

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Aldine ISD school re-entry for 2020-2021, Page 2
- COVID-19 Relief aid, Page 3
- Entertainment, Page 5
- Juneteenth, Page 8

NORTHEAST NEWS



Masks now mandatory
Harris County and Houston have issued orders requiring masks for businesses and customers. Violating businesses are subject to fines.

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VOL. 44, NO. 25/26 TUESDAY, JUNE 23 & 30, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

TO OUR READERS: The current Covid-19 Pandemic and other economic conditions have caused us to combine some issues every two weeks, and to change distribution to Pick-up locations. See page 7 for 50 locations where you can get a copy of the Northeast News, and page 2 for email subscriptions. We thank you for your continued support.

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Search continues for Vanessa Guillen, soldier who vanished from Fort Hood

EXCLUSIVE
Reward increased to \$50K

By Allan Jamail

Houston, Tx. – June 15, 2020 North Channel Star photojournalist Allan Jamail interviewed Mayra Guillen the missing Fort Hood soldier Vanessa Guillen's sister to obtain this story.

Mayra said, "My sister loved the army, she dreamed about wanting to serve the country. She joined right after graduating from Houston's César E. Chavez High School at age 18. She graduated in the top 15%



Photos provided by Guillen family
Army Private First Class Vanessa Guillen 20 has been missing for 2 months without a trace. Last seen April 22 between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the parking lot of her Regimental Engineer Squadron Headquarters of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood. Her Military Occupational Specialty is a 91F, Small Arms/ Artillery Repairer.

Approved academic calendar will guide 2020-2021 school year

ALDINE ISD

After reviewing surrounding district calendars, the information provided by the Texas Education Agency, and input from the calendar committee, the district has determined that it will operate under the approved 2020-2021 academic calendar.

"The calendar process we used this year took into account several levels of feedback from our stakeholders. When developing the calendar we weighed in district needs and align-

ment to our goals," said Aldine ISD Chief Communications Officer Sheleah D. Reed, APR. "We believe the calendar we have will allow us to address the needs of students.

The calendar which was voted on by trustees Feb. 11, has the first day of instruction set for Monday, Aug. 17. The last day of school is May 27. The calendar exceeds the state's requirements for the minimum number of minutes. Those minutes can be used to accommodate school cancellations.

Other key dates are:
Thanksgiving Break – Nov. 23-27
End of the First Semester – Dec. 17
Midwinter Break – Dec. 18-Jan. 5 (students), Dec. 18-Jan. 2 (teachers)
Spring Break – March 15-19
Last Day of School for Teachers – May 28
Inclement weather days are Feb. 15, 2021, and Apr. 5, 2021.

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia exposed to deadly virus, self-quarantined

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – June 16, 2020 – Today Congresswoman Garcia told NC Star writer Allan Jamail that she's in self-quarantine because of being exposed to a family member who had recently tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

After consulting with her physician and the Attending Physician of the United States Congress, the Congresswoman went into self-isolating for the period of time recommended by the CDC.

Today Garcia said, "I'm thankful my #COVID19 test came back negative, but I still need to self-isolate and watch for symptoms out of an abundance of caution."

"Working on behalf of the people of the Texas 29th Congressional District in the midst of this pandemic is my highest priority and I will be taking the necessary precautions to make sure I can continue fighting for our community. I want this to serve as a reminder for everyone in the Houston region and across the country that we are still combating COVID-19 and that everyone should be following public health



Photo by Allan Jamail
Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia

guidelines that will help keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy," she said.

Let this be a reminder that we're still in the middle of a pandemic, and we must keep social distancing, washing our hands, and wearing a face mask," Garcia conclude.

Studies reveal an infected person even without virus symptoms can spread the germs as easy as talking to one another by "voice-droplets" transmitted in the air. County health officials are asking residents to stay 6 feet apart and to wear a mask when out in public.

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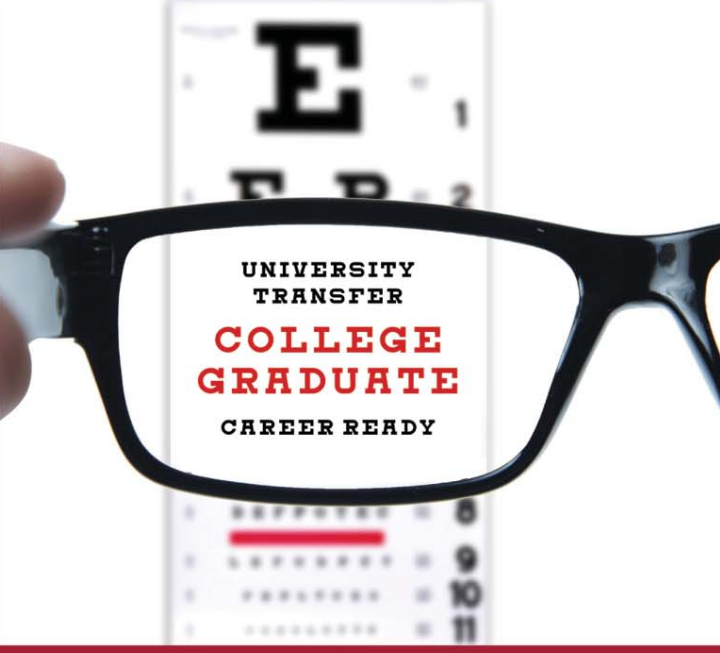
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SCHOOL NEWS

H-E-B donates books to Shotwell and Teague middle schools



H-E-B donated books to Shotwell Middle School and Teague Middle School on Wednesday, June 17. Both schools received 2,520 books. Pictured holding copies of books are (l-r): Shotwell Middle School Principal Denise Winchester, Martha Escalante, Aldine ISD's incoming Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement and Teague Middle School Principal Kimberly Dussette. The three attended a media event to announce the book donations at the Wendell D. Ley Family YMCA in Galena Park.

Aldine ISD leaders initiate planning process for 2020-2021 school re-entry

Monday, June 15, kicked off the second round of intense planning meetings surrounding re-entry plans for Aldine ISD's return to school for the 2020-2021 school year. It follows a week-long exercise held on May 18-22, where more than 30 district and campus leaders met to review the district's Core Belief statements and narrow down ideas, themes, and workflow around the needs required for students to return to school, following a nearly four-month break due to COVID-19.

The district plans to announce re-entry plans in early July publicly. "We will work together for what is best for our students, our staff, and our community," said Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. "The safety of everyone in our buildings is the top priority. We are taking every precaution as we plan for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. No matter what is finalized, learning will continue."

Education Elements, an education consulting group, is leading the district through a series of thoughtful workshops dedicated to designing a road map to returning to school that meets the needs of the community. The sessions include leaders from every

district area — transportation, human resources, teaching and learning, operations, and communications. Each small group is tasked with reviewing best practices, considering CDC and health organization guidelines, and reviewing stakeholder feedback — either gathered through district surveys, focus groups, or meetings from key stakeholders, to build prototyped solutions.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has changed all our lives, especially our students. Education may never look the same again," said Chief Communications Officer Sheleah D. Reed, co-leading the re-entry planning committee. "As we review each possibility, we must ask questions and consider concerns. Our Core Beliefs will ground us as we move forward. We are also weighing all of the data we have collected in the last few months to offer a plan that works for the Aldine ISD community. The process also provides the opportunity to re-image what the school experience could be like for all students."

Several options are being discussed, but three possibilities have become front runners:

- A regular school format in brick-and-mortar

buildings where social distancing is not required

- A hybrid model with some days in school but staggering students into the building where social distancing is required; an A day and B day (week) schedule; or divide students to attend morning classes and others the afternoon

- An all-online format to educate students that includes a teacher-parent-student relationship

The logistics of regularly disinfecting schools and buses as well as toys, books, devices, testing students for coronavirus symptoms, enforcing social distancing and face mask restrictions, ensuring all families have access to learning materials, and much more is being considered alongside each scenario.

The committee must also make recommendations on how the district would pivot if conditions change and an outbreak of the virus returns this fall.

To ensure you have the most recent updates related to the district's plans, preparations, and up-to-date health information impacting our community, please continue to visit www.aldineisd.org/healthalerts.

Aldine ISD names new principals for Caraway, Eckert, Dunn, Drew, Houston, and Teague schools

Aldine ISD is pleased to announce six new principals. Most are advancing up within the district, while two are from neighboring school districts. Even as the school year has closed for 2019-2020, they each will fulfill any remaining tasks at their respective schools while transitioning to their new roles.

- Dr. Andrenetta Marshall from Principal at Keeble Primary School to Principal at Caraway Elementary School

- Jennifer Price from Principal at Carroll Elementary School to Principal at Eckert Elementary School

- Dr. Cedric Stewart from Assistant Principal at Hoffman Middle School to Principal at Houston Academy

- Kimberly Dussette from Dean of Instruction at Dueitt Middle School in Spring ISD to Principal at Teague Middle School

- Therese Pollard from Principal at Milne Elementary School to Principal at Dunn Elementary School

- Christopher Walker from Principal at Ashford Elementary School in HISD to Principal at Drew Academy

Dr. Andrenetta Marshall



Dr. Andrenetta Marshall, an alumna from Eisenhower High School, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix and has a master's in educational leadership and special education from Sam Houston State University, and a doctorate in Christian leadership from John Wesley University. Currently, Marshall serves as vice president of Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA) Region 4.

Marshall began her educational career as a teacher in the preschool program for children with disabilities (PPCD) at Keeble Primary School (EC/PreK/K). Six years later, Marshall took on a leadership role as an assistant principal at Keeble. She transitioned to Spring ISD two years later to serve as an instructional coach at an elementary school. After four years, Marshall returned to Aldine ISD as an assistant principal at Black Elementary School.

Marshall's most recent position was serving as principal for Keeble Primary, a position she held since 2016.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the students and the community of Aldine," Marshall said. "Aldine helped me prepare for college, career, and life. My life's purpose is to encourage my students, fellow educators, and the community to evolve and grow."

Jennifer Price



Jennifer Price, an alumna of MacArthur High School, received her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Houston and has a master's degree in educational administration from Sam Houston State

University.

Price initially started in Aldine ISD as a paraprofessional at Reece Academy. She later worked as a skills specialist at Harris Academy and Gray Elementary before serving as assistant principal at Goodman for six years. She went on to serve one year as principal at Gray Elementary before transitioning to Carroll Elementary School to serve in the same capacity in 2017.

"It's my honor to start this new journey at Eckert Elementary School," said Price. "My goal is to give every student the best school experience. We will always focus on the whole child, but this is a partnership between educators, families, and the community. I want students to feel like they can conquer the world. They can be and achieve anything they put their mind to do."

Dr. Cedric Stewart



Dr. Cedric Stewart holds six degrees, including two master's degrees in administration and supervision, and educational counseling from Sam Houston State University. He received his doctorate in educational leadership from the same university.

Stewart, a U.S. Armed Forces veteran, has 28 years of experience in education. Stewart began his career as a teacher in 1992 at Welch Middle School in Houston ISD as a special education teacher. Three years later, Stewart transitioned to Aldine ISD. Over 23 years, Stewart has held several positions in AISD, including teacher, behavior intervention specialist, responsive intervention specialist, and data assessment specialist at Reed Academy.

Stewart's most recent role was serving as an assistant principal at Hoffmann Middle School, a position he held since 2018. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Sam Houston State University.

"I look forward to serving as principal of Houston Academy," Stewart said. "Teamwork and collaboration have been driving forces in ensuring students experience growth and success. I seek to continue to meet the district's strategic plan to ensure our teaching practices are grounded in a fierce commitment to equity for all students."

Kimberly Dussette



Kimberly Dussette has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Phoenix.

Dussette has nine years of experience in education. Dussette started her career in education in HISD as a teacher, before transitioning in 2012 to Spring ISD. Her roles during her time with SISD included serving as a teacher, district instructional coach, workforce development specialist, and director of curriculum instruction for secondary social studies, and assistant principal. Dussette's most recent position was as associate

principal at Dueitt Middle School.

Dussette is no stranger to Aldine; she has deep roots in Aldine Independent School District. Dussette is not only a resident and active community member in the district's community, but she also attended AISD schools before moving during her senior year of high school. Dussette has three children with two, who are school-aged, attending Spence Elementary, and Plummer Middle School.

"I feel like I am coming home," Dussette said. "Aldine ISD played such an integral part in my educational journey. Now I get to influence students' educational experience at Teague Middle School, my alma mater. Middle school is when students develop social and emotional patterns. It is a critical period to get them on the right path toward success. I look forward to working with the Teague family."

Terese C. Pollard



Terese Pollard received her bachelor of arts in English from the University of Houston and her master's degree in educational leadership from Lamar University-Beaumont.

Pollard has 15 years of experience in the field of education in Houston ISD. During her time in HISD, Pollard held numerous positions which included language arts teacher, assistant principal, dean of students, assistant principal, dean of students, and dean of instruction. Pollard's most recent position was serving as principal of A.A. Milne Elementary School, a position she held since 2016.

"I am thrilled to serve the Dunn Elementary community," Pollard said. "I am eager to work with the administration to meet strategic plan priorities and to continue Dunn's legacy of excellence."

Christopher Walker



Christopher Walker has a bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University and a master's degree in educational leadership and administration from the University of Texas-Tyler.

Walker, originally from Louisiana, has 14 years of experience in education with all those years in Houston ISD.

Walker started his career in 2006 as a special education teacher at The School of St. George in HISD. Over the years, Walker held several positions in HISD, including serving as a reading/math interventionist and a Title 1/campus testing coordinator, assistant principal, principal. Walker's most recent role was as principal of Ashford Middle School.

Walker has a strong connection to Drew Academy — his father and all his father's siblings attended Drew and graduated from Aldine ISD schools.

"I am excited to join the Aldine team," Walker said. "I am especially proud to be named the principal of Drew Academy, the school my father attended."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Hawes Hill and Associates announces staff enhancements

HOUSTON — Hawes Hill and Associates (HHA) has enhanced its staff with the promotion of chief of staff Josh Hawes to partner and the hiring of Alan Bernstein in the new position of communications director.

Josh Hawes, who also serves as deputy executive director of the Spring Branch Management District, has been employed by HHA for 20 years. He coordinates several key functions of HHA to best serve its clients, which include management districts, tax increment reinvestment

zones and related entities. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Houston.

Alan Bernstein was director of communications for Mayor Sylvester Turner before joining HHA this month. He will complement the work of the HHA communications teams already in place. He held similar positions in the Harris County Sheriff's Office and the Precinct One Constable's Office. Earlier he was a Houston Chronicle journalist. He earned a bachelor's degree

in journalism from Northwestern University.

"These staff changes will allow HHA to do an even better job of helping our clients serve their constituents, overcome short-term and long-term challenges and enrich the quality of life in their geographical areas," managing partner David Hawes said. "We are proud to have a sophisticated and experienced team that works crisply on efficiencies and clear communications with clients, residents, news media and the public."

High Meadows Library offers curbside pick up service

Readers start your engines! We are so excited to announce the return of Harris County Public Library System (HCPL's) No-contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up service on Monday, June 15.

Hours of Operation
Mondays: 10am-6pm
Tuesdays: 10am-6pm
Wednesdays: 10am-6pm

Thursdays: 10am-6pm
Fridays: 1pm-6pm
Saturdays: 10am-5pm

Visit the FAQ page for more details! <https://bit.ly/2QlQgBo>

Ready to sign up for the Virtual Summer Reading program?

Visit hclp.beanstack.org to sign up yourself or the whole family! Follow these quick steps and you'll be on

your way to imagining your story along with your library this summer.

Friends Needed! If you love the library and want to share that love with your community, consider joining the Friends of the Library today. For more information, please email Jennifer at jennifer.nandlal@hclp.net.

High Meadows Library is located at 4500 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, Texas

Soldier Vanished,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

then Virginia for training before lastly being stationed at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas. She lived on the base because from her Houston home to the base it's a three hour drive.

"She enjoyed Fort Hood until recently, but then something changed, shortly before her disappearance she began acting unusual and had trouble sleeping, this never happened before. She finally told our mother (Gloria) she was being sexually harassed by one of her sergeants. Mother tried to convince her to give her the name of the harassing sergeant, but she didn't want to get mother involved or in trouble. She also said he would follow her whenever she would go jogging or to exercise and how uncomfortable he made her feel. She said she knew of other female soldiers who had reported sexual harassment and the Army didn't believe them. She felt she could put a stop to it herself. She was ready to take care of his harassment near the time of her disappearance."

"From the bottom of my heart, I strongly believe my sister is alive. I believe whoever is keeping her hostage is doing it for a reason, because they know that at this point if we find her deceased, it's going to be much worse. I just hope they're keeping her okay," Mayra concluded.

Vanessa's mother Gloria said "My nights are long with agony and sadness to think my daughter is suffering so much and being kept away from her family." She wants the case to be led by the FBI, the Army Criminal Investigation Command now leads the investigation.

Juan Cruz, Vanessa's boyfriend had text message exchanges with her the morning of her disappearance where she told him she then leaving the barracks and heading to the armory building where she would be working all day. Juan upon learning of her mysterious disappearance pleaded in his own message on facebook, "Please help me find my girlfriend."

On Tuesday, June 16th Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia hosted a virtual press conference with the family of Vanessa. They were joined by Domingo

Garcia, the National President of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). He announced LULAC will provide a \$25,000 reward to go along with the Army's \$25,000 making the total \$50,000 for credible information leading to the whereabouts of Vanessa.

At the conference Garcia told the family she's meeting with the base Commander next week to try to find out as much as possible about the investigation. She's currently in self-quarantine until June the 23rd because of the COVID19 virus. "I want the FBI more involved. My team and I have been working with the Guillen family and will continue to. #FindVanessa, #TX29Constituent," Garcia said.

State Senator Carol Alvarado issued the following statement, "It's been nearly 2 months since #VanessaGuillen has been seen. My team is committed to the movement to #FindVanessa."

State Representative Christina Morales said, "It has been almost two months since Vanessa Guillen went missing. It is sad that an intelligent and promising young Latina has gone missing, and we must do everything we can to find her. Our community, and communities across Texas, are coming together to find Vanessa and bring her home. I cannot begin to imagine the pain the Guillen family is going through and send my prayers and support to them." Vanessa is a constituent of Garcia, Alvarado and Morales.

State Representative Ana Hernandez said, "As a mother, my heart goes out to Vanessa Guillen's family and loved ones. We have shared information of her disappearance on our social media and it is our hope that by sharing details of her disappearance and amplifying the search, it will lead to her safe return soon."

U.S. ARMY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION COMMAND UPDATED REPORT:

At the time of this story the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command issued the following update of information about

their investigation and increased the reward from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

READ REPORT BELOW

Chris Grey, spokesman for Army CID said, "We know somebody out there has some very critical information pertaining to this investigation and we strongly encourage you to do the right thing and come forward. Do it for Vanessa and do it for her family, friends and fellow soldiers. We've increased our reward of up to \$25,000 for credible information leading to the whereabouts of missing Fort Hood Soldier, Pfc. Vanessa Guillen.

The 20-year-old Vanessa Guillen was last seen April 22 between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. wearing a black t-shirt and purple fitness-type pants in the parking lot of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment Regimental Engineer Squadron Headquarters. Her car keys, barracks room key, identification card and wallet were later found in the armory room where she was working earlier in the day, her cell phone is still missing.

At this point, investigators have no credible information or report that Vanessa Guillen was sexually assaulted.

"We are completely committed to finding Vanessa and aggressively going after every single piece of credible information and every lead in this investigation. We will not stop until we find Vanessa.

Persons with information can contact Army CID Special Agents at 254-287-2722 or the Military Police Desk at 254-288-1170. They can also anonymously submit information at <https://www.cid.army.mil/report-a-crime.html>. People wishing to remain anonymous will be honored to the degree allowable under the law and the information will be held in the strictest confidence allowable. #FortHood, #USArmy, #FindVanessa, #FindVanessaGuillen and #Doit4Vanessa.

GO FUND ME SITE - - to help the family with expenses of flyers, posters and other search items please use the following: <https://www.gofundme.com/tpfc-vanessa-guillen-missing>

Harris County COVID-19 relief fund to open public application for aid

HOUSTON, TX (June 17, 2020) – The Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund will open its public application to all eligible Harris County residents in its second phase of fund deployment. The public application will be open Tuesday, June 23 and Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

"The fund's main goal is, and always has been, to help those most vulnerable in our communities," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "That's why, in the design of this process, it was paramount that this application be as intuitive and accessible as possible for all members of our community. We've taken extra steps to establish two ways to apply, extend the hours the application will be open, and ensure language and time accessibility for those with different working schedules."

To ensure a fair, accessible application process, the public can access the application in two ways once it opens: online or over the phone. Applications will not be accepted at the Greater Houston Community Foundation office.

Online Application

The multilingual online application will be open at www.harriscountyrelief.org starting Tuesday, June 23 6 a.m. and close Wednesday, June 24 at 10 p.m.

Phone Application

When the phone application opens on June 23, individuals will call 832-848-0214 to speak with a call operator and complete their application. The multilingual phone application will be available:

June 23: 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
June 24: 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The online and phone application will be available in a variety of languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, French, Farsi, Hindi, Urdu, Tagalog, Korean, and Vietnamese.

The Fund is open to all eligible low-income Harris County residents (regardless of status), including immigrant households, those who may receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance but cannot afford to wait for months, and those ineligible for CARES Act payments or unemployment insurance. Full details can be found on the fund's website at www.harriscountyrelief.com, but generally, recipients must:

- Be eligible for and receiving services from a long list of public benefits programs OR under 60% of area median income
- Be a resident of Harris County
- Have been economically impacted by COVID-19
- Not have received funding from a City or County COVID-19 financial assistance program

When the application closes, all applicants, regardless of when they applied, will be put into a fair process that will determine which applicants will move on to the next stage. To ensure the funds are reaching those most deeply impacted and vulnerable in our communities, this process will prioritize residents in Harris County's most vulnerable census tracts. Residents that live in these census tracts will be prioritized, receiving up to a 50% increased chance of being selected.

By Friday, June 26, all applicants will receive an email and/or text notification regarding the status of their application. Those selected through the process will be matched with a community-based organization. This organization will reach out within five business days to continue the application process. Once the application for financial assistance is approved, the organization will coordinate the delivery of funds.

"We wanted to be thoughtful and purposeful in the fund's approach to providing much-needed aid across Harris County," said Precinct Two Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

The latest resource, updates, and information will be posted on the Fund's website, www.harriscountyrelief.org.

Houston Community College announces plans for Fall 2020 Offers Four Safe Flexible Learning Options

Restructured course offerings and new protocols provide students various ways to learn

HOUSTON, TX (June 16, 2020) – Houston Community College (HCC) announces the launch of nextLearning, a new approach to education that provides various in person and online formats that allow for safe, flexible learning options for the Fall 2020 semester. Students have the opportunity to choose from the following four different options: Online Anytime, Online on a Schedule, Flex Campus, and Lab-Based Courses.

The Online Anytime option gives students the flexibility to take classes online at any time. These are traditional online classes that do not have in-person meeting requirements.

The Online on a Schedule option gives students the ability to take classes online at the scheduled class time that they select when enrolling. Students never come to campus, but log into their class on the scheduled dates and times using a video conferencing platform.

The Flex Campus option allows students to enroll in classes which they have the choice to attend either online or in person at the scheduled dates and times. Faculty will teach at the scheduled time and students electing to participate online will use video conferencing to attend class. There will be a limited number of students allowed to participate in class face-to-face, which will be based on social distancing requirements.

Lab-Based Courses, which are the skills-based, hands-on labs previously offered, will still be held in person but with smaller section sizes to allow for social distancing. Additional sections have been added to make up for the smaller lab sizes.

HCC created a helpful video to explain the four nextLearning options so students can make the best course selections for their individual needs. The video can be accessed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9d7HVqo9dA&feature=youtu.be>

"As we work to continue to fulfill our important mission, our primary goal is to protect the safety and wellbeing of our students,

faculty and staff. These modifications to our fall schedule will provide the most flexible and safest ways for our students to learn and our faculty to teach. We are ready to overcome any obstacle and achieve our strategic priority of student success," states HCC Chancellor Dr. Cesar Maldonado.

HCC students will still have access to the support they need for success, including tutoring, student life, basic needs support, career and employment services, and counseling ability services, in addition to many financial aid options being provided.

Following CDC guidelines, new safety protocols will also be implemented for anyone arriving at an HCC location in the upcoming semester. HCC has designed signage and communication plans across all campuses to reinforce safety measures, including training for all students, faculty and staff.

By implementing these safety protocols, such as using face masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizing stations, HCC aims to create a safer learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff.

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OPINION PAGE



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – When Should We Claim Our Benefits?

Dear Rusty: We served overseas for several years, not earning many quarters for Social Security. However, we have made sure that we paid in over time so we can receive a benefit, but it will not amount to much. For the past several years now, we have been back in the US, earning some professional salaries. Now it looks like at full retirement age my husband will get \$1147/month, and I will get \$1026/month. I was born in 1957 and my husband in 1956. Question #1: For the most financial benefit, when should we each start collecting SS (either now or at full retirement age)? And question #2: Will our amounts change because we are married and both collecting? Signed: Overseas Worker

Dear Overseas Worker: To answer your second question first, no, your benefit amounts will not change because you are married and both collecting. Based upon the numbers you provided, neither of you will be eligible for a "spousal boost" from the other because your benefit amounts at your FRA are too similar, so maximizing your individual benefits should be your goal.

As for your other question, when you should start collecting depends upon a number of factors, including your financial needs and, importantly, your expected longevity. Both of you can get the maximum benefit available to you by waiting until you are 70 years old to claim, but that only makes sense if you are in good health and expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man and 87 for a woman).

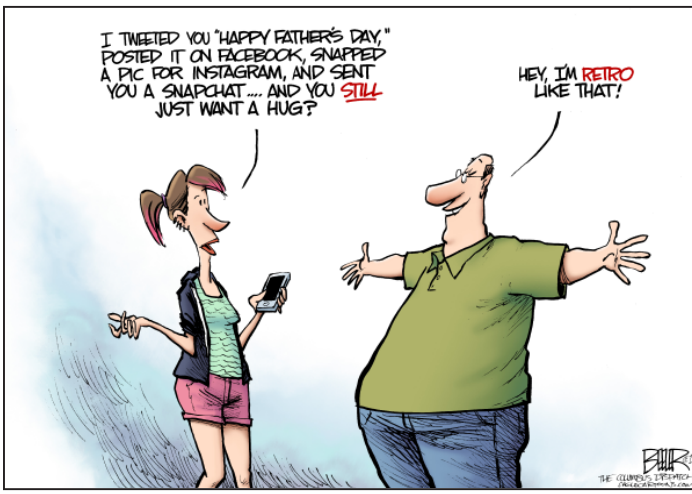
If you claim benefits before you reach your full retirement age (66 for you and 66 plus 4 months for your husband), those benefits will be cut. If you collect now, your benefit would be cut by about 27% and your husband's by about 22% (based upon your respective years of birth). Further, if you claim before your full retirement ages and continue to work, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings test, which limits the amount you can earn before they take back some

of your benefits (the 2020 earnings limit is \$18,240; if you exceed that they'll take back half of anything you earn over the limit). The earnings limit changes annually but goes away at your FRA.

At your full retirement ages, you'll be entitled to 100% of the benefits you've earned from your lifetime of working (approximately the amounts estimated now). If you can and do wait beyond your full retirement age (FRA), for each month you delay you'll earn delayed retirement credits of 2/3 of 1% per month of delay (8% per year of delay), up to age 70 when your maximum benefit is reached. As a point of information, if you wait until your full retirement age to claim, you will have collected the same amount of money at age 78 as if you had claimed at age 62; and if you wait until age 70 to claim you'll have collected the same amount of money at age 82 as if you had collected at your full retirement age. If you live at least until "average" longevity, you'll collect more in cumulative Social Security benefits by waiting.

So, when should you claim? If you're still working and earning "professional salaries", then waiting at least until your full retirement age would be a wise choice. If you expect at least average longevity and don't need the money right away, waiting until age 70 would be a prudent strategy. But if you don't work and expect less than average longevity, then claiming at any time you need the money would be a reasonable decision. This is a choice only each of you can make.

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Governor promises action to family of George Floyd

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott pledged to institute police reforms when he met with the Houston family of George Floyd, who was handcuffed and killed by police in front of a Minneapolis convenience store on May 25.

Video footage showed the 46-year-old Floyd subdued by four uniformed officers and pinned down on the pavement, one of them pressing his knee into Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes. Floyd lost consciousness and was later pronounced dead. Outrage over Floyd's death and other police-involved deaths of African-Americans inspired protest marches in cities across Texas, the United States and around the world over the last three weeks.

Abbott told reporters he met with the Floyd family in their home June 9 to assure them that George Floyd did not die in vain and that his life "would be the stimulant for reforms that will make Texas and the country a better place." Abbott said there was no reason for a police officer to have his knee on Floyd's neck, that there must be better strategies for police to use, and that reforms would be a priority in the 87th Texas Legislature.

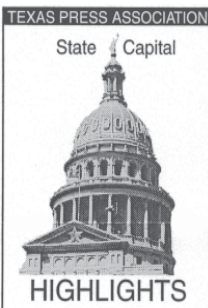
Reform work is ahead

Texas House County Affairs Committee Chair Garnet Coleman and Senate Criminal Justice Committee Chair John Whitmire, both D-Houston, on June 9 announced they would continue to work together on criminal justice reform in the upcoming legislative session scheduled to convene in January.

Whitmire, the most-senior member of the Texas Senate, and Coleman, who is the fifth-most-senior member of the Texas House, released a joint statement, saying: "The recent murder of longtime Houston resident George Floyd by a law enforcement officer in Minneapolis is a painful reminder to

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



ing steps to address potential surges in COVID-19 cases. We are ensuring that Texans can continue to safely exercise their First Amendment Rights while putting protocols in place to identify and mitigate any spread of COVID-19."

Cumulative figures posted June 14 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed some 87,854 people in Texas diagnosed with COVID-19 and 1,976 deaths confirmed from the virus pandemic.

Ryan: Follow protocols

With plans to reopen Texas while COVID-19 testing, cases and deaths continue to increase, the governor's office on June 10 posted a public service announcement delivered by Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan.

In the short video titled "Don't Be A Knucklehead" Ryan encourages Texans to follow established COVID-19 protocols: "Wash your hands, socially distance yourself from others and wear a mask. Do the right thing. Look out for your fellow Texans and together we'll make it through this," Ryan says.

Revenue to be distributed

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on June 10 announced his office would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$690.4 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of June.

The revenue to be distributed is 11.7% less than the amount distributed in June 2019, a decline Hegar attributed to social distancing statewide in April. The June 2020 allocation percentages, based on sales made in April by businesses that report tax monthly, break down as follows: cities, down 11.1%; counties, down 7.2%; transit systems, down 17.4%; and special purpose districts, down 4.4%.

us that though we have traveled so far, there is still a long way to go. The passion shown by the millions of people who have made their voices heard against racism have helped fuel our commitment to continue to work towards justice."

Whitmire and Coleman said their goal is to "ensure equal treatment for people of color, increase transparency and accountability and keep both law enforcement and the public safer."

COVID measures increase

Texas is increasing efforts to identify and expand COVID-19 testing operations in underserved and minority communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the virus.

Gov. Abbott on June 8 said the Texas Division of Emergency Management is coordinating with local governments, public health officials and emergency management entities to speed up testing and identification of COVID-19 cases.

Abbott said walk-up and drive-thru testing sites are in place and expanding in Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, El Paso, Abilene, the Rio Grande Valley, the Coastal Bend, Laredo, Midland-Odessa and particularly in urban areas where large-scale protests have taken place. "As many Texans continue to gather for protests," Abbott said, "the state is also tak-

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"The Agate Polisher"

I don't think it's my imagination that Father's Day seems like a last-minute add-on.

"Oh! We have Mother's Day. We probably should do something for fathers..." On Mother's Day, a bouquet of flowers or brunch seems to do nicely every year. There isn't an equivalent gesture for Father's Day. The gift suggestions now being advertised all seem a little desperate. A watch? A wallet? A gas grill? A "whiskey set"?

Since my dad's watch and wallet are with him 90% of his waking life, I'm thinking he'd rather choose his own. A gas grill seems a bit much. (Mom gets eggs Benedict and dad gets a \$1200 grill?) I'm not even sure what a "whiskey set" is but I know my dad wouldn't drink whiskey if you paid him.

My dad has now spent more time retired than he spent working—which is a wonderful milestone. He was hired while he was still in college to work as an engineer and he stayed with the same company his entire career. My dad wore horn-rimmed glasses and carried a pocket protector and a slide rule in his shirt pocket. He sang bass in the church choir which meant he was always in the back row and I could only see him when he was stretching for a high note and got up on his toes to reach it.

My dad was always ready to try something new. He raised bees in the backyard and helped us dip candles in his workshop and polish agates in a tumbler. I remember the sound of the rock tumbler, polishing away, and a perfectly smooth agate coming out.

Then, every July when the plant where my father worked was shut down, my family would pile into the car pulling a pop-up camper and head out on vacation.

The story goes that my sister and I were quarrelling. We generally got along pretty well but a full day in a hot car could get on anyone's nerves. On this particular day, we were arguing about (of all things) who was going to get in the lake first once we got to the campground.

Dad was driving. Mom was sitting in the front seat with the dog. My sister and I were busy squabbling and no one saw my father as he quietly emptied his pockets, removed his belt, and silently unhooked his seatbelt. (This was before cars had all the buzzers and bells.) We drove into the campground and, the moment we hit the parking spot, my father threw open his door and sprinted straight to the lake and dove in. My sister and I sat there in stunned silence.

I don't remember what happened after that. I just remember my father, flying into the lake, proving both of us wrong—and what an amazing dad he was—in one lightning move.

My dad doesn't move quite as fast these days. He calls himself "an old geezer," although I can't imagine anyone else does. He still builds things in his workshop and splits wood with the log splitter and rides bike with mom. He still routinely surprises us. And he still listens to the worries and complaints of his daughters.

My sister and I hand these worries to him like rough stones and my dad handles them like the agate polisher we had as children. By the time my dad is through with them, our worries are worn smooth. Our worries are no longer sharp or dangerous. They are polished to a gentle luster by our dad's loving concern.

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

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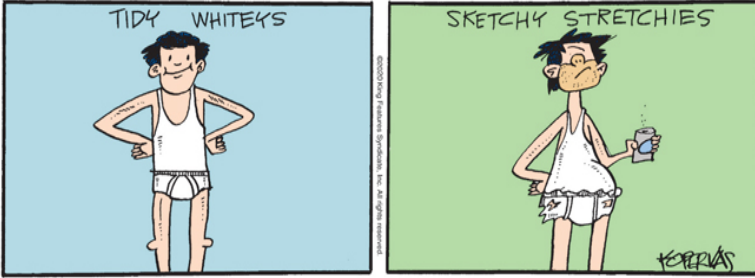
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



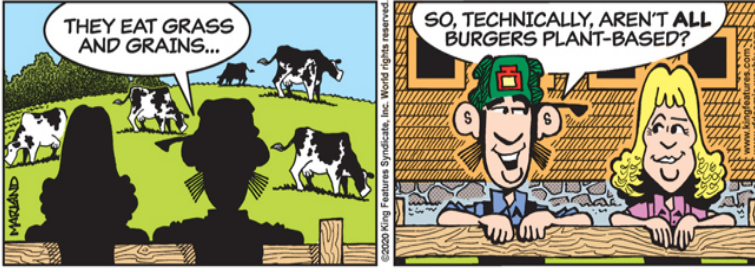
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



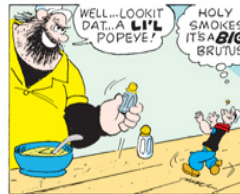
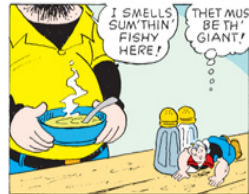
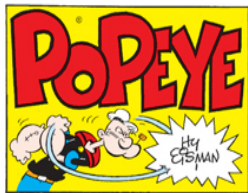
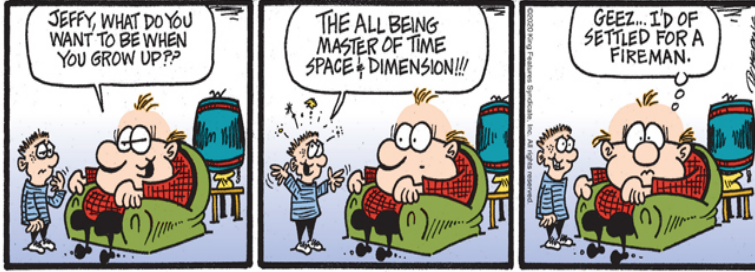
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

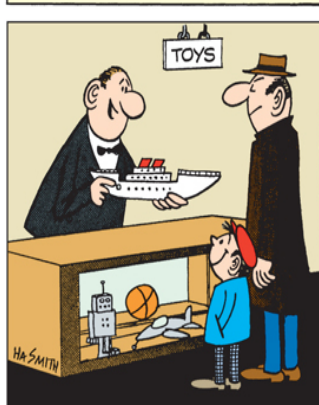


Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



"You know what did it? I prepared a home-cooked meal for him... in a _____."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Shrill BELTER
Champion THINK
Forest TRIMBE
Adorn LISTEN

TODAY'S WORD

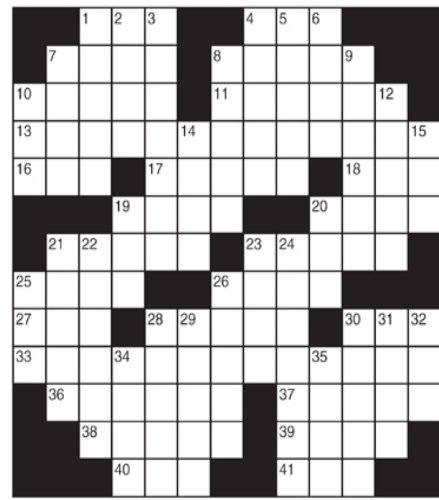
Blank space for today's word.

Posting Date June 22, 2020

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 - Na Na
4 Swindle
7 Summery desserts
8 Fusses
10 Sixth president
11 Many
13 Proof of a crime
16 Sprite
17 Unclear
18 Still, in verse
19 Say it isn't so
20 Rhyming tributes
21 Groups of musicians
23 Slanted edge
25 Volcanic outflow
26 One of the Three Bears
27 Sailor's assent
28 Unwilling
30 Fine, to NASA
33 Texas city
36 Bill-payment period
37 Alan of "Little Miss Sunshine"
38 Mystery writer's award
39 Don of radio
40 Sun. speech



- 41 Rand McNally item
10 Expert
12 Man of - (Superman comparison)
14 Catches some rays
15 - and outs
19 "CSI" evidence
20 Eggs
21 Louisiana marsh
22 Unwilling
23 Dog owner's ordeal
24 Son of
25 Fond du - Wis.
26 Harness horse
28 Thrust
29 "Argo" award
30 Invite to the penthouse
31 Elevator name
32 Family
34 Cushions
35 "Joy of Cooking" writer
Rombauer

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Sudoku grid with numbers 7, 8, 1, 2, 9, 6, 3, 5, 7, 6, 5, 3, 2, 9, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 5, 1, 6, 1, 7, 9, 4, 8.

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

- Moderate
Challenging
HOO BOY!

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. ASTRONOMY: How often does the Sun rotate on its axis?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the state capital of Delaware?
3. GOVERNMENT: Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution limits presidents to two terms in office?
4. HISTORY: What was the highest social class in the early Roman empire?
5. ENTERTAINERS: Which 20th-century actress was born with the name Lucille LeSueur?
6. TELEVISION: What were the names of Elly May's two pet chimpanzees in "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
7. ART: Which artist painted "The Persistence of Memory"?
8. MOVIES: What kind of gun did Clint Eastwood carry in the "Dirty Harry" series?
9. MUSIC: Which singer-songwriter's nickname was "The Lizard King"?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What is the most expensive spice on earth?

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bat is missing. 2. Railing is different. 3. Player's pants are longer. 4. Crown is larger. 5. Ball stitching is different. 6. Neckline is changed.



Solution time: 25 mins.

King Crossword

Grid of numbers for the King Crossword solution.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers for the weekly sudoku puzzle.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: R equals S
OJ V ROZ QDOTW-HWOOEYF AVAAVM
JYMQ OAVZOEVL C OMMYHHYH, OQ'H
GLXRVRC V DOGGXTDXEFLOVT.

BIKINI Today's Word

- 1. Treble; 2. Knight; 3. Timber; 4. Tinsel

Answers for the CryptoQuip puzzle.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldine Hosts Real Men, Real Talk Discussion

On Tuesday, June 16, Aldine ISD, along with Education Elements, hosted a RealMen, Real Talk, A Candid Conversation about Race and Life in America.

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney felt it was important for the district's males to have a vehicle to express how they are feeling during these challenging times.

Ronnie Price, a 12-year veteran of the NBA and currently a real estate investor and Texas native, and Alzo Slade, a correspondent for VICE News Tonight, were special guests for the event.

Slade, a graduate of Prairie View A&M University, challenged the students to become leaders. "Ask questions and be critical thinkers," he said.

things with their mentors: 1. Provide a platform for students to be heard 2. Build a connection with peers and facilitators 3. Gain a historical context of what is currently going on

the world now and what went on before." Kameron, 13, said he thought the breakout sessions were beneficial to him and his peers.

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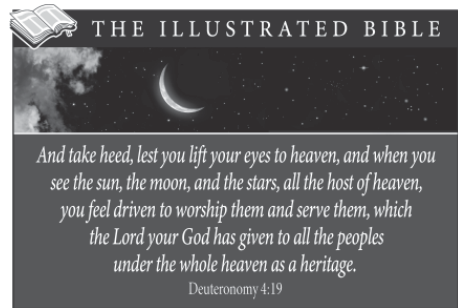
CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

- 1. Is the book of Matthew in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. During a famine, who set out with another man to find grass to feed his horses and mules?
3. From Exodus 34, who was frightened of a man who came down a mountain with a shining

- face? Laban, Stephen, Aaron, Cornelius
4. At what city's public bonfire were books worth thousands of dollars burned?
5. From Acts 5, who fell dead after lying about a property deal?
6. Where did Lot meet angels?
ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Ahab; 3) Aaron; 4) Ephesus; 5) Ananias; 6) City gate



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RECENT DEATHS

Marilyn Hall Wilson
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Francisco Alejandro Bernal
Terry Kay Ezzell
Gregorio Nava

Helen D. Murphy
Anthony Murillo
Lonnie Gene Butzke
Kevin Wade Pringle
Dee Griffith Ticheli



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3945 Little York
Prosperity Bank Little York
1615 Little York
Prosperity Bank Aldine
1906 Aldine Bender
Mobile Station
9140 Eastex Freeway
Texaco Food Mart
9225 Eastex Freeway
Conoco
11219 Eastex Freeway
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Commissioner Rodney Ellis and two dozen cyclists ride the 51-mile Emancipation Trail Ride



Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, left, and U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, center, take a break during the 51-mile Emancipation Trail Ride from Galveston to Houston on Sunday, June 14 to commemorate Juneteenth.

The Ride Commemorates Juneteenth by Tracing the Historic Trail that Freed Slaves took From Galveston to Houston

After the Civil War, freed slaves made their way from Galveston to Houston shortly via the Emancipation Trail. On Sunday, June 14, Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis and more than two dozen cyclists road the 51-mile route to commemorate Juneteenth. "Not only did we have fun, we also got a valuable lesson on African American history that's unique to Texas," said Commissioner Ellis, an avid cyclist. "We're hoping to make the Emancipation Trail bike

ride an annual event that will remind us of our shared history."

On Sunday, the Emancipation Trail Ride began at Reedy African Methodist Episcopal Church in Galveston, the first AME church in Texas and the site where Union Gen. Gordon Granger read federal orders that Texas slaves were free on June 19, 1865, which later became Juneteenth holiday now celebrated in Texas and other states.

Along the trail, riders stopped at freedmen's towns and historical markers, where they were greeted by historians and community leaders who shared Black history in Southeast Texas from the

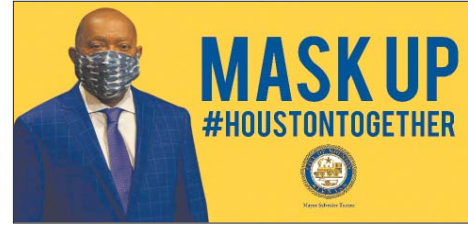
slave trade to civil rights.

"I cannot think of a better way to celebrate the holiday than learning about our past," Commissioner Ellis said. "Picnics and parades are great. However, as Maya Angelou said, 'You can't really know where you are going until you know where you have been.'"

Earlier this year, Congresswoman Jackson Lee and other members of congress introduced a bill seeking a federal study of the Emancipation National Historic Trail that will follow the migration of newly freed slaves after they learned about the Emancipation Proclamation.

Mayor Turner joins "Big City" Texas mayors in urging Gov. Abbott to allow local control on face masks to protect citizens from COVID-19 spread

Mayor Turner and mayors from around the state send a message to Texans: "The virus is here. Infections are rising. Hospital capacity is filling up."



HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner joined mayors from eight other Texas cities today, urging Texans to remain vigilant during the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect themselves and their loved ones from the virus.

"We are not asking you to stay home, but we are asking you to mask up and social distance where possible," the mayors wrote to the people in their respective cities, but the serious public health message is intended for everyone. "This isn't meant to scare

you, but it is meant to be very honest. The virus doesn't leave just because our collective urgency has gone away."

Mayors from Laredo, Arlington, Grand Prairie, Austin, San Antonio, Sugar Land, Lubbock, El Paso, and Houston signed the two-page letter. A copy of the mayors' letter to Texans can be found here.

The Houston area, like some other regions throughout the state, is experiencing an uptick in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

On Thursday, the Houston Health Department reported 210 new positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Houston's total to 10,717. The number of deaths from COVID-19 increased by six to 175.

Mi Tienda Little York Road

FBI seeks motomask mugger for two bank robberies committed on the same day

HOUSTON, TX—The FBI Violent Crime Task Force needs the public's help in identifying and locating the bank robber dubbed "The MotoMask Mugger" who hit two Houston banks Thursday, June 11, 2020. Crime Stoppers of Houston is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to the identification and arrest of the suspect.

On Thursday, June 11, 2020, at approximately 1:38 p.m., a man walked into the First Convenience Bank located within the Mi Tienda store in north Houston at 3800 Little York Road. Wearing an M1 motorcycle mask and sunglasses, he approached an open teller station and made a verbal demand for cash. When the teller refused to comply, the suspect left the bank without

obtaining any money.

Next, at approximately 4:35 p.m., the same man entered the Woodforest National Bank, located in northwest Houston within the Walmart at 13484 Northwest Freeway. He approached an open teller station and verbally demanded cash. Fearing for personal safety, the teller complied. The suspect took an undisclosed amount of money and fled in a dark green, older model, Isuzu Rodeo, with faded paint on the hood and roof.

Witnesses describe "The MotoMask Mugger" as an African-American male, in his 30s or 40s, approximately 5'9" tall with a medium to stocky body build. Except for a red baseball cap, the suspect dressed in all black, including the M1 motorcycle mask, sunglasses, a do-rag, a long-

sleeved, button-up "work" shirt, pants, and tennis shoes. The suspect also wore a lanyard around his neck and appears to have a pierced left ear.

Crime Stoppers of Houston is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification and arrest of this bank robber. If you have any information, please call the Crime Stoppers tip line at 713-222-TIPS (8477) or the FBI Houston Field Office at (713) 693-5000. Text TIP610 plus your tip to CRIMES (274637) or visit www.crime-stoppers.org. Tips may also be submitted to Crime Stoppers through the Crime Stoppers of Houston app, which can be downloaded at the app store for both iPhone and Android devices. All tipsters remain anonymous.

Two hangings in two days in Houston area raise community concerns

HOUSTON - Authorities were investigating the unusual discovery of two persons hanging from trees, in the greater Houston area.

One was a young teen in the Klein school district, and the other was a man found in the Shady Acres area of the city.

Both have been ruled suicides, and the following statements have been issued by the Sheriff and U.S. Representative Lee.

SHERIFF GONZALEZ: HCSO North District patrol deputies responded to Ehrhardt Elementary located at 6603 Rosebrook Lane in the Klein Independent School District in reference to an in progress call for service.

Klein Independent School Police were called to the elementary school grounds at around 8:10 p.m., after they were informed by a witness of a 17-year-old male found

hanging from a tree in the playground area.

Klein ISD officers cut down the male and performed CPR on him, and EMS were also dispatched to the scene.

The male was pronounced deceased by medical personnel a few minutes later.

Klein ISD Police asked for HCSO Homicide investigators and Crime Scene to take over the investigation.

Homicide investigators were able to review school surveillance cameras and found no signs of foul play in this tragic incident.

The male had a history of suicide attempts, with one attempt as recently as a few weeks ago.

The name of the complainant and cause of death will be released through the Harris County Institute of Forensic Science.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE:

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a Senior Member of the House Committee on Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Budget released the following statement on the recent hangings in her Congressional district:

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is outraged at the recent hangings in her Congressional district. Two young black teenagers have been found hung in the last two days back to back. These deaths are part of a string of deaths of black and Hispanic men found hanging in the United States. The Congresswoman is calling for a federal investigation and requesting the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate these cases immediately. "These cases must be thoroughly investigated and proven beyond a reasonable doubt," stated Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

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