#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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- Entertainment & Sports, Page 5
- Free Kids Meals. Page 8

TO OUR READERS:

The current Covid-19 Pandemic and other

economic conditions

change distribution to

Pick-up locations. See page 6 for 50 locations

where you can get a copy of the Northeast

thank you for your continued support.

News, and page 4 for email subscriptions. We

COVID-19

Cases as of May 9, 2020

**HOUSTON AREA** 

**12,243 POSITIVE** 315 DEATHS

4,481 RECOVERED **TEXAS** 

37.906 POSITIVE

**1,050 DEATHS** 

20.141 RECOVERED

**UNITED STATES** 

1,305,544 POSITIVE

78.618 DEATHS

212,534 RECOVERED

**WORLDWIDE** 

4,008,497 POSITIVE

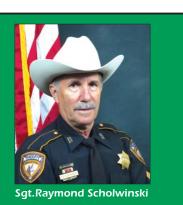
278,135 DEATHS

1,363,232 RECOVERED

have caused us to combine some issues



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years VOL. 44, NO. 20/21 TUESDAY, MAY 5 & 12, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS



# **Governor Abbott expands** opening of businesses in Texas

#### As Virus cases increase. Health officials want more testing, more tracking

HARRIS COUNTY -Two new sites for testing of the COVID-19 virus opened last week and this week, as health officials said that more tests are required to combat a rise in the count of affected persons and those who have

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has led the effort for the last two months to get more test sites, and she was present for the opening of these two sites, along with Dr.
Joseph Varon, the president of UMMC, the United Memorial Medical Center, who has been providing the medical person-

nel and tests for these free While the medical profession is calling for r

test sites, and warning that the virus pandemic is not contained or under control, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has expanded his order to open business-es to the public. On Tuesday, May 5th he added hair and nail salons, wedding venues, tanning salons, swimming pools, and on May 18 office buildings and gyms may open, with appropriate restrictions on

 $See\ Opening\ Texas,$ 

# Sheriff's deputy dies from COVID-19

By Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

HARRIS COUNTY, MAY 7- It is with deep regret that this week we sav goodbye to our brother and teammate, Sergeant Raymond Scholwinski. He passed away Wednesday after a courageous battle against coronavirus.

Sgt. Scholwinski began his service with the Harris County Sheriff's Office as a reserve deputy in 1979 and then went on to serve as a full-time officer for 26 years. His most recent as-

signment was as the day watch Contract Sergeant in District 2.

Sgt. Scholwinski represented the best of our HCSO family. Whether he was on patrol, making a neighborhood association presentation, or in the field during hurricanes, tropical storms, and other disas-

ters, Ray consistently de-livered for our residents. With heavy hearts this morning Sgt. Scholwinski was escorted from Memo-

See Deputy dies,Page 2

# City mourns loss of officer in Helicopter crash

GREENSPOINT Houston City officials and residents were mourning the loss last week of an HPD officer in a helicopter crash in the Greenspoint area. One officer was killed, and the other offic-er is in critical condition after a Houston Police Department helicopter crashed early Saturday, May 2, 2020 in an apart ment complex in north Houston

The HPD crash was reported at about 2 a.m. at the Biscayne At Cityview Apartment complex located at 17050 Imperial Valat 17050 Imperial Val-



Helicopter crash scene. At right is the roof of the apartment office and clubhouse

Aldine's Griggs Primary is first drive-through



HPD Officer Jason Knox

ley Drive, near the Greenspoint neighborhood. Authorities identified Jason Knox, 35, as the tactical flight officer involved



**HPD Officer Chase** Cormier with his wife

See Helicopter Crash,

#### COVID-19 **TESTING**

Testing North East Community Center, 10918 Bentley St., 77093. May 11-16, 10 am - 5 pm. 832-927-7575 or visit www.hcphtx.org. See AD, page 3 for more details.

### **FREE MEALS**

Every Thursday Grab & Go Kids Meals Pct. 2 YET Center II. 10 am 12 pm. See AD, page 8 for more details.

### **LIBARIES CLOSED**

■All Harris County Public library branches will remainh closed to the public unhtil further notice due to COVID-19. Please visit www.hcpl.net for more information on your local library.

The Houston Public Library will remain closed through May 31, 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis.

# testing area for coronavirus in Greenspoint area U.S. Congresswoman

Sheila Jackson Lee, along with Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, announced the opening of the first coronavirus drive-through testing location in the Greenspoint on Friday,

May 1. The drive-through testing location is located at Merlin D. Griggs Primary School, located at 801 Regional Park.

The testing is free and is being conducted by United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC) and will take place Monday through Fri-

day 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The testing facility at Griggs Primary is the only

one in Houston between 610 and Beltway 8.

During a press conference in front of the school on May 1, Congresswoman Lee thanked Dr. Goffney and Aldine ISD for making Griggs Primary available

as a testing sight.
"I am thankful to Aldine ISD to allow us to go into neighborhoods where no testing has come," Lee said. "Greenspoint has not had free accessible testing and we are delighted to start testing there because All of Houston should be tested. It is imperative that we continue increasing testing opportunities at a rapid rate.

Dr. Goffney was joined



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney delivers remarks as U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee looks on during a press conference on Friday, May 1 to announce the opening of the first coronavirus drive-through testing locations in the Greenspoint area at Aldine ISD's Merlin D. Griggs Primary School (801 Regional Drive).

at the press conference by Board President Paul Shanklin, Assistant Secretary Dr. Kimberley Booker, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services Dr. Charlotte Davis and Assistant Superintendent of Community and Govern-mental Relations Abel Gar-

Dr. Goffney said Aldine was more than willing to step up to support the Greenspoint community.
"Aldine ISD is happy to

answer the call to help

See Greenspoint Testing Site, Page 8

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

## FREE HARRIS COUNTY COVID-19 **TESTING SITE IN PCT. 2**

Get tested if you suspect you're infected with COVID - 19

For a free assessment, call the COVID - 19 resource line at 832-927-7575 or visit www.hcphtx.org #StopTheSpread







77093

May 11 - May 16





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

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#### SCHOOL / COMMUNITY NEWS

## UIL Cancels All Spring Activities for Remainder of 2019-20 School Year

With the announcement from Governor Greg Abbott that all Texas schools are to remain closed to inperson learning for the remainder of this school year, and in an effort to help protect the health and safety of Texans, the University Interscholastic League (UIL) is canceling all remaining 2019-2020 spring activities and state championships.

Dre Thompson, Aldine ISD's executive director of athletics, said he is disappointed for the district's senior athletes, he said he looks forward to the future for Aldine's underclassmen student-athletes.
"My heart goes out to

our seniors and all of our student-athletes," Thompson said. "In Aldine we are proud of our student-athletes who are not only good athletes and students, but are good people as well. We will continue to work for our seniors and help them accomplish their goals. The future will be bright for them Our coaches will continue to work with our returning players, making



sure they come back stronger than ever.

"I'm very proud of what's being displayed by our coaches and their re-lationships with our student-athletes. Their actions continue to show the commitment and honest concern for each of our student-athletes. We will come out of this stronger than ever and our seniors will be stronger than ever from this experience," Thompson said.

"Our staff had been working hard on plans to resume activities this spring, but without schools in session, interscholastic activities cannot continue," said UIL Executive Director Dr. Charles Breithaupt. "Our highest priority during this challenging time is ensuring the health

and safety of our students and communities and making progress in the containment of COVID-19 in Texas. We are now turning our attention to the 2020-2021 school year."

Practices, rehearsals. and workouts remain sus-pended until further notice. The previously communicated information allowing remote instruction remains in place. The UIL will continue to follow the direction of state authorities and will work closely with member schools to navigate this unprecedented time.
"I am grateful to the

UIL staff for their leader-ship and dedication to students," said UIL Legislative Council Chair Curtis Rhodes. "Together we will get through this and we look forward to the day students are once again able to participate in education-based interscholastic activities.

Further details will be forthcoming. Please continue to check the UIL web site and social media accounts for updates

## Aldine ISD Cancels All District-Sponsored Proms, Reschedules Graduation Ceremonies

With a still evolving COVID-19 situation, school districts are left anticipating how to host celebratory activities for the Class of 2020.

Due to the uncertainty of possible extended orders to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and the growing number of cases of COVID-19, Aldine ISD has decided to cancel district-sponsored high school proms for all nine high schools. Graduation ceremonies have been resched-uled for late July.

"I know this hurts," Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Aldine ISD superintendent, said. "A student's senior year is supposed to be the most exciting year before heading to college or the workforce. We're extremely saddened that our seniors' memories will be altered by COVID-19. Still, our main priority is that our students, families, and staff remain safe.'

Campus leaders are

working to issue refunds to students who have paid fees for senior activities. This typically includes yearbook, t-shirts, the cost of a senior trip, and prom tickets.

The district is also working on two contingency plans for graduation cer-emonies. The last week of July has been set aside for in-person ceremonies. Plans are being explored for virtual ceremonies should health rules and regulations not allow the event to move forward as

AISD high school seniors will take part in their graduation ceremonies on July 23 and 24. All ceremonies will take place at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center (1865 Aldine Bender Rd.).

The dates and times of the ceremonies are:

Thursday, July 23

• Hall Center for Educa-

tion — 11:00 a m  $\bullet \, Eisenhower$ 

School — 12:30 p.m.

•Victory Early College High School — 3:30 p.m.

•Davis High School -6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 24

• MacArthur High

School — 8:00 a.m. •Carver HS for Engineering, Applied Technology & the Arts—11:00 a.m. •Nimitz High School -

1:00 p.m.
•Blanson Career and Technical Education High School — 4:00 p.m. •Aldine High School —

5:30 p.m.

A virtual Senior Spirit Week is being planned for the last week of May to coincide with the end of the school year. It will end with a short ceremony on June 1, where Superintendent Dr. LaTonya Goffney and Board members will officially confirm the degrees of the Class of 2020, allowing them to move forward with plans after high school.

# Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act offers help for Lone Star College students

HOUSTON (April 27, 2020) - Lone Star College is ready to help you get back to work, or update your skills with state-ofthe-art online education thanks to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic  $Security \, (CARES) \, Act. \,$ 

"Lone Star College has received additional funds to provide students with emergency financial assistance as part of the CARES Act," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. "This money can help those looking for work to enhance their job skills and make them more em-

The CARES Act award-

ed LSC nearly \$28 million. \$14 million is to be given to eligible students impacted by COVID-19 with the other \$14 million used to cover lost revenues or expenses. The funds can also be used as grants to students for food, housing, technology and other pur-

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people who are looking for a new career or seeking to improve their job skills," said Head. LSC increased online

classes from 1,624 to 6,825 since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Registration for Summer, May Mini-Mester and Fall classes is

now open. The CARES Act, which as signed into law March 28, provides almost \$14 billion for higher education institutions nationwide to support the costs of shifting classes online, and for grants to students for food, housing, technology and other purposes.

Visit LoneStar.edu/ CARESAct for more information and to determine your eligibility. LSC Financial Aid representatives are also available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist via email and live chat. The Financial Aid Early Deci-

sion application runs

# Lone Star College extends campus closures to June 1

HOUSTON (April 29, 2020) – Lone Star College has announced it has extended campus closures. All LSC campuses, centers and system office buildings will remain closed until June 1.

"The safety of our employees is of the utmost importance," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. "Lone Star College employees have joined our students in transitioning online, working from home to ensure we continue to provide the support and resources necessary for our students to succeed."

During this time, LSC is able to provide emergency financial grants to students to help cover expens-

es related to disruptions due to the coronavirus such as food, housing, course materials, technol ogy, health care and child care through the CARES Act. Learn more by visiting LoneStar edu/CARESAct

"Thank you to all the faculty and staff who assisted with the resumption of over 6,300 classes online," said Head. "Lone Star College has almost 70,000 students enrolled and taking classes this

spring semester." Registration for Summer, May Mini-Mester and Fall is now open. Visit LoneStar.edu/Registration to learn more about all the ways LSC can help you toward a new career or up-

date your current skills. Lone Star College offers high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education to 99,000 students each semester. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area with an annual economic impact of nearly \$3 billion. LSC consists of seven colleges, eight centers, two university centers, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more,

visit LoneStar.edu.

# Opening Texas,

distances. The order also allows non-essential manufacturing to open.

Abbott originally said

that Phased openings would depend upon the rate of infections and deaths from the virus decreasing, but data from last week indicates that Harris County and the state of Texas had its highest num-ber of deaths since the epi-damic started. The governor did not comment on his decision to enlarge the opening of businesses,

except to note that Texas has one of the lower percapita death rates in the

Last issued an order that restaurants, retail stores, malls, movie theaters, museums and libraries, and churches were allowed to open, but had to observe a

25% occupancy limit.
The press conference also proposed four methods for high schools to hold graduation ceremonies in lieu of traditional indoor assemblies.

The seventh drive-thru free public site opened last week at the Griggs Primary School in the Greenspoint district, at 801 Regiional Park Drive. This site is run by UMMC, or United Memorial Medical Center, and will remain open as long as there is a need, said Jackson-Lee.

During a press conference in front of the school on May 1, Congresswoman Lee said "I am thankful to Aldine ISD to allow us to go into neighborhoods where no testing has come," Lee said. "Green-spoint has not had free accessible testing and we are delighted to start testing there because All of Hous ton should be tested. It is

imperative that we continue increasing testing opportunities at a rapid

Testing is free and open to all individuals seeking to get tested, with or with-out symptoms. No preregistration is required. Testers may be asked for proof of identification or medical insurance; howev er, neither is required to complete the testing.

The screening is de-

signed to quickly test as many people as possible. A health care professional in protective gear will screen community members from their car. Anyone who tests positive will receive a call from the Harris County Health Depart-

For more information visit <u>www.ummc</u> screening.com or the Harris County Health Department, 713-634-1110 for Ask A Nurse, or 713-439-6000 for information on mobile test sites. County Judge Lina

Hidalgo announced last week that four Harris County Public Health (HCPH) mobile units will provide drive-through testing for COVID-19, adding up to 400 tests per day to the county's current testing capacity at two permanent sites, one in Baytown and one in Katy. Each pop-up site, which will rotate locations across the precincts starting Tuesday, will be able to make up to 100 drivethrough tests per day. Additionally, testing capacity at HCPH's two existing stationary sites will in-crease to 500 tests per lo-

cation, 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 isote 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. In-dividuals without access to a computer or Internet can call the Harris County Pub-lic Health COVID-19 resource line 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

# Aldine ISD to Hold Virtual Dance, **Drill Team Tryouts**

Due to the closing of school during the Coronavirus pandemic, Aldine ISD students will have a chance to tryout for dance and drill teams for the 2020-2021 school year vir-

tually this spring.
The tryouts are for middle school and high school students.

Students have two options to choose from. They can tryout this spring or late summer/early fall.

Students wishing to try out this spring must apply on-line by May 15. Tryout applications can be found

1. Legacy Northline: 5598 A-1

North Freeway | 832-548-5000 (Sliding scale fee)

2. Legacy Santa Clara: East End - 5616 Lawndale | 832-548-

3. Vecinos Clinic at Denver

mandatory screening varies; test

Harbor: 6402 Market St | 713-

674-3326 or 713-695-4013 for

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

Walgreens (starting)

tomorrow, Friday April 17th): 101 W. Southmoore Ave,

adena (Free testing)

6. Walgreens, 14531

7. Goose Creek ISD

Stallworth: 2102 E Archer Rd, Baytown, TX (Free testing)

8 Forest Brook Middle

School: 7525 Tidwell Rd (Free

Westheimer Road, Houston, TX

5000 (Sliding scale fee)

are entirely free.

online at www.smore.com/

m5x7p. Students must submit their tryout recordings by May 15.
For those students try-

ing out this spring, there is a three-step process.
•Step 1 – All candidates

must submit an application in order to be considered by using the link

above. •Step 2 – Students need to learn the tryout combo using the videos provided in the link above. They will then record themselves.

•Step 3 – Students will receive information from their campus director on how to submit their video. Again, submissions are due on May 15.

Tryout results will be posted digitally after all submissions have been re-

For students wishing to tryout in late summer or early fall, each of their campuses will provide information regarding a specific date and time when a traditional in-person tryout will take place.

# **Deputy** dies,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rial Hermann Hospital in The Woodlands to a funer al home in Houston. Please keep Sgt. Scholwinski's family in your prayers during this tremendously sad and difficult time.

Funeral services for Sgt. Raymond Scholwins-ki have been set for Thursday, May 14 at First Assembly of God in Hum-ble. A public visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., with social distance ing enforced. Services will be held at 10 a.m. Admission into the sanctuary will be strictly limited to ensure proper social distancing. Additional details will be forthcoming next week. May he rest in peace. E.O.W. 05/06/2020.

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#### COMMUNITY NEWS

# County Strike team to bring Covid19 testing to senior centers

#### **Additional Pop-up Testing Sites Bring** Daily Capacity to 1,600

Harris County, Texas-April 27, 2020 – Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Monday announced the launch of a Harris County COVID-19 Strike Team to identify high-risk congregate settings and bring testing to them Starting Tuesday, the team, composed of county epidemiologists, public health experts, social workers, and testing staff, will conduct site assessments, provide recommendations or control orders where needed, and provide the ability to test large groups of residents and staff at locations such as senior centers, nursing homes, and shelters.

"The goal isn't just to save lives, but to also go on offense against this virus

and quickly isolate it where we know it has the potential to spread quick-ly," Judge Hidalgo said. "The more we're able to do this, the better we're able to choke off the virus, stop it in its tracks, and move forward.'

The effort is part of Harris County's strategy to use aggressive public health interventions to stem the spread of COVID-19. The Strike Team will start with one nursing home per day but will expand in capacity in the coming days as additional capacity and staff are added.

Additionally, starting Thursday, the county will double its mobile testing sites from two to four, in addition to the fixed testing sites in Katy and Bay-

Each mobile testing site has the capacity to test 150 per day, with each fixed site capable of handling up

to 500. This brings the to tal daily testing capacity, not including tests con-ducted by the strike team, to 1.600 tests. People living anywhere in the county may choose the site that is most convenient for

"We know that the eas-

ier we make it for folks to get tested, the more will be able and willing to do so," Judge Hidalgo said. "It's our job to do what we can to make sure we're touching every corner of our community." Testing is available for anyone regardless of citizenship sta-tus and is free. All individuals seeking a test should complete an online screening tool at ReadyHarris.org or call 832-927-7575. If the individual cannot drive to a site, the county's At-Home Testing Team will call the individual and set up an

appointment.

## **Harris County Judge announces** framework to guide County containment efforts COVID-19 amid statewide orders to reopen economy

Strategy Includes Recruitment of Hundreds of Contact Tracers, Increased Public Testing Capacity, and Continued Tracking of the Disease and of Healthcare Capacity

HARRIS COUNTY, April 28, 2020 — Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced a threepoint framework designed to contain the spread of COVID-19 as a phased approach to reopen the economy across Texas begins to ramp up. The framework contains three key components, including increased tracing of positive cases, enhanced testing capacity, and continued efforts to ensure there is enough healthcare capacity to weather a spike in cases.
"If the economy will be-

gin opening May 1st, in order to keep it open, it's vital we follow a smart containment strategy that ensures our systems are prepared to identify, test, and treat those who are sick," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "Achieving containment that is sustainable will be a tall order given the May 1st timeline, and we cannot afford to erase the gains our community has sacrificed so much to achieve. Harris County will do everything possible to preserve what we have accomplished thus far, and this framework will help us get there."

The framework, developed with input from public health officials and policy experts, will work to expand the County's ability to identify, test, and treat residents. It will do so by focusing on enhanc-ing County capacity to identify and isolate new cases by tracing the contacts of infected individuals, testing higher-risk

community members, and

closely tracking key indicators of disease spread and hospital capacity. The goal is to ensure that COVID-19 cases are contained, and that hospital admissions continue to decline.

As part of the plan, Harris County will immediately begin recruiting hundreds of new contact tracers to identify and sup-port isolation efforts. The contact tracers will work to locate everyone in contact with infected residents and ensure they are tested and/ or self-isolating for at least 14 days. At the same time, Harris County will continue to expand the availability of testing for anyone who has reason to believe that they may be infected, including close contacts of individuals who test positive, and other higher-risk

The three key components of the framework include:

Testing Harris County will continue to increase testing capacity in coordination with public and private sources to ensure the availability of widespread, affordable, and efficient testing.

As part of this effort, yesterday the County announced a "strike team" to deploy testing to congregate settings like nursing homes along with two additional pop-up testing lo-cations. These testing sites add to the existing two pop-up locations and two fixed testing locations in Katy and in Baytown. Beginning this week, the County will have the ability to test up to 1,600 residents per day, and will continue to advocate for

more testing resources.
In order to test all new cases and their contacts with existing resources, it is imperative that the number of new cases remain at below 100 per day.

Tracing
Harris County will exponentially expand its epidemiological workforce, which has already been scaled up from pre-COVID levels. As part of the effort, Harris County will recruit about 300 contact tracers with the ability to expand as needed. Potential sources of additional workforce include temporary hires, contractors, existing Har-ris County staff, and volunteers, all of whom will be hired by qualified epidemiologists and other staff.

#### Treatment

Harris County will con-tinue to work with healthcare providers and other partners to ensure that healthcare capacity is in place as part of planning for another wave of infections. While the curve of hospital admissions has not decreased to the safest level recommended by local healthcare experts, the county will work to maximize resources given the current circumstances.

In addition, Harris County will continue to track the rate of infection and hospitalization to understand the potential progression of COVID-19 and to gauge the possibility of a spike in cases. This information will inform advocacy efforts as well as additional actions the County may take to restrict or loosen public health measures to protect the health and safety of our community. Harris County is working with several research organizations as part of this effort. The goal is to also continue tracking total hospital beds, ICU beds, ventilators, and other metrics to support our planning

For additional information visit ReadyHarris.org.

# Paul Cordova named Aldine ISD Police Chief

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced on Thursday, April 30 the hiring of Paul Cordova as the district's new Police Chief.

"I am super excited to welcome Chief Cordova to Aldine ISD," Dr. Goffney said. "Mr. Cordova brings a wealth of law enforcement experience and we feel he will be an outstanding leader who will guide our police department as we move forward. As a bonus, he's a member of our community. His family lives in Aldine and his children are graduates of Nimitz High School."

Cordova brings 37 years of law enforcement experience to Aldine. He comes to AISD after serving as Police Chief of the Houston Independent School District, a position he has held since early 2018. Prior to that assignment, he served as HISD's Assistant Chief of Police. He has also served as Captain of the Rice University Police Department, Homeland Security Captain for the Harris County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Warrants Captain for the Harris County Sheriff's Office, as a Patrol Captain for the Sheriff's Office, as an Inmate Processing/Transportation Captain with the Sheriff's Office, as a Criminal Warrants Lieutenant with that same department and as an Inmate Processing Lieutenant with that same



Paul Cordova

Cordova has also served as a Transportation Lieutenant, as a Housing Lieutenant, as a Patrol Sergeant, as a Courts Sergeant, as a Housing Ser eant, as a Detective, as a Patrol Deputy and as a Housing Detention Officer with the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

"I am deeply honored and grateful to be chosen to lead this great agency and I look

forward to working with Dr. Goffney's team in making Aldine ISD safe and secure for all

secure for all
of our students," Cordova said. "There is no higher calling in law
enforcement than to protect our future leaders and that is what we will be do-ing at the Aldine ISD Police Department. I'm a firm believer in community policing and we will also be reaching out to our parents to show our support for

Cordova received his associate degree of applied science from Lone Star College and his bachelor's and master's in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University. He is certified as a Master Peace Officer, Master Jailer, Crime Prevention Specialist, and as a Police Instruc-

Cordova has received training from the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas Leadership Command College, FBI National Academy, FBI LEEDA Internal Affairs and has more than 7,500 hours of law enforcement training.

He is a member of the

Sam Houston State University Alumni Association, the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the International Associa-tion of Chiefs of Police, the FBI National Academy Association, and is a life member of the 100 Club of Houston. He is also a life member of the Mexican American Sheriff's Organization, is an alumnus of the Leadership Command College, and is a member of the Fraternal Order of

Police Lodge #39. Cordova and his wife Marie have two daughters, Monica Cordova Aces and Victoria, both of whom graduated from Nimitz High School. Monica was the salutatorian of her se-

# Helicopter Crash,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the crash, he later died at the hospital. Knox had been with the police de-partment for eight and half years and had been with their air unit for one year and three months.

The second officer, hase Cormier, 35, was airlifted to Memorial Herhospitaltreatment. At a news briefing Saturday afternoon, Houston Police Department Chief Art Acevedo said Cormier was out of

surgery and conscious.
According to HPD, Cormier was sworn in as an HPD officer in July 2006. He is currently assigned to the Air & Marine Divison. Cormier has been for three years

According to officials, the two officers were in the 75 Fox helicopter from the Houston Police Department's Air Operations Unit and were investigating reports of bodies floating in a bayou.

"They responded right before 2 a.m. and within minutes we got reports from the Houston Forensic Science Center crime scene unit that was working a murder scene at the 17000 block of Imperial Valley that our helicopter had gone down," Acevedo said. Officials from the Hous-

ton Fire Department, the Houston Police Department and the Harris Counrushed to the scene.

The pilot and the co-pilot were trapped in the wreckage for a while as crews worked to get them out. Firefighters worked had to cut the pilots out of

the wreckage.

There were no flames involved in the crash and the pilot was able to avoid the apartment buildings. "They were able to avoid going into the actual apartment buildings where people were sleeping and were able to, basically, they clipped a part of the club-house," Acevedo said. No residents were in-

jured in the crash.

The funeral service took place on Saturday, May 9 at 11:00 a.m. at Houston's First Baptist Church.

Following the funeral service, full police honors were rendered outside the church, with social distanc-

# Greenspoint Testing Site,

keep our communities safe and healthy during this crisis," she said. "The Greenspoint area is part of our Aldine community. Of the 22,010 Aldine students who live in apartments or mobile homes, more than half of those students reside in the Greenspoint area.
"As the stay-home order

comes to an end and businesses in our community reopen, we know that our area is vulnerable due to a lack of nearby testing sites in our community. More than 80 percent of our students are economically disadvantaged, and we have been working side-by-side with our partners to meet the needs of our community. I thank Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and UMMC for thinking about our Aldine ISD families and providing this opportunity.

Testing is free and open to all individuals seeking to get tested, with our without symptoms. No preregistration is required.



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, left, and U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee visited the coronavirus testing center at Griggs Primary School on Thursday, May 7: they also handed out perishable food items to individuals.

Testers may be asked for proof of identification or medical insurance; however, neither is required to complete the testing.

The screening is designed to quickly test as many people as possible. A health care professional in protective gear will screen community members from

their car. Anyone who tests positive will receive a call from the Harris County Health Department.

The testing site at Griggs Primary School will run as long as there is a need.

For more information visit

www.ummcscreening.com



#### OPINION PAGE



# Social Security Matters

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

## Ask Rusty – Should My Wife Take Her Social Security at Age 62?

Dear Rusty: I have been advised by my financial planner to start my wife's social security benefits at the age of 62 (she is now 61). I am 65 and still employed, not on Medicare, and not taking social security benefits. My wife's benefits are much less than mine. I hope to wait until age 70 before starting my benefits My income is currently \$160,000. Do you see this as a wise choice to start my wife's SS benefits at age 62? Signed: Planning Ahead

**Dear Planning:** Whether your wife should start her benefits at age 62 depends upon whether her own benefit at age 70 would be more than she is entitled to as your spouse at her full retirement age (FRA). You can get these estimates from Social Security. If her own benefit would eventually be higher than her spousal benefit from you, she can wait to get her own higher benefit at age 70 (as you are). But if her benefit as your spouse will be the highest she can attain, then claiming her own benefit before you claim yours could be a good choice, but there re some things to consider if she does that:

First, if your wife claims at age 62 (or any age before her FRA), that will mean that her eventual spousal benefit when she claims it (when you claim your SS) will be less than 50% of the benefit you are entitled to at your full retirement age. Taking her own benefit earlier than her FRA will mean her spousal benefit from you will be reduced to less than half of your FRA benefit amount, even if that spousal benefit starts after she has reached her FRA.

Second, if your wife is still working, by claiming her own benefit before her FRA she will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits the amount of money she can

back some of her benefits For 2020, the annual earnings limit is \$18,240 (changes annually) and SS will take back benefits equal to half of any earnings which exceed that amount. The earnings limit becomes less severe during the year your wife reaches her FRA and goes away entirely after she reaches her FRA, but if she works while collecting early SS benefits the earnings limit could affect her

Third, your wife's Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income (assuming you file "married-jointly). Taxation of your wife's Social Security benefits will be determined based upon your combined income if you file your taxes as a married couple. At your combined earnings level, up to 85% of your wife's SS benefits will become part of your taxable income.

I'm not suggesting you not follow your financial planner's advice; I only want to make sure you're aware of all the factors involved when benefits are claimed early. Sometimes, a wife claiming at age 62 is a prudent choice as your financial planner has suggested. But some-times understanding the above factors may lead to a different strategy.

This article is intended

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



# Governor's order reopens many businesses on limited basis

AUSTIN — An executive order issued by Gov. Greg Abbott to reopen in-store retail shopping, dinein restaurants, movie theaters, museums, libraries and more took effect May 1 and will continue

through May 15. As Texas, the rest of the United States and the world's nations seek to balance cries for increased commercial activity — and the jobs that result while also containing the spread of the deadly influenza-like virus, COVID-19, Abbott's order allows most venues to operate at up to 25% of their total listed occupancy with certain

other conditions applying. For example, shopping malls may operate at up to 25% of their total listed occupancy. However, their food-court dining areas, play areas and interactive displays and settings must remain closed.

Abbott's order, in accordance with guidelines issued by White House and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reminds Texans that schools remain closed to in-person classroom attendance by students through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Meanwhile, teachers and staff are encouraged to continue to work remotely from home if possible but may return to campuses to conduct remote video instruction and perform administrative duties under strict terms required by the Texas Education Agency. Also, prischools institutions of higher education are urged to establish similar terms to allow faculty and staff to return to campuses to conduct remote video instruction and perform administrative duties when it is not possible to do so from home

Notably, the order does not prohibit people from accessing essential or reopened services or engag in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obreopened services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing or engaging in physical activity like jogging, bicycling or other outdoor sports, "so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19

Gilbert Hoffman...

Lewis Spearman..

Luis Hernandez....

Julieta Paita..

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Ed Sterling**

and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same house-

The complete executive order is available at

gov.texas.gov.
Cumulative figures
posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services at noon on May 3 showed that some 31,548 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 867 deaths had been confirmed as resulting from the influenza-like vi-

## PBS, TEA launch

initiative
The Texas Education Agency and PBS television stations on April 21 announced a joint initiative to air educational programming each week in each of Texas' 10 PBS viewing areas during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The programming commenced statewide on April 20 through the "At-Home Learning Initiative" that preempts regularly scheduled weekday programming

grade-level-appropriate programming divided into three age groups: Pre-K through 3rd grade, 5th through 8th grade, and high school. 'This joint initiative be-

tween TEA and PBS stands to benefit all students as they work each day to navigate uncharted waters and continue to do their best to learn and grow as students and indi-viduals," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike

#### Revenue total decreases

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on May 1 announced state sales tax evenue totaled \$2.58 billion in April, an amount 9.3% less than the amount reported in April 2019, marking the steepest decline since January 2010.

The majority of April sales tax revenue is based on sales made in March

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and remitted to the state comptroller in April. Next month's remittances likely will show steeper declines compared to a year ago because of the shuttering of businesses related to COVID-19 and plummeting oil prices throughout April, Hegar added.

#### Benefits may continue The Texas Workforce

Commission on April 30 issued new guidance to unemployment claimants concerning their eligibility for unemployment benefits should they choose not to return to work due to COV-ID-19.

The TWC said Texans can continue to receive unemployment benefits throughout the COVID-19 response if they choose not to return to work for certain reasons, including:
—At High Risk: People

—At fligh Msk. Feephe
65 years or older are at a
higher risk for getting very
sick from COVID-19;
—Household member at

high risk: People 65 years or older are at a higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19;

-Diagnosed with COV-ID: Individual has tested positive for COVID-19 by a source authorized by the State of Texas and is not

recovered;
—Family member with COVID: Anybody in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 by a source authorized by the State of Texas and is not recovered and 14 days have not yet passed;

—Quarantined: Individ-ual is currently in 14-day quarantine due to close contact exposure to COV-ID-19: and

— Child care: Child's school or daycare closed and no alternatives are available

Any other situation will be subject to a case by case review by TWC based on individual circumstances.

### SNAP online is

**approved**The Texas Health and Human Services Commission on April 23 received federal approval to conduct a pilot program that would allow Texans to purchase groceries online using Sup-plemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic Officials said the statewide pilot program is expected to start by May





## "Small Containers"

Every Mother's Day, I have a terrible time finding a card that remotely reflects the relationship I have with my

My mom is in her eighties now and we have always had a good relationship, free of drama and never short of love. My mother has always been a wonderful role model But the cards available all have paragraphs of gooey prose that in no way communicate what I want to say to my mother.

I want a card that savs my mother has good habits.

This sounds a little dull—and my mother is not at all dull She is a woman with many and varied interests. She is an enthusiastic biker, quilter, camper, and reader. She is a wonderful baker, a great entertainer, a funny and interesting conversationalist and a spiritual woman. To say that her good habits are the thing I admire most sounds like damning with faint praise. But more and more, I realize how important good habits are and how much I have benefitted from her example.

My mother puts things in

nall containers. Whether it is a box of precisely the right size to store leftovers for a future meal, a small satchel for a weekend's worth of clothes, a tiny vase for a single flower, or a little tin for a few small homemade cookies—everything is contained in a small, practical container. From this habit, I learned not to waste. I learned that quality was much more important than quantity. I learned that just the right amount is usually as good as a large amount—and often

I don't have a single recollection of my mothe saying any of these things, but I have more memories than I can count of instances where she stored what was needed, made use of what was available, and made something beautiful on a

My mother does things immediately.

She does not talk about walks she is going to take later-she puts on her shoes She doesn't complain how the house needs cleaning. She cleans. She does not delay or procrastinate. She starts to do whatever she thinks should be done and (usually before I am aware of it) she is doing the thing I would still be contem plating

I don't remember any lectures about the evils of procrastination but I remember her looking at the clock and saying, "I have 30 minutes before I start dinner, I'm going out for a walk!" My mother has nice rituals

Every day she reads a devotional in the morning, she writes in her diary, she exercises. Every evening she has one glass of wine with cheese and crackers and keeps current on the news. She sets a table, even if there are only two people eating. She sends cards, even though she is on Facebook. She volunteers, keeps up with friends. calls her daughters (at least one of whom has been known to go off for long periods of time without much communication) just to say "hello." My mother never said

anything to me about creating rituals in life, but I learned from her how comforting it is to have things done repeatedly and with care. I learned how valued people feel when an effort is made to treat every meal, every gathering, as if it is worthy of fresh flowers.

I never found the card I wanted. I never found a card that said, "Thanks for good habits and fresh flowers and keeping things in small containers.'

Maybe that's okay. I'll tell her next time I see her.

> Till next time Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more

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## SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Nimitz grad Michael Bourn comes to the aid of his community

Michael Bourn knows there are a lot of people hurting financially because of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

That's why the Nimitz High grad and former Major League Baseball player is doing what he can to help those in need

Bourn, who played 11 years in the majors and spent three years with the Houston Astros (2008-10), owns three apartment complexes in Houston. To assist his tenants who might be struggling financially to provide necessities for their families, he waived their rent for April and May.

Precinct 2 County Commissioner Adrian Garcia learned of Bourn's gesture and had a resolution passed by the Harris County Commissioner's Court on April 28 to recognize his act of kindness.

Bourn said it didn't take him long to decide to reach out to his fellow

"We are all in this together," he said. "I just felt like they (his tenants) could benefit from taking a break from paying their rent. I don't know everyone of my tenants, but I do know some of them have been laid off. I believe if you are able to help someone else, you should."

gifts they can ever give us: we watch it every day,

Color Key:

P = Pink Y = Yellow we use it, it flies by,

Mothers spend their

once we spend it, we can never get it back...

on us.

Bourn said he hopes his kind gesture helps during this difficult time for so many Houstopians

"There are so many things they can buy, so I thought it was right to lend them a helping hand," he said. "If they can buy extra groceries or clothes, then that's great."

Bourn, who graduated from Nimitz High in 2000 and then attended the University of Houston on a baseball scholarship, played in the majors from 2006 until 2016. He began his career with the Philadelphia Phillies, and played for the Astros, the Toronto Blue Jays,

the Atlanta Braves, the Cleveland Indians, the Arizona Diamondbacks and completed his career with the Baltimore Orioles.

He was a two-time All-Star (in 2010 with the Astros and in 2012 with the Braves) and twice led the National League in stolen bases in 2009 and 2010 and led the American League in steals in 2011 with Toronto. In 2014 he led the American League in triples while playing for Cleveland.

Today, he is a businessman and father who enjoys watching his son and daughter participate in youth sports

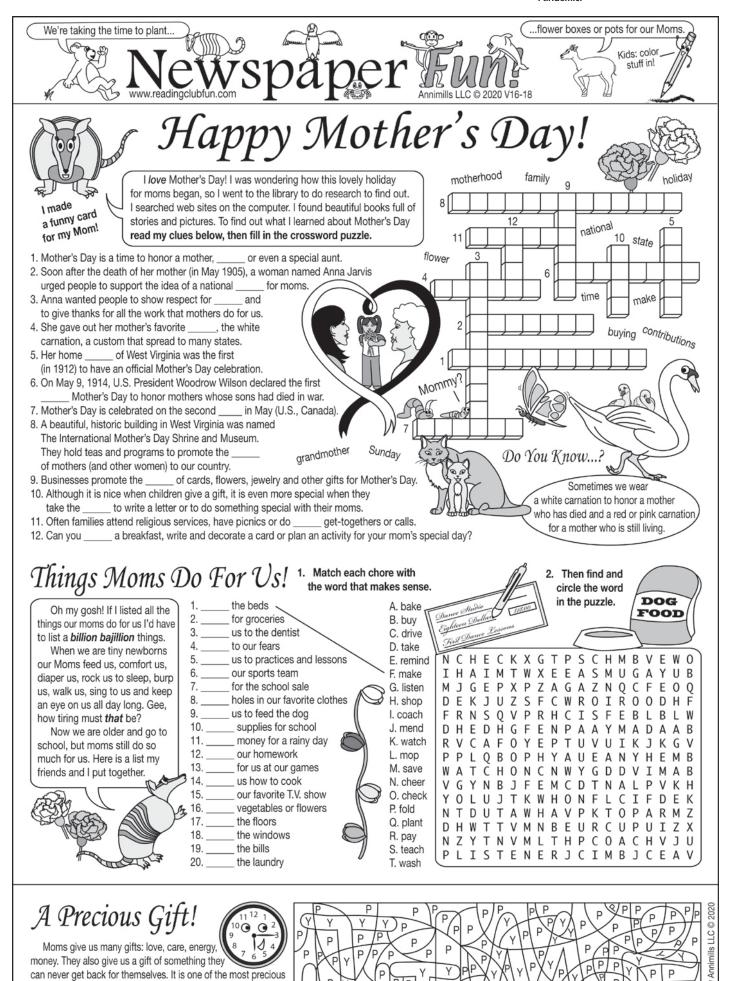
He has also returned to Aldine to speak at career days at Nimitz and Teague Middle School.

"It's nice to go back and see where I came from," Bourn said. And thanks to Michael Bourn, he's made life a little bit easier for

And thanks to Michael Bourn, he's made life a little bit easier for folks who are going through tough times.



Nimitz High grad and former Houston Astro Michael Bourn is helping his community during the Coronavirus Pandemic



#### PAGE CHURCH

### **BIBLE TRIVIA**

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Numbers 4, what color was the cloth draped over the Ark of the Covenant? White,

Black, Gold, Blue 3. "The wicked man travaileth with pain all his days" is from what Book's 15:20? Ezra. Nehemiah, Job, Psalms

4. From Daniel 5, who was so scared that his knees knocked together? Moses, Belshazzar, Solomon Lot

5. Who paid Delilah to betray the mighty Samson? The Pharaoh, Abdi, Lords of the Philistines, Jeuz 6. In which city were 85

riests slain? Gezer, Nob, Shechem, Aphek

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Blue; 3) Job; 4) Belshazzar; 5) Lords of the Philistines (rulers); 6) Nob.



And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. EPHESIANS 6:18

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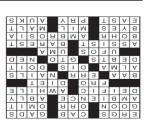
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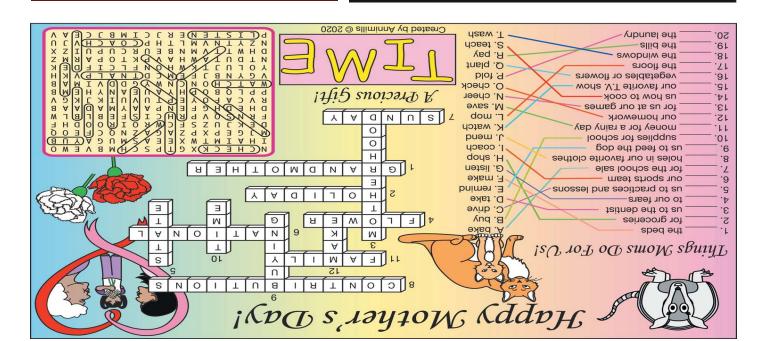
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# King Crossword

### **ACROSS**

- Work units
- Urban carrier 8 Wanders
- 12 Hoodlum
- 13 Bobby of hockey
- 14 Leave out
- 17 With skill 18 Godlike
- 19 Indefinite interval
- To and -22 Regimen
- 23 Sheepish comment 26 Mess up
- 28 Manicurist's
- concerns 31 Mater preced-

33 Insult (SI.)

- 35 Nike slogan, 'Just -36 Unpaid bills
- 38 1960s Pontiac 40 Homer's
- neighbor Faraway
- fleet? 43 Actress Thurman
- 45 Help 47 Least
- adorned Physicist
- Niels 52 Food of the

- 55 Wire measure 56 Soda fountain treat

54 Tourney situa-

tions

- 57 Right on the map? 58 Snoop 59 Arctic diving
- DOWN

birds

- "Zounds!" 2 Jim of sports radio
- 3 Asian desert Express dis-
- dain nasally
  - © 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.
- attacks

55

5 Massachus-

etts city

Joan of

8 Proceed

9 Drive

16 Ireland

20 Victory

The staff of

10 Pickling herb

Eyelid woe

- 29 Falsehood
- 48 Birthright bar-23 Evil 24 Brewery prod-49 Symbol of uct
- 25 Surprise
- 27 Tractor-trailer
- smoothness 50 Body pics 53 Russian

30 Norm: Abbr

32 Originally 34 Unshaven, in

a way

37 "Mayday!"

39 Mr. Sharif 42 Postage buy

45 Singer Lane

46 Protein-rich

bean

terer

44 Scent

space station

## Aldine ISD hosts a Houston Food Bank Distribution Site on April 24

To continue to help combat food scarcity, the Aldine Independent School District has once again partnered with the Houston Food Bank.

"I'm always impressed by the Houston Food Bank's commitment to feeding families," said Deputy Superintendent Selina Chapa. "And I have to give my appreciation to the AISD operations team and volunteers for stepping up to help make this event happen."

happen."
Chapa said although
the bags were filled with a
variety of food items, the
focus this time was on
fruits and vegetables.

fruits and vegetables.
Volunteers distributed
the food like an assembly
line. They were taking
measures to prevent the
spread of the virus. The
food bank rolled in separate trucks throughout the
three-hour event, each carrying different types of
food.

The Houston Food Bank
Distribution Site took
place on Friday, April 24,
2020 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at
M.O. Campbell Educational Center (MOC), 1865 Aldine Bender Road
(Hauster TW 77023)

(Houston, TX 77032)
Aldine ISD Police Department officers were present to help direct traf-



An AISD volunteer helps distribute food items provided by the Houston Food Bank on March 27, 2020.

fic at the MOC. There were multiple lines to expedite the distribution process. Volunteers placed the bag full of food in the car trunk of each vehicle, so there is no need for people to get off their cars.

The district is still offering students free curbside pick-up of breakfast and lunch meals. AISD is offering the meals at more than 20 selected school sites throughout Aldine.

As a reminder, schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year over concerns about the spread of the new coronavirus. However, the district will con-

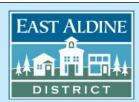
tinue to provide access to learning through its Aldine At-Home virtual learning site. Aldine ISD has provided activities and opportunities on the website for students to receive feedback and communicate directly with their teach-

ers.

"We're doing everything we can to get food into the hands of the people who need it, to provide resources so students can continue to learn, and to stay connected with families," said Dr. Martha Escalante, executive director of family and community engagement for AISD.







# **East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS**

# BakerRipley Food Drive on April 22, 2020

On Wednesday, April 22 the East Aldine District partnered with BakerRipley, East Aldine Management District, Sheriff's Deputies and numerous organizations and volunteers to help with a much needed Food Drive for area residents affected by the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Additional food drives are planned and those needing assistance should visit <a href="www.AldineDistrict.org">www.AldineDistrict.org</a> or <a href="www.bakerripley.org/services/bakerripley-east-aldine-campus">www.bakerripley.org/services/bakerripley-east-aldine-campus</a>.



BakerRipley staff and volunteers pack bags with food.



Long lines of waiting cars snake through Lone Star College's Parking lot, to the two loading lines.



Volunteers load food bags into waiting vehicles.



Two lines kept the traffic moving and more folks fed.



Helping with traffic control and food distribution were the Sheriff's office deputies, and staff from the East Aldine district.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EV1PRO & CRACKED FOX