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NORTHEAST NEWS

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Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years
VOL. 44, NO. 16/17 TUESDAY, APRIL 21 & 28, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

TO OUR READERS:
The current Covid-19 Pandemic and other economic conditions have caused us to combine some issues every two weeks, and change distribution to Pick-up locations. See page 7 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 24, 2020

HOUSTON AREA
8,639 POSITIVE
177 DEATHS
2,492 RECOVERED

TEXAS
22,842 POSITIVE
608 DEATHS
Recoveries Not Reported

UNITED STATES
890,524 POSITIVE
51,017 DEATHS
96,677 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE
2,790,986 POSITIVE
195,920 DEATHS
781,382 RECOVERED

COVID-19 RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON
832-393-4220

HARRIS COUNTY
713-634-1110
ASK A NURSE
MOBILE TESTS
713-439-6000

PRE-SCREENING

HARRIS COUNTY
832-927-7575
readyharris.org

MD MEDICAL
1-888-776-5252
For Pre-screening
Aldine Mail Rte.

Harris County appoints Walle 'Recovery Czar' to lead relief from COVID-19 crisis Houston appoints Marvin Odum to lead city's efforts

HARRIS COUNTY - April 20, 2020, County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Monday selected State Representative Armando Walle to lead the COVID-19 pandemic relief and recovery effort on her behalf. As Harris County COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Czar, Rep. Walle is tasked with leading the effort to drive the region's economic recovery. He will join the Houston relief and recovery Czar in this effort and jointly they will convene

community and government stakeholders as necessary. "State Rep. Walle is uniquely positioned to build consensus across Harris County's diverse communities to help our region emerge from the COVID-19 disaster. As a leader in the state Legislature on issues of health, safety, and the economic well being of families, he's a champion for the important priorities that we want to make sure are in



State Representative Armando Walle appointed Harris County Relief and Recovery Effort Czar

Marvin E. Odum, former Chief Recovery Officer for Houston's Hurricane Harvey efforts, appointed City's Recovery Czar

the forefront of this relief and recovery effort," Judge Hidalgo said. "Like the rest of the world, Harris County will not be the same when this crisis abates. But with inclusive, fast and coordinated planning, we will build an economy and a social services network that gives every resident the tools they need to thrive once again."

A Harris County native, Rep. Walle is a graduate of

See Recovery Czar, Page 8

Governor plans to reopen state

By Patrick Svitek, The Texas Tribune

"We're now beginning to see glimmers that the worst of COVID-19 may soon be behind us," Abbott said. "We have demonstrated that we can corral the coronavirus."

To get the economy going again, Abbott named a "statewide strike force" chaired by James Huffines, the Austin banker and former UT regent. The task force staff will be led by Mike Toomey, a veteran lobbyist who was



Governor Greg Abbott at a new conference in Austin last Friday, announcing steps to re-open the state.

chief of staff to Abbott's predecessor, Rick Perry.

Abbott offered a host of names that will advise the task force, including fellow statewide officials, top medical experts and business leaders. You can view those names — as well as Abbott's executive order establishing the task force — here.

After naming the task

Governor to open State, Page 3

Harris County Expands COVID-19 Testing

Mobile Units to Reach All Precincts, Conduct 1,200 Tests Per Day
HARRIS COUNTY - County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced last Monday, April 13, 2020, that two new Harris County Public Health (HCPH) mobile units will provide drive-through testing for COVID-19, adding up to 200 tests per day to the county's current testing capacity. Each pop-up site, which will rotate locations across the precincts starting Tuesday, will be able to make up to 100 drive-



One of 14 Drive-thru test sites in Harris County, at Forest Brook MS.

See List of Test Sites, Page 8

County orders Masks to be worn in public

Harris County, Texas - April 22, 2020, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Wednesday issued an order requiring residents to wear masks when in public for the next 30 days, beginning on Monday, April 27, 2020 and will continue until May 26, 2020 at 11:59 pm. The order requires individuals over the age of 10 to wear a face covering, which can be a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, when outside the home. Medical masks or N-95 respirators are not recommended as they are needed for health-care workers and first responders.

Masks should cover the nose and mouth, and must be worn except when an individual is exercising or engaging in physical activity outside alone; alone in a separate indoor or outdoor space; eating or drinking; when driving; or when doing so poses a threat to their health, mental health, or safety. Masks are not required when an individual is in the presence of only members of their residence.

"When it comes to fight-

See Use of Masks, Page 2

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FROM 6:30 PM TO 6:50 PM

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Director of Services
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713-595-1232
Richard Cantu,
Deputy Executive Director
5333 Aldine Mail Rt.
Houston, TX. 77039

911-Emergencies
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Dispatch
Aldine Storefront
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District II

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NORTHEAST NEWS
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SCHOOL / COMMUNITY NEWS

Amid Coronavirus, Aldine ISD to mail out learning packets

Aldine ISD will no longer be handing out paper packets for prekindergarten through grade 5 students; instead, those packets will go out by mail beginning this week.

Chief of Academics Dr. Todd Davis stated that mailing the packets should ensure that families that need the packets receive them. He also added that the measure would ensure that everyone maintains social distancing to be safe.

"The safety of our staff and students are our top priorities," said Davis. "We have had to think of different ways to ensure we are reaching all our students. We recognize that some families may have limited

access to online learning, and this is one of the measures we are taking to ensure we offer continuous learning for our primary and elementary students."

The district used families' contact information in the Home Access Center (HAC) system as of April 13.

The packet consists of five-weeks' worth of activities (in English and Spanish) — reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

The content found in the prekindergarten through Grade 5 packets can be downloaded from the district's At-Home Learning site. Click on "Here for

Current Resources." It should lead to a "Students" page. Click on "Grade Level Resources." Next, scroll down to find the packets for your student's grade level.

If families or students have any questions about the activities in the packet, or if they do not receive a packet for each of their children enrolled in prekindergarten through grade 5 by May 4, they will need to contact their child's teacher using Schoology found in the district's At-Home Learning site or email.

Secondary students (Grades 6-12) will not receive paper packets.

CRIME WATCH

Investigation into Shooting at 790 West Little York Road

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a juvenile male at 790 West Little York Road about 1:30 p.m. on Monday (Apr. 13).

The victim, 15, was transported to an area hospital in critical condition.

HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division Officer L. Bolmanski reported:

The victim was in a gray

Chevrolet Impala with an unknown amount of occupants. He exited the vehicle and started to run. An unknown person inside the vehicle then shot the victim multiple times. A group of people nearby then fired multiple rounds at the suspect's vehicle. The suspect's vehicle and the group of people then fled the scene. Paramedics were called and trans-

ported the victim to the hospital.

The wanted suspect vehicle is described as a 2008-2010, gray, four-door Chevrolet Impala with tinted windows.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Aldine At Home on Fox My20

From 11 AM to noon every Tuesday, Houston area residents can tune in to Fox My20 on their cable or satellite for "Aldine At Home." The hour-long program features art, reading,

writing, math, and a few ways to make the most of time at home.

In addition, each program includes a segment on Social-Emotional Learning covering topics

like "Coping with COVID-19," and "Conflict Resolution at Home."

To watch the broadcasts from previous weeks, visit the Aldine ISD YouTube Channel.

Suspect Arrested, Charged in Fatal Shooting at 9002 Sterlingshire Street

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of a juvenile male at 9002 Sterlingshire Street about 10:55 a.m. on January 30, 2020.

The suspect, Xavier McConico (b/m, 20), is charged with murder in the 339th State District Court for his role in the killing of a 16-year-old male.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant M. Holbrook reported:

The victim went to the apartment complex at the above address and got into a confrontation with an



Xavier

unknown suspect(s). The victim was shot in an exchange of gunfire. Friends

of the victim attempted to drive him to the hospital, but then pulled over and called 9-1-1. Paramedics transported the victim to Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Further investigation identified McConico as the suspect in this case and he was charged on Monday (Apr. 13). McConico was already in jail, arrested last Friday (Apr. 10) and charged in another murder at 2503 Alameda Genoa on March 31.

Fall 2020 registration opening online for Lone Star College-North Harris

HOUSTON (April 13, 2020) – With campuses closed until May 4, systems have been set up to ensure that Fall 2020 registration may take place entirely online beginning Wednesday, April 15.

To follow county and state guidelines, all advising and enrollment operations have transitioned to online processes to accommodate students registering for classes. Lone Star College-North Harris has advisers and Student Success employees available to assist students throughout the enrollment process.

Current and future LSC-North Harris students are encouraged to enroll to take advantage of low cost, high-quality courses designed to fit a wide range of academic goals including associate degrees, certificates, university transfer programs and effective this fall, bach-

elor's degrees.

"We're excited to announce that this fall we will launch a bachelor's degree program in Energy, Manufacturing and Trades Management," said Dr. Laura Yannuzzi, vice president of instruction. "This program builds on our existing pathways to career success, where we provide state-of-the-art labs, flexible scheduling, and master trainers in the critical trades necessary for our economy to thrive. We are thrilled to offer even more options for students seeking quality educational opportunities in their community."

"We have worked diligently to ensure our current and future students have access to our Student Success staff to receive continual assistance through online resources and by telephone," said

Magdalena Mendoza-Starck, interim vice president of student success. "On behalf of the Student Success Division, we want to remind our students and community that we are here and ready to support you."

LSC-North Harris is continuing to offer the full range of classes including traditional core courses, such as math, biology, English, degree specific courses and workforce training courses. Students who enroll at LSC-North Harris can start their journey close to home before easily transferring to their favorite four-year university with the help of our Career and Successful Transfer Lab resources.

To register online, or for more information about the resources available to students, visit LoneStar.edu/LearnMore.

Officials need public's help identifying suspect

Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department's Homicide Division need the public's assistance identifying the suspect responsible for a Capital Murder.

On Sunday, April 5, 2020, at approximately 12:06 a.m., the victim was shot in a strip center parking lot located in the 600 block of Greens Road in Houston, Texas. Video surveillance captured the suspect approaching and shooting the victim. The suspect stole property from the victim, which included the victim's shoes. The suspect fled the scene in the victim's black Cadillac sedan, which has since been

recovered. The victim was transported to a local hospital, but sadly died as a result of the gunshot wound.

The family of the victim is requesting the help of the community in finding the person responsible for this Murder.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification, charging and/or arrest of the suspect in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crime-stoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO



Suspect

Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.

Use of Masks,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing this virus, each of us is capable of committing heroic acts by making adjustments in how we live our daily life," said Judge Hidalgo. "Steps like wearing a face covering, getting tested, and staying home save lives and reduce transmissions, which will get our economy back online sooner. I'm heartened by the number of residents who have already been following guidance to wear

face coverings already, but we are in this for the long haul. The best way to get our economy back up and running again - and keep it open - is by making sure we're working together to prevent the spread of this virus. Wearing face coverings is a vital piece of our playbook."

The order comes as an uptick in hospital admissions indicates the region has not yet reached the peak of the Coronavirus outbreak. During the past week, the county has doubled its testing capacity and dispatched mobile testing units to all four precincts.

Continue Good Health Habits

Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6-foot social distancing and hand washing because these remain important steps to slowing the spread of the virus.

Enforcement

Failure to wear a mandatory face covering under this Order is punishable by up to \$1,000.

Man found dead on Jensen Drive

Houston police are awaiting autopsy results in the death of a man found at 10300 Jensen Drive about 11 p.m. on Sunday (Apr. 12).

The identity of the victim, believed to be in his 20s to 30s, is pending an autopsy by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant J. Horn reported: Two individuals riding on an all terrain vehicle along Halls Bayou at the above address discovered a body in the bayou. Paramedics responded and pronounced the man deceased at the scene. Investigators did not observe any obvious signs of trauma to the man's body.

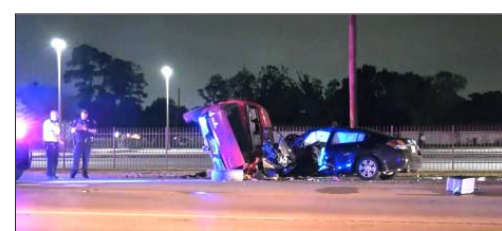
Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Driver faces charges after 1-year-old killed in hit-and-run crash on Aldine Mail Rt.

A 1-year-old was killed in a hit-and-run crash Friday night in north Harris County. At the time of the crash, the child was not restrained in a child seat and was instead buckled into the front passenger seat with a standard seatbelt, investigators with the Harris County Sheriff's Office said.

The hit-and-run crash was reported just after 11 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2020, in the 4700 block of Aldine Mail Route Road.

Investigators determined an adult man was



Accident scene on Aldine Mail Rt.

traveling westbound in a black Nissan Altima with the 1-year-old child when a red Toyota Tacoma traveling eastbound down the road struck a curb, overcorrected and swerved into the path of the Nissan Altima in the westbound lane. The Nissan Altima struck the passenger side of the Toyota Tacoma.

Deputies found the driver of the Nissan Altima unconscious in the driver seat without a seat belt on. The 1-year-old in the passenger was also unconscious. CPR was administered to the toddler on scene. The child was confirmed dead at an area hospital shortly after

the crash.

Following the crash, the occupant or occupants of the Toyota Tacoma fled the scene on foot without rendering aid, HCSO Sgt. Simon Cheng said.

Deputies located the operator of the Toyota Tacoma hiding approximately .4 miles away in a residential area. The operator of the Tacoma, identified as Jose Sergio Milla Iglesias, confessed to operating the Toyota and leaving the crash scene, according to officials.

Iglesias has been booked into the Harris County Jail on a felony charge of Failure to Stop and Render Aid-Involving Death.

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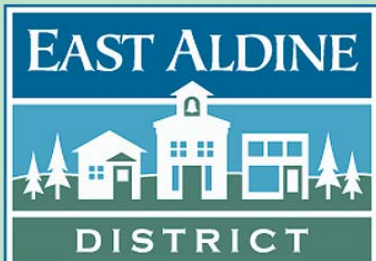
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Harris County Clerk urges voters 65 and older to vote by mail as precaution to COVID-19

Early voting for the Primary Runoff Elections is July 6-10

Houston, Texas — Harris County Clerk Diane Trautman urges voters 65 and older to vote by mail to ensure their safety during COVID-19 outbreak. Last month, the governor postponed the May 26 Primary Runoff Elections and rescheduled them for July 14, with early voting taking place July 6-10. The deadline to apply to vote by mail ballot for these elections is July 2.

"Our office will do everything it can to ensure a safe, secure, and accessible election," said Trautman. "In order to do anything

different from a normal uniform election, our will require explicit guidance from the Texas Secretary of State."

To be eligible to vote by mail in Texas, a voter has to be 65 years or older, have a disability or illness, be out of the county during the election period, or be confined in jail, with no conviction. Voters can go to www.harrisvotes.com to print out the application or call 713-755-6965 to request one. The last day to register to vote for the July 14 election is June 15. For

voter registration information, please contact the Harris County Tax Office.

"The procedure for mail ballot applications has always been to honor any request from a voter who checks the disabled box. We are not going to question someone's disability," added Trautman. "Any ability to expand the Ballot-By-Mail program will need to be granted at the state level."

Residents are encouraged to visit HarrisVotes.com and follow on social media for updates and information.

Harris County Attorney ready to take on price gouging

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan has set up a website for residents to file complaints about price gouging.

During a disaster, the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act makes it illegal for a company to sell or lease fuel, food, medicine, lodging, building materials, construction tools, or another necessity at an exorbitant or excessive price.

"Unfortunately, there seem to always be people who will take advantage of a crisis situation," said County Attorney Ryan. "Our office wants you to reach out to us to let us

know about a price gouging situation."

The County Attorney's website explains the details you need to provide to file a complaint. It explains the process the Office will use to investigate a complaint and how it will be dealt with if it is determined that price gouging occurred.

Since the COVID-19 emergency declaration was issued, the County Attorney's Office has received 115 price gouging complaints. Thirty-five have been investigated. Each case is looked at individually. Investigators will contact a store and determine

how much a store paid for an item and how much they are marking it up. Some products are more expensive for a store to purchase now; higher prices are not necessarily price gouging. Five cease and desist letters have been issued so far. If a company refuses to comply with the letter, a lawsuit may be filed.

The County Attorney's website with information on price gouging is:

www.harriscountycleo.org/coronavirus-consumer-complaints.

You can file a complaint from that website or email: ConsumerHelp@cao.hctx.net.

COVID-19 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE Paycheck Protection Program

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll.

SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.

You can apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating. Other regulated lenders will be available to make these loans once they

are approved and enrolled in the program. You should consult with your local lender as to whether it is participating in the program.

Lenders may begin processing loan applications as soon as April 3, 2020. The Paycheck Protection Program will be available through June 30, 2020.

Who Can Apply

The following entities affected by Coronavirus (COVID-19) may be eligible:

- Any small business concern that meets SBA's size standards (either the industry based size standard or the alternative size standard)

- Any business, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, 501(c)(19) veterans organization, or Tribal business concern (sec. 31(b)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act) with the greater of:

- 500 employees, or
- That meets the SBA industry size standard if more than 500

- Any business with a NAICS Code that begins with 72 (Accommodations and Food Services) that has more than one physical location and employs less than 500 per location

- Sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed persons

Governor Abbott Announces \$38 Million In Federal COVID-19 Emergency Funding For Local Governments

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today announced his Public Safety Office (PSO) will provide \$38 million in federal funds to local units of government in Texas. These funds come from the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program authorized by the federal Emergency Appropriations for Coronavirus Health Response and Agency Operations Act.

Jurisdictions may use this funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment, supplies, training, travel expenses, and addressing the medical needs of inmates in local and tribal jails and detention centers.

"These funds will help

our local governments respond to COVID-19 and provide the resources that our communities need," said Governor Abbott. "I am grateful to our federal partners for making this crucial financial support available to the state of Texas."

Examples of allowable costs include:

- Personnel Overtime (Peace Officer, Jailer, Correctional Officer, Medical, and other Essential Staff)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Supplies (i.e. gloves, masks, sanitizer, disinfectant)
- Temporary Staff
- Medical care for inmates that have tested positive for COVID-19
- Any other costs associated with the implementation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Guidance documents, specifically:

- Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities

- What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for COVID-19 in the United States

- Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

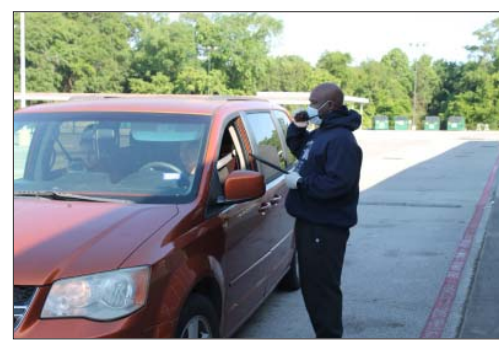
Aldine ISD delivers more than 7,300 devices to students

Aldine ISD's device pickup was a success as approximately 7,315 Chromebooks and 2,963 WiFi Hotspots were delivered to students April 15 and April 17.

On April 15, seniors were the first to pickup their devices at their respective high schools and on Friday sixth through 11th graders did the same.

The pickup totals per location were:

- Aldine High School – 1,493
- Davis High School – 1,121
- Eisenhower High School – 1,102
- MacArthur High School – 1,491
- Nimitz High School – 1,055
- Walk-up – 522
- Staffs at the respective



Nimitz High School Assistant Principal Ahmad Traylor delivers a Chromebook to a Nimitz High School senior on Wednesday, April 15.

high schools helped with the distribution and practiced social distancing to keep themselves and students and parents safe.

Aldine ISD is committed to ensuring all students

have access to educational opportunities, especially during this unique time when learning must take place outside of the traditional classroom.

Aldine ISD Trustees hold monthly Board Meeting

Aldine ISD's Board of Trustees held their regular monthly board meeting on Tuesday, April 21 in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building (DAB).

Board President Paul Shanklin, Vice-President Rose Avalos and Member Steve Mead joined Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa and members of the Executive Leadership Team in the Board room, while Secretary Connie Esparza, Assistant Secretary Dr. Kimberley Booker and Members Randy Bates and Dr. Viola M. Garcia participated in the meeting via teleconference along with other ELT members.

Dr. Goffney asked subcommittee members of the district's Coronavirus Task Force update the Board on what the subcommittees have accomplished since they last reported at the March 24 Board meeting.

Also during the meeting, a hearing was held to discuss the 2018-19 Annual Performance Report. Dawn Ayers-Rodriguez, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Accountability, discussed the report with Trustees and informed them the Texas Education Code re-

quires each school district's Board of Trustees to publish an annual report that includes the district campus Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), district accreditation status, campus performance objectives, a report of criminal incidents and information received under Texas Education Code 51.403 (e) from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Dr. Goffney also announced three staff assignments during the April Board meeting.

Ray Mondragon was named executive director of early learning in Aldine ISD after serving as vice president of programs at the Collaborative for Children in Houston.

Altagracia Delgado was named executive director of multilingual services after serving as director of language acquisition and early childhood with Brazosport ISD.

Tyneisha Hall was named program director of ELA after serving as manager of elementary literacy teacher development with Houston ISD.

Trustees also approved the following:

- Approved a resolution to address grading requirements during the closure of

the district. <https://www.aldineisd.org/2020/03/30/aid-sets-grade-guidelines-for-remainder-of-2019-2020-school-year/>

- Approved the creation of Innovative Course – Film Interpretation of Weldments at Avalos PTECH High School.

- Approved Instructional Materials Allotments and TEKS Certification.

- Approved Educator Appraisal Waiver for the 2019-20 school year.

- Approved Employee Appraisal Waiver for the 2019-20 school year.

- Approved a bid for a Building Automation System Services.

- Approved bid contract renewals.

- Approved an Emergency Procurement Resolution.

- Approved contracts and purchases of more than \$50,000.

- Approved a general fund budget amendments for Period 10 for the 2019-20 school year.

- Approved monthly Tax Office refunds.

- Approved the consent agenda.

The Board moved to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues.

The May Board meeting will be held May 19.

Governor to open State,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

force, Abbott said he was issuing an executive order loosening the restrictions he previously put in place on non-essential surgeries.

Abbott also announced he was letting retail outlets re-open Friday, April 24 to offer "retail-to-go" — meaning the outlets can make deliveries to customers' cars outside their location or to cus-

tomers' homes.

Abbott then said he's allowing state parks to re-open Monday, April 20, but with a few requirements for visitors. Visitors have to wear face coverings, they have to keep a 6-foot distance from people outside their group, and there can't be gatherings larger than five people.

Finally, Abbott an-

nounced that all Texas schools will remain closed through the end of the school year. The closure applies to all public and private schools and institutions of higher learning.

Abbott promised to have another announcement April 27 about additional steps to re-open Texas.



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OPINION PAGE

1918 FLU EPIDEMIC
By Prof. Rebecca Howard, LSC

Lone Star College history professor relates COVID-19 with 1918 flu epidemic

HOUSTON (April 13, 2020) – The outbreak of COVID-19 has many historians drawing comparisons to the 1918 flu epidemic. Much like the coronavirus, authorities in 1918 responded to the epidemic with a combination of church, school and theater closures, cancellations or prohibitions of public gatherings in attempts to quarantine the ill.

"In 1918, most people would have experienced some kind of disruption to their lives due to the influenza outbreak," said Rebecca A. Howard, Ph.D., LSC associate professor of History. "Some of the closings and cancellations were ordered locally, others came from the state level."

It is estimated that 500 million people, about one-third of the world's population at that time, had been infected and more than 50 million people worldwide died from the 1918 flu epidemic. It killed people within a few days and stood out because it often killed young and health people, not just the very young and the very old like most influenza outbreaks.

"We don't know the exact numbers, even in the United States," said Howard. "The systems for death certificates, if they even existed, became overwhelmed in both urban and rural areas. So we have a mix of official records backed up by oral histories."

The 1918 flu epidemic is not the only 20th-century event which forced self-quarantine measures. During World War II, polio epidemics became especially common. An ancient disease, poliovirus caused paralysis, especially in children. Those who survived often lost the use of their limbs for life.

"Since poliovirus tended to spread in the summer, sleep away camps, public swimming pools, movie theaters, local festivals and even public libraries would close if there were cases reported in the area," said Howard. "Diphtheria epidemics also repeatedly closed churches and schools and limited public gatherings throughout the early 20th century. Entire towns were put under quarantine."

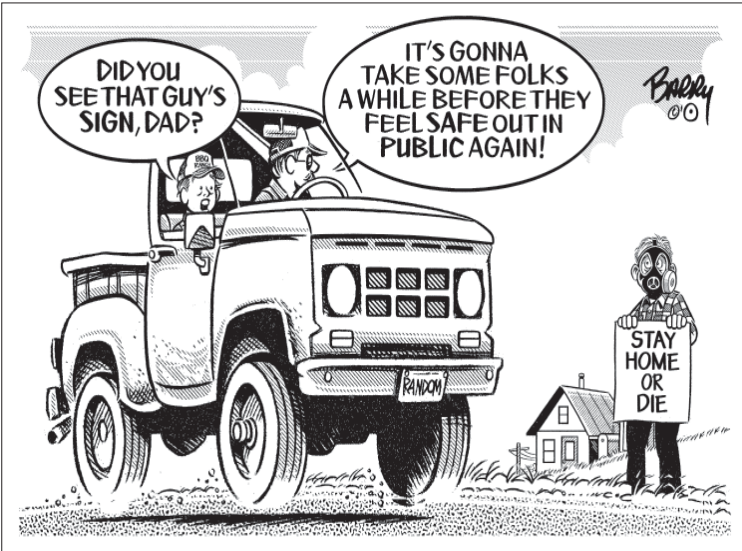
Diphtheria, a bacterial infection, blocks the throat with thick mucus often causing death. Children under the age of 6 would most likely be impacted. Adults could be carriers for the disease and unknowingly give it to children.

During that time, newspapers and public notices in places like post offices were the means of informing the public about social distancing rules.

"We would consider it a violation of privacy today, but it was extremely common to list the names of families that were under quarantine in their homes in newspapers due to the disease," said Howard. "How else would people know not to come over?"

One of the most important things we learned from the past was that controlling diseases required a response at many levels of American society.

"The 1918 flu was spread by soldiers returning from World War I and much of the early information about the epidemic was deliberately hidden from the public out of fear it would hurt morale during a war," said Howard. "By the 1940s and early 1950s, with a robust federal system honed by World War II, you saw a much stronger federal response to polio, especially in tracking the spread of it."



State-private partnership to speed up production of masks

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on April 8 announced a partnership between the Texas Military Department and Prestige Ameritech to increase production of personal protective equipment for health care workers.

Prestige Ameritech, with a 220,000-square-foot plant in North Richland Hills near Fort Worth, is the United States' largest domestic surgical mask manufacturer. The company's 24-hour operation will be staffed in part by members of the Texas National Guard 36th Infantry Division, enabling the production of an estimated 2 million surgical face masks per week.

Joining Abbott in making the announcement were Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner John Hellerstedt, Texas Division of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd and University of Texas System Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs John Zerwas.

Abbott announced on April 6 that Texas had received 2.5 million masks in the previous 24 hours and would receive an additional 3 million masks by April 11. The governor's office also provided a region-by-region weekly breakdown of personal protective equipment that had been distributed: masks, face shields, gloves, gowns and coveralls.

In other action, Abbott announced on April 9 an emergency rule adopted by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to temporarily allow more nurse aides to serve residents in long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 response. Under the rule, nursing facilities may hire people to provide nurse aide services without having to complete a full certification program in their first four months of employment. This action will expand the eligible pool of direct-care workers and help long-term care providers who may face critical staffing shortages, Abbott said.

According to figures posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services at noon on April 12, some 13,484 people in Texas had been diagnosed with deadly coronavirus – COVID-19 -- and 271 deaths resulting from the disease had been confirmed.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

Governor closes parks

Gov. Abbott on April 7 directed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to close all state parks and historic sites indefinitely as part of the state's efforts to strengthen social distancing practices and prevent gatherings of large groups of people.

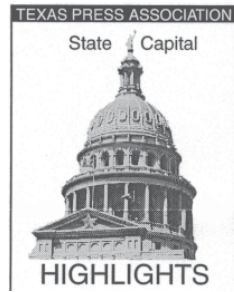
Historic sites and state parks will reopen at the direction of the governor. "Social distancing is our best tool to curb the spread of COVID-19 and save lives," Abbott said. "The temporary closure of our state parks and historic sites will help us achieve this goal by preventing the gathering of large groups of people. I urge all Texans to continue to stay at home except for essential services as we respond to COVID-19. By following these social distance practices, we will overcome this challenge together."

Care access to increase

Gov. Abbott on April 6 announced that Care.com, a private business that enables families to find, manage and pay for care and provides employment opportunities for caregivers, is increasing in-home child care access for frontline workers responding to the COVID-19 emergency.

As part of this initiative, Abbott said, Care.com is offering 90 days of free, premium access to their services, along with specific portals for frontline workers and caregivers in Texas.

Frontline workers looking for child care, as well as prospective caregivers, can enroll at <https://texasfrontline.care.com/>; Potential caregivers are subject to Care.com's extensive background and safety checks. While child care services are not typically free of charge, the Texas portal gives residents the ability to waive their fees and volunteer as caregivers, providing additional support to frontline workers, Abbott added.



Hegar distributes revenue

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on April 8 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$701.8 million in local sales tax allocations for April.

The amount is 0.5 percent less than the amount distributed in April 2019. Revenue allocations are based on sales made in February by businesses that report tax monthly.

Next month's allocations, which will mostly reflect sales made in March, will begin to show the impact of pandemic-related business shutdowns. The agency, therefore, expects local allocations in May to be lower, and June allocations will likely deteriorate further, Hegar said.

Lawsuit amicus is filed

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison on April 6 led 40 attorneys general in an amicus brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of injury lawsuit decisions by the Supreme Courts of Montana and Minnesota.

In the brief, Paxton and Ellison said those state supreme courts correctly ruled in favor of allowing individuals to file personal injury lawsuits in the states in which they reside and were injured, regardless of where the defendant was located.

The friend-of-the-court brief opposes an effort by large corporations to prevent individuals from filing lawsuits in their own local courts and to potentially prevent states from filing lawsuits to enforce their own laws, Paxton said.

Jobless urged to reapply

The Texas Workforce Commission on April 4 encouraged Texas residents previously deemed monetarily ineligible for unemployment benefits to reapply now, at the beginning of a new fiscal quarter.

The agency invited applicants who were denied unemployment benefits due to insufficient wages and who worked during the January 2019-December 2019 base period to visit the unemployment benefit services portal to reapply online.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

"Peppermint Ice Cream"

"I love seeing all the people in the park," my sister told me on the phone the other night. "I can tell who is together because they are walking in little clumps!"

I love that idea: little satellites orbiting the park—usually with a dog—keeping a safe distance from the other orbiting clumps nearby.

My sister is in a clump consisting of herself, her husband, their two children, a dog and a cat. (I'm not sure if the cat considers himself part of the clump or not. Possibly not.) The kids are doing their homework in record time, sports are discontinued but music lessons continue. They are playing a lot of ping-pong and canasta.

My cousin, Dane, is in a clump of one so I was kind of worried about him and called him up. He seemed to be doing okay, all things considered. He's laid off but getting a lot of house projects done. I caught him when he was out walking.

"I'm on my annual walk," he told me.

"Annual?"

"No, I meant daily. I've been walking every day."

I was prepared to believe it was annual as I don't generally think of Dane as being big on exercise. But I'm glad to hear he's taking care of himself. I think that's what we all need to do, as best as we can.

I'm in a clump of three these days—it's just me, my husband Peter, and my anxiety. It wouldn't be crowded with just Peter and me but it's true what they say—three's a crowd. I get free-floating anxiety and these times seem to promote it. Peter is amazingly patient with me, although he gets anxious when I get anxious and the atmosphere starts to get a little electric in the house. That's usually when I go for a walk. A walk helps. But peppermint ice cream is what really works wonders.

My consumption of peppermint ice cream has shot through the roof.

In the past, Peter has accused me of being an ice cream snob. I scrutinize the ingredient list. I try to buy ice cream with fewer thickeners and additives and more natural ingredients. But none of this matters if it's peppermint ice cream. There are no rules for peppermint ice cream. Everyone knows that.

I don't even read the ingredient list because, what do I care? It's peppermint ice cream! It's bright pink and has little pieces of peppermint candy right in it! No matter how bad the news of the day might be, a little peppermint ice cream is certain to make things better. No matter how anxious I might get, I can always eat peppermint ice cream.

Two days ago, we went to the grocery store. We are trying to minimize our trips and hoped to buy enough to get us through three weeks. We donned our masks, packed our hand sanitizer, and went together—I bought all the produce and Peter bought dairy and dry goods and we reconvened in the parking lot, feeling like we had just completed a major expedition.

Back at home, I was rinsing off the huge supply of fruit and vegetables while Peter unloaded his bags. That's when I noticed, "You only bought one carton of peppermint ice cream?"

"Well, yeah, but we have one in the freezer."

"That one is almost gone."

"Oh. How much peppermint ice cream to do you think you'll need?" Peter asked me. This was a difficult question to answer. How much peppermint ice cream will I need?

I'm hoping not too much more.

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

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ARTS & SPORTS

Aldine ISD students win top honors in Houston Bar Association's 2020 Law Day Contest

High school students Asha Webster, Fabiola Hernández, and Josue Leija took first, second, and third place in their category. The students' works show the power of their civic voices. They won the Houston Bar Association's (HBA) 2020 Law Day Contest.

After winning first place, Asha now advances to the state competition where she will represent Houston.

Law Day is a national celebration of the rule of law in our society. It has been sponsored and promoted by the American Bar Association since 1961 when President Dwight Eisenhower designated it a national holiday. The HBA joins local and state bar associations nationwide in sponsoring activities surrounding May 1. The association's website states that "while the HBA calls its celebration 'Law Week,' it encompasses much more.

The Houston Bar Association observes Law Day each year with contests — essay, poster, and photography — for local students in grades K-12.

This year's theme is "Your Vote • Your Voice • Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100." Entries have to be students' original work.

Dr. Michaelann Kelley is the director of visual arts in Aldine ISD. Kelley lauds the Houston Bar Association for using the visual arts to engage students. Since the start of the contest, Aldine ISD students



Asha Webster's artwork, "Into the Light," took first place in the HBA photography contest (grades 9-12).

have placed and advanced to the state level. In 2018, a student from Carver HS won the state event.

"The contest allows our talented young artists to express themselves as it relates to the theme. They do this through imagery that inspires emotions. It's a lot harder than it sounds," Kelley said. "I am so proud of the students. I am also proud of our art teachers who help develop students' creativity and self-expression as well as hone their skills."

Photography Contest (Grades 9-12)

•First Place: Asha Webster
Artwork Title: Into the Light

Campus: Carver High School for Engineering, Applied Technology, and the Arts

•Second Place: Fabiola Hernández
Artwork Title: Silenced No Longer

Campus: Carver High School for Engineering, Applied Technology, and the Arts

•Honorables Mention: Liliana Bejume
Campus: Carter Academy

•Honorables Mention: Sannia Bell
Campus: Houston Academy

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Campus: Carter Academy

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Campus: Carter Academy

•Honorables Mention: Sannia Bell
Campus: Houston Academy

Carver High School's Theater Director inducted into Texas Thespian Hall of Fame

Carver High School theater director Roshunda Jones was inducted into the Texas Thespian Hall of Fame. It is an honor granted to educators who have dedicated years of service to promoting educational theater.

"It's a prestigious honor, and I'm truly humbled," Jones said. "I'm grateful to be recognized by my peers, and I don't take this honor lightly. It's a testament that hard work and dedication pays off. These are values I try to instill in my students every day."

Typically, this honor is bestowed to educators who have dedicated 20 years of service. Jones is in her 16th year of teaching. All of those years have been in Aldine ISD. She taught a year at Shotwell Middle School and has been at Carver High School for 15 years. In college, Jones underwent her student teaching at Eisenhower High School. Before that, she worked at an after-school program with Express Children's Theatre at Bethune Academy.

"My first job was my senior year of high school. I was a teacher's aide for a then-future educator co-op program at Sivells Elementary in my hometown of Wharton," Jones said. "The thespian experience has been a major part of my life. With all of that, I have over 20 years in theater education."

Since taking the helm as the theater director at the magnet high school, she has directed many shows. Her students have won many UIL One-Act Play competitions. Many of her students have also advanced to the International Thespian Society National Festival.

Several of Jones' students have gone on to pursue careers in theater, such as developing local theater productions. Some have headed to New York City's theater scene. In 2016, then-sophomore Kirby Jackson landed the role of "Tabitha" in The History Channel's adaptation of Roots. This past summer, alumnus Stanley Jackson was the lead in the Alley Theatre's production of The Three Musketeers.

The induction ceremony took place during the Texas Thespian Educator Conference held in January in Houston. The Texas Thespian Hall of Fame is in its 10th year.

The theater program at



Roshunda Jones

Carver High School has grown since Jones arrived in 2005. In particular, the development of musical productions, which the magnet school is well known for. According to Jones, the department's first venture into musicals began with You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. It was a black box production with about six to seven students.

The productions have grown to large scale ensembles. Musicals produced by the Carver Theater Department include Cinderella, Dreamgirls, Sweet Charity, The Wiz, Little Shop of Horrors, The Color Purple, In The Heights, Memphis the Musical (a collaboration with Memorial HS, which the troupe performed at the 2014 Texas State Thespian Festival), Ghost, Hairspray (a collaboration with The Kinkaid School), Smokey Joe's Cafe (performed at the nationals in 2016 and Texas Educational Theatre Association at the 2017 convention), Once on This Island, Jelly's Last Jam, and Carmen Jones. These productions have garnered the program more than 77 Tommy Tune Award nominations.

This year is no different. The school's production of Sister Act recently earned eight Tommy Tune Award nominations, including Best Musical and Leading Actress. Bringing Carver's total nominations to date to 85. (The winners will be announced on April 28, 2020.)

Since teaching at Carver HS, Jones has received several honors. The Texas Thespians awarded Jones with the Above and Beyond Award in 2016 and 2015. The honor recognizes her service to Texas Thespians.

In 2017, the Texas Edu-

cational Theatre Association named Jones the Secondary Theatre Educator of the Year. The award recognizes Jones' outstanding accomplishments as a theater director and service. In 2019, Jones received the Arts Educator of the Year award from the TUTS Leading Ladies organization.

Jones currently serves as the Playworks/Musicalworks Chair and Co-Advisor of the State Thespian Officers for the Festival. For her, the theater teaches students so much more than how to perform. The theater teaches students life skills such as self-confidence, empathy, communication, and problem-solving. It also sparks creativity, which is essential to innovation. Jones stressed that the theater is a great emotional outlet for many students.

"Not all of my students pursue a career in the arts, but many of them have informed me how theatre has benefited them with their current career path," Jones said. "Theater has also proven to improve students' academic success." The theater has been a part of Jones' life since middle school. She is grateful to her educators for igniting her passion for the arts.

Her greatest joy in teaching is witnessing students reach their fullest potential while watching them gain an appreciation for the arts.

For Jones, the theater is a haven and a powerful medium for expression.

"Theater changes lives. It can change the world because theater is a reflection of life," Jones said. "It's a safe place where you can express yourself and not be judged. The theater is a place to bring people together to engage, entertain, and enlighten."

Aldine High school senior soccer players named to THSCA Academic All-State team

Every senior on Aldine High School's boys and girls' varsity soccer team were named to the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) All-State Academic Team.

"This is a tremendous honor for our seniors and we can't be more proud of them for their outstanding work in the classroom and on the field," said Hank Semler, Aldine High School's campus athletic coordinator and head football coach.

Members of the Lady Mustangs named to the

All-State Academic Team were Pamela Calvo (elite), Jocelyn Gutierrez (elite), Jazmin Flores-Partida (first team), Isabella Gaona (second team), Litzy Reyna-Lopez (second team), Destiny Soto (second team), Ashley Rivera (honorable mention) and Brian Williams (honorable mention).

Members of the Mustangs named to the All-State Academic Team were Christopher Lovo (first team), Rogelio Garcia Manjarrez (second team), Gerardo Aleman (honor-

able mention), Bryan Alvarez (honorable mention), Maximiliano Esparza (honorable mention), Cesar Henriquez Mejia (honorable mention), Jesus Morin (honorable mention), Acdull Payan (honorable mention), John Perez Bernal (honorable mention), Edwin Rodriguez Zuniga (honorable mention), Kelvin Vasquez Zetino (honorable mention), Heriberto Vasquez (honorable mention) and Gerson Zelaya Cruz (honorable mention).

Four Aldine Mustangs football players earn scholarships

Four Aldine High School senior football players recently earned scholarships to continue their academic and athletic careers.

Jacob Quintero signed with Manchester College in Indiana, Bryan Rivas signed with Simpson College in Indiana and Johnny

Diaz and Fernando Rodriguez both signed with Minnesota State Community and Tech College.

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Dear Volunteers, We hope that this message finds you all well. Each and every one of you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers. Bonding strives to continue to serve the community in any capacity that we can, with the highest regards to the health and safety of all. Although Bonding has suspended its Citizenship Application Workshops and Citizenship Preparation Classes until further notice, we are still providing services remotely. We would like to see how many of our volunteers would be interested in helping to complete N-400 applications virtually? Applicants may complete a draft of their N-400 Application for Naturalization on the Citizenshipworks website via the following URL www.citizenshipworks.org/portal/baa. By following the instructions on the corresponding website, applicants will be able to complete a draft of the N-400. Volunteers will then be able to assist with completing the application by communicating with the applicant remotely. For more information, please call 281-799-9076, email: brittneys@baatexas.org or visit www.baatexas.org.

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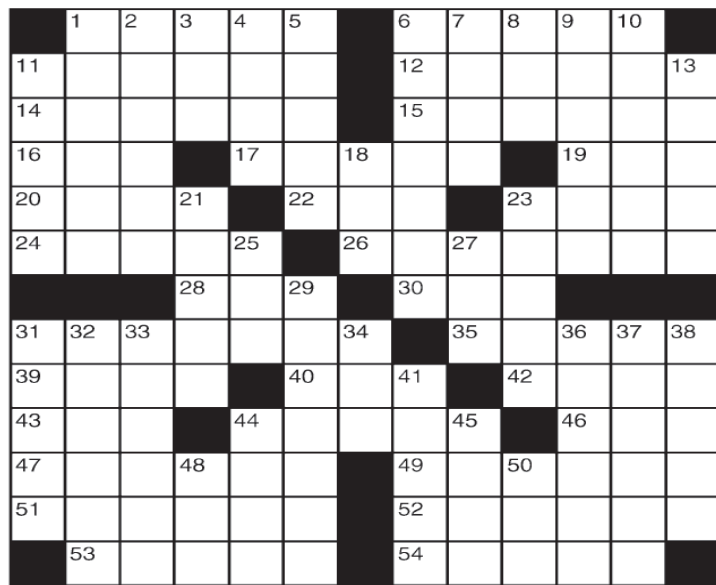
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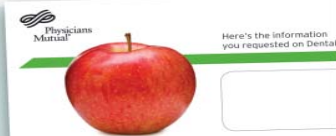
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Memorial Hermann Teams up with Aldine ISD to provide groceries, health resources

At Dunn Elementary in Aldine ISD on Tuesday, April 21, 76 Aldine families were invited by Memorial Hermann to receive fresh fruits and vegetables thanks to a partnership between Memorial Hermann Community Benefits Corporation, Houston Food Bank, Greater Houston YMCA, and Aldine ISD.



In addition to fresh produce, families were provided information about various community resources relating to food insecurity, parenting, and COVID-19. The Memorial Hermann dental program was also able to provide families with toothbrushes and dental floss.

Houston Food Bank will again be partnering with Aldine ISD this Friday, April 24 from 9 AM to Noon to distribute free groceries at the Aldine ISD M.O.Campbell Center for Education. Click here for more information.

To learn more about food insecurity, parenting, and COVID-19, please visit <https://communitybenefit.memorialhermann.org/>

METROLift to deliver groceries to families in need



Pictured from left to right, METRO's Senior Director of Contracted, Paratransit and Micro Transit Services, Art Jackson; Executive Director, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Gabe Cazares; Houston Mayor Sylvestr Turner; and Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo

METROLift is partnering with the city of Houston, the Houston Food Bank, Walmart and Sam's Club to make sure no family goes hungry during the COVID-19 crisis. Today, the city announced the program to deliver groceries to those in need.

Thanks to a \$30,000 do-

nation from Walmart, beginning Friday, April 24, METROLift will make 500 grocery deliveries each week. The agency is proud to support this worthy cause while the city and county's "Stay Home" order remain in effect.

Anyone interested in signing up, or learning

more about the program can call 832-394-0814 or go to the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Website: houstontx.gov/disabilities/

The Houston Food Bank is America's largest food bank in distribution, leading hunger relief in 18 southeast Texas counties.

List of Test Sites,

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through tests per day. Additionally, testing capacity at HCPH's two existing stationary sites will increase to 500 tests per location, per day, starting Wednesday.

These two units are in addition to 13 Drive-Thru sites around the county, both public and private. These include 2 Harris County sites, 2 City of Houston sites, 4 free sites by UMMC, and 3 sites by MD Medical.

"Until we make testing accessible to everyone who needs it, we will not be able to fully tackle this disease in Harris County," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "These efforts are a key step forward, but they're not enough. We have to be nimble. We have to reach underserved communities and expand our ability to help folks identify if they are sick, and isolate immediately."

The pop-up testing locations were identified in coordination with Harris County Precincts. To be tested, residents must complete online screening

via ReadyHarris.org and obtain an authorization code. Once confirmed they meet the criteria for testing, residents will be provided an appointment time and directed to a testing site closest to them. Walk-ins will be turned away.

Testing sites will be allocated to the precincts from Monday through Saturday, spending three days in two precincts, and three days in the other two precincts.

All individuals can access the online screening tool at readyharris.org. Individuals without access to a computer or Internet can call the Harris County Public Health COVID-19 resource line at 832-927-7575.

DETAILED LIST OF TEST SITES:

Please note that some testing sites are private and costs may vary at each site; there are 3 sites that are entirely free.

1. Legacy Northline: 5598 A-1 North Freeway | 832-548-5000 (Sliding scale fee)

2. Legacy Santa Clara: East End - 5616 Lawndale | 832-548-5000 (Sliding scale fee)

3. Vecinos Clinic at Denver Harbor: 6402 Market St | 713-674-3326 or 713-695-4013 for pediatric care (Cost for mandatory screening varies; test is free)

4. Mi Doctor: 5230 Aldine Mail Route; call or text 1-888-776-5252 or call 281-598-3300 (Will bill insurance; \$165 without insurance)

5. Walgreens (starting tomorrow, Friday April 17th): 101 W. Southmoore Ave, Pasadena (Free testing)

6. Walgreens, 14531 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77082

7. Goose Creek ISD Stallworth: 2102 E Archer Rd, Baytown, TX (Free testing)

8. Forest Brook Middle School: 7525 Tidwell Rd (Free testing)

There will also be a mobile testing site in and around our district on certain days. Register at ReadyHarris.org or by calling 832-927-7575.

AlSD school nurses use their talents to create hundreds of masks

When Maisha Guillory, Aldine ISD program director of health services, presented a challenge to her school nurses, she was overwhelmed with the response.

And did they respond in a big, big way!

Guillory asked a number of AISD school nurses to create masks to help protect district employees while they distributed Chromebooks to Aldine ISD students April 15 and 17. The masks were used as a preventative in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.

"I am so proud of our nurses," Guillory said. "They stepped up to the plate and used their talents to create hundreds of masks for their fellow Aldine employees. They not only tend to the needs of their students, but they came to the aid of Aldine's staff and the community as well."

The nurses who created the masks were Deborah Stevenson of Spence Elementary School, Sofia Salazar of Dunn Elementary School, Emily Carter of Vines Primary School, Cindy Albee of Lane School, Sheri Quada of Aldine Education Center, Susan Klosterboer of Goodman Elementary School, Beverly Kelly of Cypresswood Elementary School, Cynthia Crafts of Odom Elementary School, Tequia Babineaux of Carver High School, Linda Linzy of Hambrick Middle School and Tawanna Charquois of Caraway Elementary School.

Linzy said make the masks helped her remain busy during the closure of the district.

"I started sewing masks to keep myself busy, every evening," she said. "I posted a few pictures on Facebook and on my



Spence Elementary School nurse Deborah Stevenson models one of the many masks she sewed for Aldine ISD employees to wear when they distribute Chromebooks to Aldine ISD students this week.

neighborhood app. I received an overwhelming response from people in my community needing and wanting masks."

Guillory requested 150 masks for the distribution undertaking. As Linzy stated earlier, all extra masks that were created were provided to members of the community.

Linzy said Stevenson and Klosterboer are talented seamstresses and she learned how to sew by watching Youtube videos.

Salazar made 60 masks on her own and shared a number of them with her Dunn family.

"I showed them to my Dunn family and they started asking if I can make them one," she said. "I love sewing, so why not!"

Stevenson, who has been a nurse for 35 years, created 88 masks and is working on another project for her neighbors.

"My next project will be to make a few masks and scrub caps for some of the grocery store clerks at my local Kroger," Stevenson said. "I will also sew scrub caps for my co-workers at the hospital."

Crafts said making the

masks was easy for her because she has years of sewing experience.

"As a sewer, I hoard fabric and supplies, as all good sewers do," Crafts said. "I have been using my stash. As nurses we have a tendency of wanting to get out and help do what we can, often times on the front lines helping people and their families."

Albee, who has been a nurse for 45 years, is also a life-long sewer who used a family heirloom to craft her masks.

"I have been sewing since junior high," Albee said. "The material I am using has come from projects I have done over the years and things I 'inherited' from my grandma's sewing box. I am also using grandmas' sewing machine to put them together."

The effort by this group of school nurses shows once again that when they are called to help others in Aldine and their community they come through in a big, big way!

Recovery Czar,

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the University of Houston School of Law and has served in the Texas Legislature since 2009. Rep. Walle serves on the Business and Industry Committee, serves as Vice Chair of the Land & Resource Management Committee, and serves on the Federalism & Fiscal Responsibility Committee.

"While we are in the midst of a public health crisis, it is critical for our decision-making to be driven by data and the judgment of our public health experts on how those decisions impact the people of the greater Houston region," Rep. Walle said Monday. "We need to work together on an inclusive recovery that responsibly ensures the health and economic well being of the people of Harris County. We need to save lives, and also save livelihoods."

Rep. Walle will work with a wide variety of regional stakeholders in this effort, including private sector, philanthropy, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, and local governments.

The goals of the effort will be to build a relief and recovery effort that is:

Inclusive: Ensure a widespread recovery including every sector of society and geographic area including small businesses, workers (including undocumented workers), food distribution, and access to education.



Last Monday, during a press conference, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, left, appointed State Representative Armando Walle, right, to lead COVID-19 county relief and recovery effort.

Fast: Acknowledging a full recovery will take years, take action to alleviate red tape or other obstacles in the way of progress.

Coordinated: Facilitate a coordinated effort to leverage state and federal recovery resources, maximize local and regional resources, and work with city and regional governments to achieve results.

House District 140, which Rep. Walle represents, includes portions of north Houston and unincorporated portions of north Harris County, including parts of the Northside and Aldine communities. After those areas were hit hard by Hurricane Harvey in 2017, Walle championed a bill requiring the

Health and Human Services Commission to coordinate with county judges to more rapidly deploy Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits during a disaster. During the 86th Texas Legislative Session, Walle also authored and passed a bill that established a grant program to help food banks respond to increased demand after a disaster.

Rep. Walle is currently a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, serving as Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Article III (public and higher education) and as a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State Infrastructure, Resiliency, and Investment.

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