Mail Route 3000 Aldine Mail Route East Aldine District Office 5333 Aldine Mail Route RED BOX 5327 Aldine Mail Route Dance Town USA Bingo 7214 Airline Drive Pan Riko Bakery Aldine Mail Rt MacArthur High School Aldine Mail Rt

High Meadows Branch Library 4550 Aldine Mail Rt Prosperity Bank Eastex Fwy 3945 Little York Prosperity Bank Little York 1615 Little York

Prosperity Bank Aldine 1906 Aldine Bende Mobile Station 9140 Eastex Freeway Texaco Food Mart 9225 Eastex Freeway

11219 Eastex Freeway Handy Plus #69 11420 Eastex Freeway 12231 Eastex Freeway

Beasley Tire Eastex Freeway Dairy Queen E. Mt. Houston @ Eastex Fwy Ranchero King Buffet North Freeway

Mi Rancho 11132 Aldine Westfield Aldine ISD Services Office Aldine Westfield **Houston Discount Sales** 101 Little York & Airline Drive

You & I Grocery 8009 Airline Airline Grocery 8104 Airline Quick Mart 8320 Airline Harris County Branch Library 11379 Airline Medical Clinic

8002 Airline

Aldine High School Airline @ West Rd Las Banderas Meat Market 11381 Airline Food Store 1700 Airline

Pilgrim Place Apts 4655 Aldine Mail Rt Aldine Y.O.U.T.H Comm. Ctr. 4700 Aldine Mail Rt

Harvest Time Church Imperial Valley 7&9 Grocery 330 Gulf Bank K Stop Food Store 340 Gulf Bank Office Buildina Parker Road HC Senior Center

Hardy Road HC Senior Center Bentley HC Courthouse Annex^o Wil Clayton Parkway METRO Park & Ride

Eastex Freeway Stripes Aldine Bender Beltway 8 Travel Plaza N. Sam Houston Pkwy UT Health Clinic Crosstimbers @ Jensen Mannie's Seafood & Grille

E. Mt. Houston Maxim's Seafood Eastex Freeway Rosita's Restaurant Bentley Drive Shell Station Aldine C.J. Gas Station

Airline Drive Sol Restaurante Aldine Mail Route La Michoacana Market **Sellers Brothers** Little York

Food City Aldine Mail Route

And more... call 713-266-3444 if you would like to be on the list.

rev0919

Aldine ISD Curbside Meals **Information**

Starting Monday, March 30, Child Nutrition Services will be providing breakfast and lunch pickup from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Families will be able to pick up six meals for each student on Monday and four meals for each student on Thursday. This change allows both families and staff to remain healthy and safe during meal pickup.

If your student is not present for meal pickup, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) requires parents/guardians to show proof of enrollment in a school district.

Types of Proof of Enroll-Student ID Badge Student Report Card Student Attendance Re-

port/Record, or a Birth Certificate for Age.

H.U.D. Efficiency/ One Bedroom **Housing for** the Elderly and Disabled

• UTILITIES & APPLIANCES FURNISHED **ELIGIBILITY:**

Age 62 or older

Physically Disabled Very Low Income

To schedule an appointment

CALL 713-692-8541

APPLY TO: W. Leo Daniels Tower 8826 Harrell

Off Jensen between Berry Road & Aldine Westfield

(=)

Aldine ISD Approves New Guidelines For Class Rank

Class of 2020 rank and honors will be available Monday, April 6

The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees approved a resolution to establish updated guidelines that create local policy guiding class rank and honors during their March 24 board meeting. The action was taken to guide parents and students while the district is closed due to the COV-ID-19 pandemic. It is specific to students who are part of the Class of 2020.

"The approved resolution allows us to calculate class rank for the Class of 2020 based on all grade points earned from the ninth grade through the last day of the second nine weeks of the first semester of the students' senior year," said Chief of Schools Katy Roede. "This rank will be used to determine the valedictorian and salutatorians at each of our

high schools. Final class rank is often needed for students to complete college acceptance applications and scholarship re-

quests. "We want to ensure that Aldine ISD seniors are aware of their final class rank so that they can continue pursuing their plans post-high school graduation. While COVID-19 has impacted so many other parts of their senior year, we don't want to add anything else to their list of things to worry about," Roede said.

High school counselors will update and verify the information by April 6 and will communicate directly with stu-

Additional information related to grading guidelines, promotion and retention for all Aldine ISD students will be released over the next few weeks

Aldine ISD Annual Performance Report Hearing set for April 21 Board Meeting

Aldine ISD will hold a hearing for public dis-cussion of the annual report at the April 21 Board of Trustees meeting. According to TEA (Texas Education Agency) guidelines, a hearing must be held within 90 calendar days from January 6, 2020. Parents and property owners must be notified of the hearing.

The meeting will be at 10 a.m. in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building, 2520 W. W. Thorne Drive, Houston, TX.

State law stipulates that notification must include notice to a news paper of general circula tion in the district and notice to electronic me dia serving the district. This notice can be in the form of a press release or other announcement, but it must be made available to local print and electronic media (i.e. newspaper, radio and television). It must clearly state the date, time and place of the hearing and explain the nature of the hearing.

COMMUNITY

Pct. 2 expanding 'Homebound Senior Food' delivery program

New online portal and phone hotline will enroll qualifying seniors for daily hot meal delivery

Harris County, TX -With the thought that no one should go hungry during the current Harris County Stay-At-Home order, and because many in elderly population already have difficulties getting out anyway, Commissioner Adrian Garcia is expanding the existing home-bound senior daily free hot meal delivery program in Precinct 2. Any Precinct 2

resident who is age 60 or older possessing limited resources and is unable to leave their home due to illness, disability, or lack of mobility could qualify.

Seniors that qualify will receive daily, nutritious hot meals delivered directly to their door by Precinct 2 staff. Anyone who be-lieves they are eligible for this service is asked to register on an online form on the Harris Co. Precinct 2 website (www.hcp2.com/ programs/precinct-2-mealprogram). Those without internet access are asked to apply over the phone via $\,$

the Precinct 2 Hotline (713-274-2222) which is (713-214-2222) which is active Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Commissioner Adrian Garcia issued the following

statement:
"During this crisis, we

will not forget our most vulnerable residents of Precinct 2, such as homebound seniors. I have instructed my staff to expand our current homebound senior food delivery program by signing up any and all seniors who are struggling and are unable to leave their Precinct 2



Commissioner Adrian Garcia

ability, or lack of mobility. Our current program is great, but I know there is going to be an increasing need for help, and we are preparing to meet the de-

Eligibility

After submitting an ap-plication, a Harris County Precinct 2 representative will evaluate applicants' conditions. Evaluations will include assessing the ability to perform daily activities such as food preparations and shopping, how often the applicant leaves their home, as well

as their access to other as sistance services. Note: All information gathered is totally confidential, and records are kept at the Harris County Precinct 2 service provider's office.

People may qualify for

home deliveries if they are:
- Ages 60 and over.

- Homebound due to illness, disability, or frailty.

- Unable to prepare nourishing meals due to limited mobility, psychological, or mental impairment.

Without resources such as family and friends.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo extends "Stay Home Work Safe" order to April 30

March 31, 2020, As the region continues to see growth in COVID-19 cases, County Judge Lina Hidalgo today announced she will extend the county's Stay Home-Work Safe order to 11:59 p.m. on April 30. The order advises nonessential businesses to shut down and for residents to stay home except for essential activities.

"During this critically important time for our region, we need to maintain our efforts to drastically reduce public gatherings and activities," Judge Hidalgo said. "The increase in cases we have coming into our hospitals, the projections from our healthcare leaders show this is by no means the time to go back to normal. We all see

the case rate growing

Texas Medical Center CEOs commended the county's decision in a joint statement, saying the extension is necessary "to save lives and protect our patients, families and the

region."
The Stay Home-Work Safe order, which was first issued on March 24, allows "essential" businesses and

workers to continue operations as long as social-dis-tancing practices are in place. "The intent behind this order is to drastically limit public gathering and activities - a practice we know reduces the spread of COVD-19," Judge Hidalgo said. "Any uncertaintiesthat arise from this order should be resolved in favor of staying home or staying

On Monday, Ready Har-ris launched an online dashboard showing the to-tal number of confirmed cases and deaths due to COVID-19, the disease caused by Coronavirus. Additionally, the county has deployed an online screening tool to help residents determine if a COVD-19 test is warrant-

Violations of the Stay Home-Work Safe order are subject to fines and up to 180 days in jail. Please seek legal counsel if you are unsure if a certain business, service, or function is considered essential. The order may also be clarified based on Gover-nor Abbott's order on essential businesses

COVID-19 Virus,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and is more virulent. therefore more dangerous, say the medical experts. The U.S. has experienced 475,485 cases of the virus, with 17.925 deaths. Experts at the Center for Dis-Control Washington have predicted that the toll might rise above 1,000,000 deaths, and the president conjectured that it might be 2,000,000. But in a strange viewpoint, he said that would be a victory, since the toll could be higher.

Without a vaccine to defeat the virus, medical professionals are telling the public that the only way to control the spread is to stay 6 feet away from others, wash hands thorough-ly and often, clean surfaces and don't touch them un-less necessary, and control your cough and cover it with a clean tissue.

Since the development of an effective vaccine may be months or years away, hospitals are trying to ease the severity of the disease in those affected with ventilators for their lungs, and

medicines made for other purposes but showing some success in treating this virus.
In addition most local

and federal governments have severely restricted travel, whether it is a Stay Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, or a forced 14-day quarantine for travelers arriving from outside the U.S. borders.

Although most families and individuals are not used to this type of restric-tion and find it uncomfortable and abhorent, nevertheless the guidelines are being followed by most of the population, and experts say it is having an affect on the rate of spread of the disease. The fact that essential services, such as groceries, fuel, and medical services are still available ease the minds of most people. However, experts have noted that stress and domestic violence have risen in situations such as this, and warn people to seek help, or find diversions

such as physical exercise to help control the stress.

Authorities such as Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia have warned that East Harris County is especially vulnerable to the health problems related to the COVID-19 virus. This is because of the age of the population, the existing pollution in the environment, and the notorious lack of medical services in this area. He cautioned all residents to take extra care to follow CDC and County guidelines, such as "social distancing." He asked any-one with a special problem to contact his office for

more help.
Deadlines for elections, sports events, school and businesses re-openings, and social distancing have been pushed back several times, now extending through May in many cases, or longer. It remains to be seen how deadly this disease will be, and how soon life will return to normal. Citizens are filled with expectation and hope that it will all be over soon.

YES to Census,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

counties and communities are based on accurate census statistics like population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Our community benefits when we have more clinics, better schools, safe roads, and an expanding workforce. High-quality census data gives community leaders important information needed to make decisions about building community centers, opening business-es, and planning for the future. Standing up and being counted is an impor-tant way for individuals to impact where money to build and improve infrastructure is allocated across the U.S. This information is also critical to local disaster and emergency preparedness fund-

YOUR BUSINESS CAN HELP

The census is the basis for distributing grants for economic development and informs decisions, such as local business expansion and

We encourage business owners, as trusted voices in your community, to spread the word about YES! TO CEN-SUS 2020 by printing and posting signage found in the marketing toolkit (includes multiple languages, tem-plates, Instagram carousel, flyers, emails, postcards and fact sheets). Find materials specific to your customer and community base, including: children, African American, Chinese, Persons with certain disabilities, Hindi-speakers, Hispanic, LGBTQ+, Non-Hispanic White, Urdu-speakers, Vietnamese

Partners, like you, are critical to the success of a complete and accurate count in 2020. You have the chance to educate your community about Census 2020 and encourage citizens to respond. The census data is used in a multitude of ways and impacts funding and services around housing, education, transportation, and employment. Understanding the importance of this initiative is critical to our future as a city county, state and nation.

GET THE WORD OUT: SAFETY & TRUST

Please help your community understand there is no jeopardy in completing the 2020 Census. Responses will be safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Answers to the 9 simple questions (like age, sex, and the number of peo-ple who live in your home-including children) can only be used to produce statistics. Responses cannot be used against them by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

Also important to note, the census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, mon ey or donations, or anything related to political parties.

If you have need for print-ed materials, they can be picked up at 8410 Lantern Point Dr., Houston, TX 77054. Please send your request to check out materials to Janeen Spates at, een.Spates@csd.hctx.net

Free Meals by Precinct 2 at centers and parks, schools

ing COVID-19

The safety and well-being of our communities come first in Precinct 2. We understand that during this time food accessibilitv can be limited due to vacant grocery stores. To help, Harris County Precinct 2 is hosting a food distributions at parks (children only) and community centers (all ages) Below you will find flyers and information about what's taking place this week (week of April 6th)

FREE KIDS LUNCHES AT PARKS

Happening at 5 parks

Drive-thru style and on a first come, first serve ba-

Parents MUST bring their kids in order to receive them

For lunches at our community centers

Taking place at 9 Precinct 2 Community Cen-

Meal Distribution dur- Drive-thru style and on county by visiting the a first come, first serve ba-

For individuals of all

Must be present to receive lunch

Be sure to also follow Harris County Precinct 2 on social media for more information and updates on other resources available to you.

OTHER FOOD DISTRI-BUTIONS The Houston Food

Bank, school districts, as well as other organizations are working together to host food distributions in various areas, in efforts to address the food insecurity while following social distancing procedures for the safety of the community. Are you or someone you know in need of food? Perfect! This blog is for you. We have put together a list of meal distribution locations for those in need dur-

ing this difficult time. Note: You can also find local pantries across the

Houston Food Bank's website, or call their helpline

ALDINE ISD Starting Monday,

March 30, Child Nutrition Services will be providing breakfast and lunch pickup from 10 a m to 1 p m Families will be able to pick up six meals for each student on Monday and four meals for each student on Thursday. This change allows both families and staff to remain healthy and safe during meal pickup.

to be present for meal pickup, however, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) requires parents/ guardians to show proof of enrollment in a school district through an ID badge, report card, attendance report/record, or birth certificate for students under school age.

Students no longer have

Test Sites,

ing at an escalating count the third site she has positive cases of COVID-19 flu, according to health area around Harris County has registered about 4,600 cases, as shown in the chart, and about 75 deaths. These figures have doubled in just a few days.

The county area has about a dozen locations where people can get tested for the virus. The most recent are located at 5230 Aldine Mail Route and in Cypress. MD Medical. which has clinics in both locations, will test you for free if you have insurance, or \$165 without. Prescreening is required, by calling 1-888-776-5252. Results are texted to the patient in a day or so. Tests are available Monday thru

Friday, 8am to 5pm. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee opened a third private drive-thru test site at Forest Brook Middle School last Thursday. working with UMMC, the United Memorial Medical Center. Testing at this site is free, and does not re-

Harris County is look- quire prescreening. This is available in a few days. opened in the area, including a site at 510 West Tidwell and another at the Smart Financial Centre in Sugarland.

Jackson said "We have done this to save lives.' She said the choice of Forest Brook Middle School as a site was because census data indicated a high number of senior citizens who live in the area.

The Congresswoman said the sites she has worked to open are meant to compliment the city and county-backed testing sites that have also opened in recent days.

About 3,000 people have been tested since the first UMMC testing site opened, officials said. Each site can test about 250 persons per day. They are open from Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm. About 9% of the tests have come

back positive, officials said. People with symptoms are allowed to go to the testing sites, where they will be screened before being tested. Results are

Sheila Jackson Lee has also participated in A few "pop-up" test sites for seniors and First Responders. On Monday of this week, she was at the community center in Jacinto City, where she helped test firemen, police and other first responders.

Authorities are reminding everyone of the need to follow the "Stay Safe" rules: wash your hands. keep a social distance from everyone, and stay at home, not in public. Only those who are conducting "essential business" should be away from home.

Testing for anyone with the symptoms of the virus, which include a fever over 100.4 degrees, a dry cough, difficult breathing, chills, runny/stuffy nose, shortness of breath, sore throat, recent international travel, or exposure to someone suspected of having the virus or reasons for getting a test. This will allow you to get treatment, and give the health authorities information about the spread

OPINION PAGE



Harris County Surpassing 1,000 Cases of COVID-19, 13 Fatalities□

"Today, our county reached a grim milestone. Within Harris County, including the City of Houston, more than 1,000 residents have now tested positive. Deaths have now entered the double-digits - 13 people have had their lives stolen by COVID-19. We know it is easy to feel powerless against this virus, an invisible force responsible for so much hardship across our region. The truth is, we are not powerless. For those of you at home, distancing and protecting your community - thank you. That simple act of staying physically apart from others is making a difference by saving lives - among the vulnerable and strong alike. Those same actions will help us get past this surge in cases sooner so that we can go back to normal and our economy can get back on track as soon as possible. As we have with every other challenge we have faced, we will emerge stronger when this is over- but the only way to get there is together.'

Harris County Judge Lina **Hidalgo Extends Stay at** Home, Work Safe Order to April 30

These past few weeks, our lives have been uprooted as our community has taken crucial and extensive measures to protect ourselves from the COVID-19 epidemic. We have declared a public health emergency in Harris County. Large gatherings have been canceled, schools have closed their doors, and we have ordered restaurants to close their dining rooms. Those who are able to do so are working from home, many juggling full-time jobs and caring for and homeschooling their children. Too many are without a job and struggling to make ends meet. Countless others, from medical professionals to grocery store employees, are on the job risking their health and working harder than ever, preparing for what is yet to come

While I know this is an incredibly difficult time, we are in a crucial moment in which our sacrifices will save the lives of our relatives. neighbors, and friends. Everyone must play their part to help us stop the spread of Coronavirus. Only by stopping the spread of the virus will we keep our healthcare system from being overwhelmed and ensure that we get over this crisis and back to normality as soon as possible.

The number of COVID-19 cases within Harris County continues to quickly grow, and we must $continue\ to\ do\ everything\ possible\ to\ temper\ these$ $numbers.\ On\ Tuesday,\ I\ {\bf extended\ the\ manda}$ tory Stay Home-Work Safe order for Harris County. The order closes non-essential businesses and stops non-essential activities through April 30. This decision, and any other decisions we make, are based on science and data. Our North Star is the advice we are getting from our hospital leaders, who tell us rates are going up too quickly, but we are still in time to fare better than what we are seeing in other communities if we all do our part.

Please, follow the order and stay home as much as you possibly can. Keep practicing social distancing and following community guidelines. Support our local restaurants by ordering takeout or delivery. If you can, donate to the Greater $Houston\ COVID\text{-}19\ Recovery\ Fund\ to\ help\ our$ most vulnerable residents in this critical time of need. Stay informed by visiting the Ready Harris website for COVID-19 information, updates, and resources. Take some time to fill out your census. And take care of yourself — reach out for help if you or someone you know needs it.

We are in this together and we will beat this together. Stay strong.

NORTHEAST*NEWS

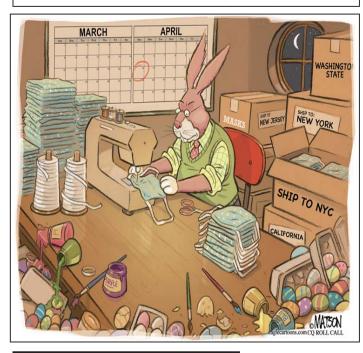
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Abbott calls on Texans to help limit spread of coronavirus

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on April 1 posted an online video message seeking Texans' individual and collective help to reduce the spread of the deadly new coronavirus, COVID-19.

In the message, Abbott requires all Texans to stay home unless they are participating in an essential service or activity, such as going to a grocery store. "Now I know this is a great sacrifice and we must respond to this challenge with strength and with resolve. By following social distancing practices, we will slow the spread of COVID-19. We will save lives. And we will make it through this challenge together. Thank you and God bless you all," he said.

On April 3, Abbott joined other high-ranking state officials in a news conference, saying that hospital bed availability in Texas had increased by more than 140% since March 18. Every Texan who needs a hospital bed will have access to one, Abbott said.

On April 4, Abbott called Dr. Anthony Fauci of the White House Coronavirus Task Force and discussed the importance of adhering to federal guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Abbott talked about "a uniform standard among Texans" to stay home unless performing an essential service or activity as well as other actions the state of Texas has taken to combat the virus. The two also discussed the trajectory of COVID-19 in Texas, the importance of contin-ued social distancing through April 30 and the expansion of COVID-19 testing in Texas

Abbott issued earlier executive orders to:

Expand hospital bed capacity, directing all licensed health care professionals and facilities to postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not immediately, medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition or to preserve the life of a patient;

—Suspend regulations to allow for increased occupancy of hospital rooms;

—Suspend regulations to increase the number of emergency medical services personnel;

—Require hospitals to submit daily reports of hospital bed capacity to the Texas Department of State Health Services; and

—Waive certain hospital licensing rules. On March 29. Abbott announced a joint effort of the state, the Texas Military Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify and equip additional locations to serve as health care facilities if hospital capacity is exhausted.
Abbott announced the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas as the first of such sites.

According to figures posted by the state health department at noon on April 5, some 6,182 people in Texas had been diag-nosed with COVID-19 and 127 deaths resulting from the disease had been confirmed

Revenue increases in March

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on April 2 announced totaled \$2.69 billion in March, 2.9% more than the amount reported in March

The modest growth in state sales tax revenue was led by collections from the retail trade sector, while collections from oil- and gasrelated sectors declined from a year ago, Hegar said

SPANISH



Superintendente de AISD se reunió con el Comité Asesor de Padres de Familia

A pesar de la limitada nteracción en persona, la Superintendente de Aldine ISD, la Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney, se reunió con los padres del distrito a través de la aplicación Zoom para una reunión virtual de su comité asesor, organizada por el recientemente creado lepartamento de Participación de la Familia y la Comunidad.

El objetivo del departamento de Participación de la Familia y la Comunidad (FACE) es exaltar el orgullo del distrito mediante el fortalecimiento con asociaciones, y el empoderamiento de las

"El departamento de FACE espera capacitar a los padres de Aldine ISD para que se conviertan en promotores eficaces de sus hijos", refirió Sheleah D. Reed, APR, Jefa de Comunicaciones. "El departamento también capacita a las partes interesadas para crear oportunidades para trabajar con las escuelas y estudiantes de Aldine ISD".

Durante la reunión, la Dra. Martha Escalante, Directora Ejecutiva de Participación de la Familia y la Comunidad explicó cómo cada miembro desempeñará un papel importante en la formación y éxito de cada alumno de Aldine ISD.

El Comité Asesor de Padres del Superintendente está compuesto por enlaces de padres en escuelas de todo el distrito. El comité mantendrá Goffney durante todo el año.

La superintendente aseguró a los padres que la Fuerza



COVID-19 creada por Aldine ISD continúa trabajando para todos los estudiantes durante este tiempo. El distrito está comprometido con la transparencia, la colaboración y la honestidad.

Los miembros del equipo de liderazgo ejecutivo compartieron información específica y dieron a los padres actualizaciones sobre el trabajo que se realiza en nombre de los alumnos durante esta interrupción de operaciones escolares.

El Dr. Todd Davis, director académico, compartió las últimas adiciones al sitio web de Aldine *At-Home Learning*, desarrollado por el departamento de enseñanza y aprendizaje.

A partir de la próxima semana, habrá cinco lecciones no digitales para todos los niveles de grado en At-Home Learning. Además, las familias podrán recoger paquetes de trabajo en los de comida para llevar en la acera del edificio de Nutrición Infantil la próxima semana. El Dr. Davis recordó a los padres que los materiales y las lecciones del sitio web de aprendizaje en el hogar son actividades

complementarias y que el trabajo no es calificado.

También explicó que la semana del 3 de abril los maestros y estudiantes comenzarán a usar el servicio virtual para educación Schoology. Permitir que los maestros den lecciones, se comuniquen y expresen su opinión para ofrecer un aprendizaje interactivo de alta calidad. Así mismo mencionó que los estudiantes con discapacidades usarán reuniones virtuales de ARD en el futuro y que hay apoyos en el sitio web en el hogar para apoyar el aprendizaje extendido para los estudiantes.

"El personal del distrito se está adaptando a esta nueva normalidad para ayudar a los padres durante este tiempo" explicó la Dra. Goffney. "Las herramientas de aprendizaje en el hogar son para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes a continuar levendo aprendiendo y desarrollando sus habilidades"

La superintendente adjunta, Dra. Selina Chapa, informó a los padres que Aldine ISD ha distribuido más de 61,000 alimentos de desayuno y almuerzo en escuelas designadas. A partir del lunes

30 de marzo, los Servicios de Nutrición Infantil repartirán el desayuno y el almuerzo de 10 a.m. a 1 p.m. Las familias podrán recoger seis comidas para cada estudiante el lunes y seis comidas para cada estudiante el jueves. Este cambio permite que tanto las familias como el personal permanezcan sanos y seguros durante la recolección de la comida. Los estudiantes ahora recibirán una comida extra para el fin de semana

La Dra. Chapa también recordó a los padres que desde las 9 a.m. hasta el mediodía del viernes 27 de marzo, Aldine ISD se ha asociado con el Banco de Alimentos de Houston para comunidad. El evento tendrá lugar en el Centro Educativo M.O. Campbell, 1865 Aldine Bender. No existe un criterio específico para la recolección de alimentos pero es por orden de llegada

Los padres en el comité tuvieron la oportunidad de hacer preguntas específicas a la superintendente y otros líderes del distrito durante la

La Dra. Goffney y su equipo de liderazgo ejecutivo respondieron todas las preguntas de los padres sobre las pruebas STAAR, los recursos de la comunidad, las actualizaciones para personas mayores y cómo ma conectados con el distrito.

"Estamos equilibrando lo que es mejor para nuestros estudiantes de Aldine, al mismo tiempo que seguimo las directrices y la orientación de nuestros funcionarios gubernamentales", concluyó la Dra. Goffney.

ENTERTAINMENT

Two Aldine ISD High School Musical Theater **Productions Earn Tommy Tune Award Nominations**

Carver High School for Engineering, Applied Tech-nology, and the Arts and Eisenhower High School's theater departments are ecstatic! Theater Under the Stars (TUTS) recently announced the 2020 Tommy Tune Awards nominations. The schools' respective spring productions of Sister Act and The Wiz earned a total of nine Tommy Tune nominations.

Meals for Monday, Tuesday,

and Wednesday

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Meals for Thursday and

 $The Tommy \, Tune \, Awards$ Program celebrates the educational value, artistry, and community of high school musical theatre in the Greater Houston area. After evaluating the 46 participating Houston-area high school productions during the 2019-2020 school year, a team of 36 Houston based theatre professionals nominated students in 15

award categories.
This is Carver's sixth time to receive the Best Musical nomination.

The Carver production had students from Anderson Academy and Drew Academy form part of the ensem ble. Theater Director Roshunda Jones and Technical Director Jabari Collins thank everyone who formed part of the production. Instructor Sarita Salinas Brianna McCray, Armani Brown (a Carver HS senior). and alumnus Denzel Taylor were the choreographers. Theater volunteer Pamela Dickson served as the musical director. The vocal coach was Carol Stone, and the sound designer was Zavion Milburn, a Carver HS senior. Instructor Michael McCullough led the orchestra comprised of alumni Ivan Geters, Shawn Gonzalez, and Favio Guzman. The costume designers were senior Sanaa Hill and volun-

teer Linda Fleming.
Crystal Rose is the theater director at Eisenhower

2020 Tommy Tune Award Nominations for AISD

- Best Musical:
- Carver HS, Sister Act Leading Actress: Carver HS, Jocelyn Dorsey



Carver HS' musical production of "Sister Act" is a 2020 Tommy Tunes Awards nominee for Best Musical. The production is up for seven other category nominations.



Eisenhower HS's Ashlynn McCutcheon is a 2020 Tommy Tune Awards Supporting Actress nominee for her roles as Evilene

Carver HS Charters Student Chapter of the

United States Institute for Theatre Technology

as "Deloris Van Cartier" in Sister Act

- Supporting Actress: Eisenhower HS, Ashlynn McCutcheon as "Evilene" / Glinda" in The Wiz
- Featured Performer: Carver HS and Aldine Dance Company as the Carver and Aldine Dance Company in Sister Act
- High School Sister Act Orchestra: Carver $High\ School, Sister\ Act$

Ensemble: Carver

- Musical Direction: Carver High School, Sister
- Choreography: Carver High School, Sister Direction: Carver
- High School, Sister Act

The Tommy Tune Awards show, initially scheduled for April 28 at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, has been canceled, due to the national health crisis

"As we follow the lead of state and city health officials to keep our city's students safe, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Tommy Tune Awards show this year," said TUTS Community Engagement Director Israel Jimenez.

The winners will be announced via a specially-created video on the Tommy Tune Awards Facebook page and the TUTS You Tube channel on April 28 at

7:30 p.m. In addition to these awards, the Tommy Tune Awards Program awards scholarships to graduating seniors who plan to pursue a career in the arts.

The Tommy Tune Awards offers an opportunity for students and educators to share their creative accomplishments while instilling in young people the value of engaging in the per-forming arts as a lifelong

pursuit. Tommy Tune Awards are named for Broadway legend, a Houston native and Lamar High School alumnus Tommy Tune, A performer, director, and choreographer with more than 50 years of stage experience, Tune received nine Tony Awards for his work in the following productions: Seesaw, My and Only A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine, Nine, Grand Hotel and The Will Rogers Follies.

He was also awarded the

National Medal of Arts in

2003 by President Bush.

The department of theater at Carver HS for Engineering, Applied Technology and the Arts chapter of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT). The campus is making history. Carver is the first school to have a USITT student chapter in the Al-

dine Independent School Formed in 1960, USITT is an organization that connects performing arts design and technology

communities to ensure a dialog among practitioners, educators, and students. The student chapter offers students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of theater technology, adopt service projects, and connect with other student chapters and professionals in the field of theatre design and technology. Today, the Institute boasts thousands of members at all levels of their

The Carver High School USITT student chapter currently has 20 members.



Carver HS charters a USITT student chapter. It is the first USITT chapter in Aldine ISD. Jabari Collins, the technical theater director at the campus, will serve as the mentor.

Jabari Collins, the technical theater director at the campus, will serve as the mentor.

Carver USITT Chapter Officers

President - Zavion Milburn, senior Vice President — Imani

Titus, senior Secretary - Alyssa Vincent, senior Treasurer - Alexis

Stewart, senior At-Large — Ericah Rhodes, senior

Roshunda Jones, Carver HS theater director, sees

the USITT student chapter as another way to give students more opportunities.

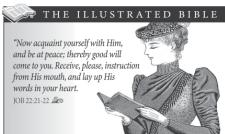
"I'm proud of our stu-dents who worked diligently to start a chapter on our campus," Jones said. "Having this chapter benefits the students by providing them with access to an extensive network of professionals in the field of entertainment design and production, as well as the latest technology, educa-tional opportunities, and scholarships."

CHURCH PAGE

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TEACHERS

TEACHERS

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Incentive Pay for Recruiting Teachers

Early Bird Referrals (Refer a teacher by June 1, 2020) An incentive will be paid to current Aldine employees who recruit certified teachers. The teacher recruited by an

Indicate current employee's name (person who referred them) on their teacher application

- Receive his/her job offer and accept the offer by June 1, 2020 Be a current employee in good standing during the time that the incentive is paid

The employee receiving the incentive payment must be employed with Aldine ISD at the time the incentive is paid. The incentive will be paid in October 2020.

- Early Bird Referral incentives paid are:

 7th-12th Grade Science Teachers: \$1,000
 7th-12th Grade Math Teachers: \$1,000
 7th-12th Grade EA.1 Teachers: \$1,000
 Billingual Teachers: \$1000

 - Nurses: \$1,000 All other certified teachers: \$600

Referring a Teacher After June 1

pipoyee must:

Indicate current employee's name (person who referred them) on their teacher application

Be a current employee in good standing during the time that the incentive is paid

The employee receiving the incentive must be employed with Aldine ISD at the time the incentive is paid. The incentive will be paid in October or March (based on when the referred teacher joins Aldine ISD).

The following employees do not qualify for incentive pay for recruiting teachers:

• Human Resources Professional Staff

- **Executive Leadership Team Members** *Principals are not eligible to receive incentive pay for teachers they recommend to hire at their school. They are eligible if they refer teachers to other schools.

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Revised Notice of Draft Federal Operating Permit

Draft Permit No.: O1824

Application and Draft Permit. Royal Baths Manufacturing Company, 14635 Chrisman Rd, Houston, TX 77039-1116, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Federal Operating Permit (herein referred to as Permit) No. O1824, Application No. 29969, to authorize operation of the Chrisman Road Facility, an All Other Plastics Product Manufacturing facility. The area addressed by the application is located at 14635 Chrisman Rd in Houston, Harris County, Texas 77039-1116. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to the application. You can find an electronic map of the facility at:

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.928888&Ing=-95.363611&zoom=13&type=r. This application was received by the TCEQ on January 21, 2020.

The purpose of a federal operating permit is to improve overall compliance with the rules governing air pollution control by clearly listing all applicable requirements, as defined in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10). The draft permit, if approved, will codify the conditions under which the area must operate. The permit will not authorize new construction. The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and has made a preliminary decision to prepare a draft permit for public comment and review. The executive director recommends issuance of this draft permit The permit application, statement of basis, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, First Floor, Austin, Texas 78753; the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk St Ste H, Houston, Texas 77023-1452; and at

beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The draft permit and statement of basis are available at the TCEQ Website

www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tvnotice

At the TCEQ central and regional offices, relevant supporting materials for the draft permit, as well as the New Source Review permits which have been incorporated by reference, may be reviewed and copied. Any person with difficulties obtaining these materials due to travel constraints may contact the TCEQ central office file room at (512) 239-2900.

Public Comment/Notice and Comment Hearing. Any person may submit written comments on the draft permit. Comments relating to the accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness of the permit conditions may result in changes to the draft permit.

A person who may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the permitted area may request a notice and comment hearing. The purpose of the notice and comment hearing is to provide an additional opportunity to submit comments on the draft permit. The permit may be changed based on comments pertaining to whether the permit provides for compliance with 30 TAC Chapter 122 (examples may include that the permit does not contain all applicable requirements or the public notice procedures were not satisfied). The TCEQ may grant a notice and comment hearing on the application if a written hearing request is received within 30 days after publication of the newspaper notice. The hearing request must include the basis for the request, including a description of how the person may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the application area. The request should also specify the conditions of the draft permit that are inappropriate or specify how the preliminary decision to issue or deny the permit is inappropriate. All reasonably ascertainable issues must be raised and all reasonably available arguments must be submitted by the end of the public comment period. If a notice and comment hearing is granted. all individuals that submitted written comments or a hearing request will receive written notice of the hearing. This notice will identify the date, time, and location for the hearing.

Written public comments and/or requests for a notice and comment hearing should be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ and be received within 30 days after the date of newspaper publication of this notice. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record.

A notice of proposed final action that includes a response to comments and identification of any changes to the draft permit will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments, a hearing request, or requested to be on the mailing list for this application. This mailing will also provide instructions for public petitions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to request that the EPA object to the issuance of the proposed permit. After receiving a petition, the EPA may only object to the issuance of a permit which is not in compliance with the applicable requirements or the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 122.

Mailing List. In addition to submitting public comments, a person may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Chief Clerk for this

Information. For additional information about this permit application or the permitting process, please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Public Education Program, MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, uede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained for Royal Baths Manufacturing Company by calling Mr. Caesar Hage at (281) 442-3400.

Notice Issuance Date: March 19, 2020

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2002
• New Covenant Missionary Church, 2202 Aldine Bender Rd. 281-987-7170

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ton, 77026. 713-635-3025. • Temple de Poder, 10912 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-372-1060 • Tomb of Jesus, 1301 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-987-1371

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Aldine ISD's Mariachi Acero Opens Rodeo Houston's Go Tejano Day



The group received an incredible opportunity taking center stage before

HOUSTON RODEO -Two days before an unprecedented number of cancellations of many Houston events due to COVID-19, the Aldine Independent School Dis-trict's Mariachi Acero group was given the spot-light at the Houston Live-

stock Show and Rodeo. Mariachi Acero is made up of 18 students from across AISD. The group performed a mariachi rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner to kick off the performances at Rodeo Hous-ton's Go Tejano Day on

Sunday, March 9, 2020. Since its establishment, Go Tejano Day attracts some of the largest crowds every year, frequently breaking attendance breaking attendance records. This year was no

Aldine High School junior and singer for Mariachi Acero, Ximena Rodarte, recounted the emotional moment immediately following the performance

"It's hard to believe that I sang the beautiful star-spangled banner in front of thousands of people for such an important event. My joyful tears were the outcome of how phenomenally my mariachi bandmates and I performed. Our endless rehearsals and hard work really did pay off."

Go Tejano Day has be-come one of the Houston Rodeo's hottest tickets. The day celebrates the "vaquero" cowboy culture of Mexico, along with the cattle ranching traditions of the American West.

The rodeo's musical acts are where you can hear these different cultural traditions. The committee invites a plethora of Spanish-language artists of different musical genres that draw massive crowds each

year. Before Mariachi Acero's big performance, the group performed as the guests of honor in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's 29th annual Mariachi Invitational, where professional and collegiate mariachi bands from the U.S. and Mexico compete to win a spot in the musical lineup for the Go Tejano

Day musical performances. For more information about AISD's Mariachi Acero, contact Refugio Rodríguez

rarodriguez@aldineisd.org

Deputy contracts virus,

last Sheriff's Forum held meet. Ther's not a single in February at the East Aldine offices.

Capt. Mike Koteras, patrol head for Precinct 2, said "He is just the best of the best and we love him to death, ray is that special

person that would ever say anything negative about Raymond.

Koteras continued, "he and his wife and kids are just a wonderful family and we're praying and we're asking for prayers from everybody."

Sheriff Gonzalez said that his office has been hit hard with virus cases with 33 confirmed cases as of last week. Gonzalez said "we're very worried about all of them and their fami-

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East Aldine District COMMUNITY

Spotlight on Board Member Joyce Wiley

Wiley Leads Economic Development Committee into 2020

March 4th, 2020 | Community, Economic Development

Well it's the first year of a new decade, so it's a good time to check in on some of East Aldine's big picture trends and the economic development of the business community. Who better to check in with than Joyce Wiley, East Aldine District board member and chair of the District's Business and Economic Development Committee?

Wiley spoke to our reporter about some of the boxes already ticked off the District's to-do list and gave a general progress report on a few more goals she and the committee are working toward in helping East Aldine prosper and thrive in the '20s.

EAMD: Now that ground has broken on the district building, how is the economic development strategic plan shaping up?



Joyce Wiley: Yes, the construction project on the building got started on January 8, after the holidays. Weather permitting, we hope to have it completed by March, 2021. As for the plan, hopefully we'll have it completed by this summer. Even though we don't have the plan in hand, we've had several meetings on it. about what we'd like to see. For example, one of the things that we'd like is to have a true inventory of what is in the area, what we have to work with when we look to expand

We recently hired Michelle Morris as our

Real Estate Consultant and she has given us an exact tally of all of the businesses, all of the strip centers, all of the raw land available in the community, and she finds out who the owners are and what their plans are and familiarizes them with the district.

EAMD: Any developments in residential real estate?

JW: We found that one of the things that was most needed in the area was single family housing. We have partnered with someone who has started developing single-family housing inside the community in a couple of different areas. We wanted to keep the community true to single-family housing so he is working with us on that. There are two different developments going on in two different locations but also, on the perimeter, on the Beltway, he's putting in a multi-family development. This will give people who want to come into the community more

EAMD: I understand y'all are participating in the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Livable Centers Study.

JW: The Livable Centers Study is on schedule to begin in March. That's a process. They go through the scoping in February, and the release of the request for proposal is in April, but it's designed to kick off in August 2020. Again, it's a process. We have budgeted our match for this

EAMD: How are things shaping up for the arts on the district's campus?

JW: In the Town Center we have a college and a high school and the Baker-Ripley Center, and we have a *lot* of talent there. In order to grow and expand the arts resources and culture in the community, we want to establish an Arts Council, so in the 2020 budget we have an allocation of seed money to get it started. The intent is for it to be its own council at

EAMD: I understand y'all recently attended the International Council of Shopping Centers convention. Could you tell us a little bit about what that is, and how the trip went?

JW: We recently came back from the Dallas convention. The intent there is to go and meet retail organizations that might be interested in expanding to new areas. We have our brochures that we exhibit to them, and in the past it has brought a couple of retail outlets to the community so we have our fingers crossed that we will continue to attract investors to

EAMD: I hear that the District's special events have been going

JW: We modified our event planner's contract last May because the events that we are doing are getting so much bigger, and that's a good thing, and we've scheduled more events, so we need more help. We are looking to expand that even more after the completion of our East Aldine building in the Town Center because we will have the amphitheater designed for events. So we'll need even more event help.

EAMD: Where is that amphitheater going to be again?

 $\boldsymbol{JW}\!\!:\!$ It's going to be in the Town Center, and be in the center of the

EAMD: So the bullseve?

JW: Right. And true to form the Town Center is becoming the nexus of the community. Hopefully we'll get a few more retail outlets there to support the college and the high school students. We still don't know what those will be right now because we are still in the planning process but that's what we're hoping for.

EAMD: Well that dovetails nicely with my next question. I heard there's a Joe V's Smart Shop going in.

EAMD: Any more names?

JW: No more names right now because the Joe V's will take up a significant amount of space. Before Joe V's we had unallocated retail space, but with it being so large, that's cut down on the amount of space that we have. However, since the Town Center has been in. there are strip centers popping up all around it. I believe it's the fact that we started the Town Center that has spurred that growth.

EAMD: Great to hear. Whenever I do one of these Q&As I ask a fun question at the end, and it's always the same question. What's your favorite restaurant in the area?

JW: There are lots of good ones but one I really like is Manny's. It's Mexican food and seafood, and it's really good, and that's where I meet with people all the time.