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NORTHEAST NEWS



Superintendent Goffney with Students

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years
VOL. 44, NO. 32 TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 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 6 for email subscriptions. We thank you for your continued support.

COVID-19 Cases as of August 11, 2020

HOUSTON AREA
19 COUNTIES

134,187 POSITIVE
1,519 DEATHS
76,412 RECOVERED

TEXAS

517,109 POSITIVE
9,196 DEATHS
358,312 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

5,139,920 POSITIVE
164,502 DEATHS
1,714,960 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

20,196,850 POSITIVE
738,910 DEATHS
12,452,222 RECOVERED

BAA Citizenship Training

We are anxiously looking forward to our first Virtual Citizenship Application Assistance Workshop.

Please make time for this important training session on Saturday, August 22nd from 10am to 12 pm.

We will be walking through the use of the Citizenshipworks Platform to assist applicants on completing the N-400 application.

Thank you in advance for volunteering and Helping Others Help Themselves.

Click on the link to join us via Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/864180822767pwd=SERTMTIzMlo5UHBB50hCZ1BtbC9DOT09

Meeting ID: 864 1808 2276

Passcode: Welcome822

Mammogram Screenings

Mobile Mammography Screenings at Greater Pure Light Church.

September 11 and 18, 9am to 3:30pm, 12330 Vickery Street. Appointments: Call Irma Warren at 281-987-1908 ext 2.

Last Day to register, August 28.

RETURN TO LEARN AUGUST 17

Aldine ISD to start first 3 weeks of school virtually August 17

Aldine ISD's re-entry plan, Return to Learn, will now have all students learning virtually from home for at least the first three weeks of the 2020-2021 school year. The 2020-21 school year begins Monday, August 17.

"We are thankful that the TEA made the decision to allow districts to use virtual learning as an option for the first three weeks," Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney said. "Aldine will take advantage of this option. Regardless of the model families select — Learning At Home or Learning On Campus — the first three weeks of school will be virtual. As



Producing the Nation's Best

we move forward, we must remain flexible as we continue to monitor the conditions in Harris County and Houston. We will open as fast as we can but as slow as we must."

Goffney emphasized that the academic school year begins on August 17. She stressed that the three-week remote learn-

ing period would help facilitate and ease the transition of the on-campus, back-to-school process for staff and families. The time will also be used for teacher training and planning. The district will continue to monitor local health conditions and reassess as needed throughout the school year.

"Teachers are the oil in this machine. Without them, we can't begin to educate students. Their safety has always been top of mind as we make plans to return to school," said Goffney. "Our Teaching and Learning team continues to improve our online learning processes and is developing training and

See RETURN TO LEARN, page 2

Message from the Aldine Superintendent:

August 10, 2020

Dear Aldine Community,

We are counting down to the first day of school! In just one week, we will kick off the 2020-21 school year. Teachers across the district will welcome students back in creative and innovative ways to start the year virtually. I've seen digital classrooms, bitmoji avatars, and video messages preparing to welcome students back on August 17. Our current plan has us learning online for three weeks. We will continue to monitor the number of COVID-19 cases in our community and consider extending this virtual period as needed to keep staff and students safe.

As we count down the days, we've received a few questions about school supplies, uniforms, and a

possible daily schedule that can guide at home learning. We've got you covered:

- Information about School Supplies
- Attendance and Grading Guidelines
- School Orientations and Meet the Teacher Events

• Schedules for each student will be available in the Home Access Center after August 12, and you may receive additional details and instructions from teachers.

Virtual Learning

The virtual school day will look a little different than a typical day, but here are a few things to remember.

- Students will log in to Schoology using their

See SUPERINTENDENT, page 2

County passes COVID relief bills

\$25 Million for Economic Relief; \$32 Million for Digital Divide

HARRIS COUNTY — With the COVID-19 Pandemic continuing to affect the nation's health and economy, and Congress unable to come to an agreement on additional economic aid, Harris County Commissioner's Court took action at last Tuesday's meeting to help residents of the County who are facing hardships. Two bills were passed, one for \$25 million of Economic Relief, and the other for \$32 million to provide digital access to families without electronic means.

The details of the bills are as follows:

Harris County Provides Much-Needed Direct Relief for Residents Still Struggling from Economic Fallout of COVID-19 Pandemic



HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TOOK ACTION TUESDAY FOR COVID-19 RELIEF, PASSING TWO BILLS TO HELP THOSE WITH ECONOMIC NEED.

Commissioners Court Approves \$25M for New Round of Direct Assistance Payments

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic fallout, many families have been struggling to afford basic needs. Because families have different needs — from childcare to medical bills to housing — direct financial assistance is the best way to provide relief for working families in Harris County.

At Commissioners Court on Tuesday, Commissioners voted to approve an additional \$25 million for an Emergency Direct Assistance Program, which would build on the \$30 million Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund from earlier this year.

"Our community is hurting.

See COVID RELIEF, page 6

Limited visits to nursing homes now okay

HHSC TO ALLOW VISITATION TO NURSING HOMES AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) announced yesterday that they will begin to allow limited public visitations to nursing homes and long-term care facilities under new, strict safety measures.

The new allowance comes with enhanced safety measures aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19.

This is great news for those that haven't seen their loved ones in nursing homes or long-term care facilities in months.

You can find more on this new action and associated guidelines here.

HHSC to Allow Limited Visitation at Nursing Facilities and Long-Term Care Facilities State Enhances Certain Emergency Safety Rules

AUSTIN —The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) today announced limited visitation rules for nursing facilities and long-term care facilities. HHSC is also issuing enhanced emergency rules requiring additional actions by nursing facilities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

"This is a rapidly evolving situation and we are constantly assessing what actions are necessary to keep residents and staff safe in these facilities," said Phil Wilson, Executive Commissioner, Texas HHSC. "By following these

procedures and rules, facilities can more effectively prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help us achieve our shared goal of reuniting residents with their families and friends."

"Access to family and loved ones is an important part of every resident's health and well-being, which is why this policy shift is a move in the right direction for some of our most fragile Texans," said Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (SD-18), Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

"Today's announcement is a critical first step for every person in a long-term care facility and their loved ones," said Rep. James Frank (HD-69), Chair, Texas House Committee on Human Services.

"This decision underscores that state leaders recognize the need to balance the emotional and physical health impacts of isolation against the serious dangers that COVID poses to these vulnerable Texans."

NURSING FACILITIES

For the health and safety of facility residents and staff, public visitation is limited to outdoor visits only. Physical contact between residents and visitors is not permitted. Additional conditions a facility must meet to conduct limited outdoor visitation include:

- No confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in staff in the last 14 days.
- No active positive cases

in residents.

Any facility previously experiencing an outbreak that has fully recovered must be adequately staffed and following adequate infection control procedures.

Facility staff are being tested for COVID-19 weekly.

Further guidance on limited nursing facility visitation rules, which include window visits and vehicle parades, will be posted on the HHSC COVID-19 provider web page.

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES (EXCEPT NURSING FACILITIES)

Limited indoor and outdoor visitation procedures

See NURSING HOMES, page 6

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

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Be sure to let everyone know you are now open with a small notice in this newspaper.

Thank you.
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CONFESSIONS:
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SATURDAYS FROM 4 TO 4:50 PM,
FROM 6:30 PM TO 6:50 PM

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SCHOOL NEWS

HCC Northeast offers a pathway for reaching educational goals during the pandemic

As parents, college students, and recently unemployed individuals who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic decide on returning, continuing, or enrolling in school, Houston Community College (HCC) Northeast is serving as a pathway for reaching their educational goals. Some believe that delaying education and training may be the best option at this time, but HCC has course options and student support services that aid in college completion, even amid the crisis.

UNIVERSITY NOW OR LATER?

For northeast area parents and students who are pondering whether it is worth it to pay the cost to reside on a university campus with remote or limited in-person learning, HCC Northeast continues to offer affordable, flexible and transferable courses that can save money on housing, travel and other university expenses. Students enrolling in the community college can choose to complete a two-year degree or shorter certificate or take courses that apply towards a university degree. University bound students that enroll at HCC will join others already on the path to transfer to partnering universities later on in their educational careers.

STUDENT SUPPORT FUELS SUCCESS

Like university students, new and current community college students may be considering delaying their goals due to concerns related to the pandemic. To help students maintain momentum and ease concerns regarding completion, HCC has financial aid and scholarships for those who qualify,



HCC Northline Campus, 8001 Fulton Street, Houston

technology assistance, and other resources. Services that include tutoring, career, and registration assistance, as well as student activities, are available virtually to offer a robust college experience and fuel success.

HCC is also implementing safe ways to learn by offering four course delivery options for the fall semester. The modalities include online anytime, online on a schedule, flex campus which offers a hybrid format, and lab-based courses that provide hands-on training using physical distancing and CDC guidelines. The fall semester will begin with remote instruction on August 24 and lab-based in-person instruction on October 5. HCC Northeast campuses include Acres Homes, Northline, North Forest, Northeast, and the Automotive Technology Training Center.

PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT

With the impact of the pandemic leaving many out of work or seeking better opportunities, HCC offers multiple career pathways that can lead to high-wage careers and increased employment stability. In northeast

Houston, HCC offers degrees and short-term certificates that can increase marketability and meet the current needs of the industry. Programs include certified nurse aide and medical office business professional offered at the Acres Homes Campus, process operator, and truck driving at Northeast Campus, as well as automotive repair and welding at the North Forest Campus. The cost of some programs may be covered by funds provided through the Texas Workforce Commission for those who qualify. The college also offers career services and job placement support through resume writing workshops, job fairs, and access to job search databases through hccs.edu/careerhub.

HCC's priority is to offer the community opportunities to reach their educational goals, achieve success, complete their education on time, and be prepared to meet current and future workforce needs as the economy improves. Fall registration is currently in progress. For more information on programs offered at HCC Northeast, visit hccs.edu or call 713-718-8300.

Morales Scholarship awarded to incoming Lone Star College-East Aldine Center student

HOUSTON (Aug. 12, 2020) – The Christian "Tre" Morales Foundation honored Kimberly Argueta with a scholarship to help further her education at Lone Star College-North Harris.

The recent Blanson Career and Technical Education High School graduate received the \$1,200 scholarship named after former Lone Star College student Christian "Tre" Morales, who passed away in 2019 from a car accident due to a drunk driver.

Argueta was selected as this year's recipient by foundation members who reviewed the applicants' submissions, which included personal essays. With the scholarship, Argueta will begin her studies this fall at Lone Star College-East Aldine Center with plans to one day become an anesthesiologist.

For more information about fall courses and to register, visit LoneStar.edu/LearnMore.



Kimberly Argueta

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.

Return to Learn,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

professional development so that teachers are prepared to teach in both settings."

The district's current plan has all Aldine ISD teachers reporting to campuses this fall, whether they are supporting traditional on-campus learning or virtual classes. Final assignments will be based on student enrollment and the number of students who selected each instructional model.

Since launching its commitment form on Monday, the district has received more than 19,000 submissions,

with more than 70% of families selecting virtual learning. Families were given the option of choosing one of two learning models. The commitment form is available for Aldine ISD students until Sunday, July 19. All parents are encouraged to select the option that best meets the needs of their children. Any family who does not have Internet access or devices for distance-learning may also request a device from the school district.

During the three-week virtual learning period,

there will not be any UIL or campus activities.

Aldine ISD is following guidelines released by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on July 7, 2020, and will also continue to adhere to the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention and state and local measures as well as its Core Beliefs in all reopening decisions.

Families can stay updated on the district's plans and preparations by visiting AISD's new school Return to Learn page: www.aldineisd.org/returntolearn.

Message from the Superintendent,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Student ID.

- Students should review the posted schedule for each class (or teacher).

- Each teacher will host live small group instruction and office hours for students who have questions or need extra support.

- Students need to log in to their Homeroom class (primary and elementary schools) and second period (middle and high schools) by 1:00 p.m. to be counted present.

- Students will have the flexibility to complete assignments and lessons from each teacher and/or course until 11:59 p.m. each day. Grades will be taken weekly.

OUR APPROACH

Last week we rolled out a COVID Meter that defines Aldine ISD's action plan for both staff and students. We are currently in the Red Phase. Red signifies a severe and uncontrolled level of COVID-19 in our community as determined by local health officials, meaning outbreaks are presently worsening. Authorities advise residents to minimize contact with others wherever possible and avoid leaving home except for an essential need.

As our community's COVID-19 outbreaks increase or decrease, our district will announce the phase (e.g., orange, yellow, or green). This will, in turn, result in action items related to opening schools for in-person learning.

TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Aldine ISD is committed to ensuring its students have access to educational opportunities. Because learning is now taking place outside the traditional classroom, the district will offer technology devices to students, with another pick-up date on August 14. This distribution event is geared to families who:

- selected Learning On Campus on the Commitment Form and have not already received a device, and
- received confirma-

tion to pick up a loaner device on August 3 but did not attend (regardless of the reason).

If other children in the home have already checked out a learning device (e.g., Chromebook, laptop), the family is not eligible at this time. More details are available here.

TEXAS P-EBT EXTENSION AND CURBSIDE MEALS

The Texas Department of Agriculture has extended the application process for the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) through August 21. This benefit provides \$285 per eligible child. To apply, please visit hhs.texas.gov/ PEBT or call the P-EBT call center at 833-613-6220.

To ensure every family has access to meals regardless of how instruction is being delivered, we are opening 58 meal sites on August 17. Each campus site will offer free breakfast for all students and paid, free and reduced lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. To locate the closest meal site please visit our website. Families can add money to their student lunch account and apply for free and reduced lunch by visiting SchoolCafe.com.

VIRTUAL CONVOCATIONS

Next week, we will bring our amazing and dedicated staff together for our annual convocation. We can't meet in person but we can celebrate, recap the year, and plan ahead for 2020-21. We've planned virtual events that will take place August 17 through August 20 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. We are disappointed to miss out on being together in person but have planned a series of engaging meetings to kick off the year. Staff should check their email for an invitation.

THE FUTURE HAS ITS EYES ON US

Thank you to our community of parents who have attended virtual town halls, sent in questions, and read the emails we are sharing. We know the situation can feel overwhelming.

Aldine ISD Offers Free and Reduced-Price Breakfast and Lunch: Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2020-2021

Aldine ISD will offer free and reduced-price lunch to all students eligible for the program during the 2020-2021 school year. Free breakfast will be available to all Aldine students. Free and reduced-priced lunch meals are made available to children of qualifying families through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). [View a full list of curbside meal sites.](#)

Who qualifies for free or reduced meals?

- Households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Foster children under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program
- Homeless, migrant or runaway children
- Households that meet the income eligibility guidelines listed above
- Children in households participating in Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) may be eligible, too.

The District charges the following for meals:

- Breakfast: Offered at no cost to all students
- Lunch: \$2.00 for elementary levels and \$2.25 for secondary levels
- Reduced lunch price is \$0.40

Here are a few other things to keep in mind.

- If your child's application for free or reduced meals was approved last year, you still must reapply for the new school year. Your child's 2019-2020 application is only good through September 28, 2020.
- You do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- For military families, basic pay, cash bonuses and any cash value allowances (off-base housing, food, clothing) must be reported as income. However, both combat pay from deployment and housing allowances for the Military Housing Privatization Initiative are exempt from being reported as income.

How to Apply

To apply for free and reduced-price meals, households must fill out the online application on www.SchoolCafe.com. This process makes it easy and convenient to apply for meal benefits for your child/children. Simply enter the requested information as accurately as possible, and all data will be instantly and securely sent to CNS for processing. Paper applications will be supplied directly to parents from our office as needed.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year.

The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Eligibility is based on federally established income and household guidelines. School officials may verify applications at any time during the year.

Families can download the app for [iPhone \(click here/haga clic para descargar app\)](#) and for [Android phones \(click here/haga clic para descargar app\)](#).

How long does the application process take?

Until applications are processed, parents will need to give their children money to purchase lunch. Parents should allow 10 working days for eligibility determination after receipt of a completed paper application by Child Nutrition Services.

If you have any questions, please call 281-985-6450 or 281-985-6441 or visit www.SchoolCafe.com

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly: The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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8826 Harrell**
Off Jensen between
Berry Road & Aldine
Westfield



COMMUNITY NEWS

Pct. 2 Commissioner Garcia brings Covid-19 Testing with rapid results

EAST HARRIS COUNTY – Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia issued the following statement regarding Covid-19 Testing: “I understand there are many individuals who want and need to get tested for Covid-19, but lack access or ability to travel to a designated site. To meet this critical need, I’ve partner with UHPHealth to offer income based FREE testing with rapid results at two of our community centers.

North East Community and East Harris County Activity Center are now offering blood and nasal swab testing from 8 AM to 4 PM Monday to Saturday. The test is offered for free for those who qualify and self pay is also available. Antibodies tests are being offered and results are available within ten minutes. Antibody testing determines whether you had COVID-19 in the past and now have antibodies against the virus.”

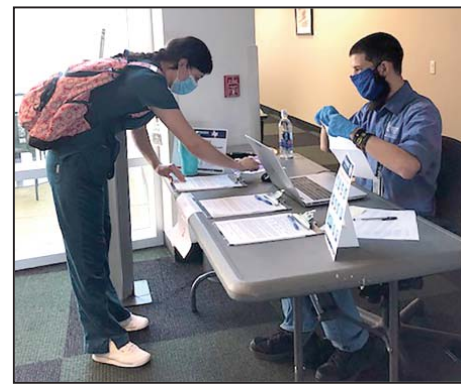
TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT covid.uhphealth.org

Accessibility to testing is essential to ensure the health and safety of the community. If you are not feeling well, please get tested. I will continue to do everything I can to ensure Precinct 2 residents have access to testing resources close to home.

Lone Star College summer enrollment increases

HOUSTON (Aug. 13) – Lone Star College experienced a 10.4% increase in summer enrollment from a year ago. LSC reported 67,731 enrolled students in summer 2020 compared to 61,375 in summer 2019. “Lone Star College has been working hard to ensure students have access to higher education during this pandemic,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. “I am proud of our students who are persevering through these very difficult times and want them to know their safety and success remain our priority.”

A Texas Higher Education Summer 2020 Preliminary Headcount report showed 33% of Texas community colleges experienced growth in summer enrollment year to year. Overall, eight Texas regions had increases in summer enrollments while two regions saw declines. “Community colleges like Lone Star College are the right choice for many people,” said Kyle Scott, Ph.D., LSC vice chancellor Strategic Priorities. “Students can continue their education close to home or even from home at very affordable tuition rates.” In order to ensure the safety of LSC students, faculty and staff, everyone will be required to under-



Lone Star College saw a 10.4% increase in summer enrollment from 2019. All students, faculty and staff are required to undergo a temperature check and wear a mask when entering a LSC building.

go a temperature check and wear a mask when entering a LSC building. Personal Protection Equipment will be provided for those who don’t have them. Learn more on how LSC is preparing for the fall semester at LoneStar.edu/Fall2020. Class start dates are available throughout the year and many students qualify for financial assistance which covers educational expenses including tuition, fees, books and supplies. 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, 10 centers, two university centers, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.



1. Kingwood Park Comm. Center (Drive-thru), 4102 Rustic Woods Dr., Mon-Sat through Aug. 22 - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Appointment not required but available via goinedocovid19test.com.
2. Griggs EC/PP/K School (Drive-thru), 801 Regional Park Dr., 77060 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment required.
3. UNMC Tidwell (Drive-thru) 510 W Tidwell Rd., 77091 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment required.
4. Ibn Sina Comm. Clinic (Drive-thru) 5012 N Shepherd Dr., 77018 Until September 30 Appt required via 832-426-3760.
5. Forest Brook Middle (Drive-thru) 7525 Tidwell Rd., 77016 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment required.
6. Delmar Stadium (Drive-thru) 2020 Mangum Rd., 77092 Monday - Saturday - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 832-393-4220 for access code.
7. Iglesia Pentecostal Unida Hispana (Drive-thru), 6518 Fulton St., 77022 Aug. 11-15 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment required.
8. HCC - Northeast (Drive-thru) 555 Community College Dr., 77013 August 10-15 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Appointment required via tcovidtest.org or 844-778-2455.
9. HCC - Felix Fraga (Drive-thru) 301 N Drennan St., 77003 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment required.
10. Minute Maid Park, Lot C (Drive-thru or Walk-up), 2208 Preston St., 77002 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Appt not required but available via texas.curativeinc.com.
11. HCC - Southeast (Drive-thru) 6815 Rustic St., 77087 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment required.
12. Cullen Middle (Drive-thru) 6900 Scott St., 77021 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment required.
13. HCC - South (Drive-thru) 1990 Airport Blvd., 77051 August 10-15 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Appointment required via tcovidtest.org or 844-778-2455.
14. Merfish Teen Center (Walk-up) 9000 S Rice Ave., 77096 - August 10-14 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. - No appt required.
15. PlazAmericas (Drive-thru) 7500 Bellaire Blvd., 77036 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment required.
16. Butler Stadium (Drive-thru) 13755 S Main St., 77035 Monday - Saturday - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment required.
17. Ibn Sina Comm. Clinic (Drive-thru) 11226 S Wilcrest Dr., 77099 Until September 30 Appt required via 281-495-7462.
18. LeRoy Crump Stadium (Drive-thru) 12321 High Star Dr., 77072 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Appointment required via tcovidtest.org or 844-778-2455.
19. Eldridge Urgent Care & Family Medicine - 1398 N Eldridge Pkwy., 77077 - M-F: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. - Sat: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. No appointment required.
20. Darrell Tully Stadium (Drive-thru) 1050 Dairy Ashford, 77079, Mon-Sat through Aug. 22 - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Appointment not required but available via goinedocovid19test.com.



Pct 1 renames Robert E. Lee Street as “Unison” Street

Harris County Completes the Final Step in Renaming Street that had a Confederate Name

EAST HARRIS COUNTY – Commissioner Rodney Ellis, and Community Leaders witnessed the renaming of Road from “Robert E. Lee” to “Unison”

Pct. 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis had the following remarks:

“If our county is going to address systemic racism in our past and present, we cannot let symbols of racism and hatred continue to fill our public spaces. That is why on Wednesday, August 5, Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis and community leaders observed workers as they installed Unison street signs on a road formerly named after Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Precinct One requested



Pct. 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis helps change the Street Sign in East Harris County, from Robert E. Lee Street to Unison Street.

Harris County Engineering Department change the name because who and what we choose to honor publicly should reflect our shared values. Symbols of the Confederacy and its goal of maintaining the institution of slavery have no place on Harris County roads.”

Last month, Commissioners Court renamed the road to Unison following Precinct One’s community outreach and a public hearing.

Precinct One workers installing street signs at five intersections on Unison Road between John Ralston and Van Hut.

Food distributions on Fridays in August at NRG

HISD, Houston Food Bank host community food distributions Families receive 60 pounds of food and a week’s worth of meals

August 12, 2020 – The Houston Independent School District, in partnership with the Houston Food Bank, is hosting mass community food distributions on Fridays in August at NRG Stadium.

HISD Nutrition Services staff are expected to distribute 5,000 family food packages as well as 5,000 student meal packages. The family food packages will have up to 60 pounds of food, while each student package will contain a week’s worth of breakfast and lunch meals.

Distribution is open from 2 to 7 p.m. on August 14, August 21, and August

28 in the NRG yellow lot. Attendees must enter via the yellow lot main entrance off South Main Street.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we know that many of our families are still in need of food,” HISD Interim Superintendent Dr. Grenita Lathan said. “These community food distribution sites are a good way to reach as many people as we can.”

During the final distribution — on August 28 only — families will also receive school supplies donated by T-Mobile, Reliant and Kroger.

As families arrive at

sites, HISD Nutrition Services staff will minimize contact by placing food in vehicle trunks. Participants who walk to the sites must adhere to physical distancing requirements.

Community food packages are available to all. For student meals and school supplies, the driver must have children in the car or show proof of enrollment in any school district (report card, student ID, etc.) or birth certificate.

For more information about HISD meal programs, visit www.HoustonISD.org/Nutrition.

Aldine ISD providing meal service at two apartment complexes

Aldine ISD students will begin learning virtually on Monday, August 17. In addition to offering 58 curbside meal sites at schools across the district, Child Nutrition Services will meet some of our students where they are, at home.

Although the district will continue to provide curbside meals, AISD understands that some of our families will not have access to pick up meals throughout the week. The district is working with

several apartment complexes in the community to provide meal delivery. Child Nutrition and Transportation will work together to bring weekly meals to those students.

The first priority of Child Nutrition is to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our students. Through continued guidance from the State of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, and local health authorities, the Return to School guidelines will be used to continue the food

services program while maintaining social distancing as well as safety and sanitation protocols.

Food will be prepared by Child Nutrition staff at nearby schools and then transported on school buses to the apartment complex. Child Nutrition Services will set up a distribution table, similar to a curbside school site. Students or their parents will approach the distribution table practicing social distancing with a student ID to receive their meals.

Precinct 3 constables bust coke and meth



CORY TALBERT Charged with manufacture and delivery of Controlled Substance



August 7, Precinct 3 Crime Interdiction Unit went in pursuit of a speeding vehicle. While fleeing the suspect threw objects from a vehicle, later recovered, including a stolen gun. He was forced to stop on Homestead, quick search of the vehicle revealed a duffel bag containing 22 lbs. of meth and over 2 lbs. of cocaine.

Nursing Home visits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are allowed. Physical contact between residents and visitors is not permitted.

Additional conditions a facility must meet to conduct limited visitation include:

No confirmed COVID-19 positive staff in last 14 days.

No active positive cases in residents.

Adequate staffing to facilitate visitation in compliance with infection control requirements.

Use of plexiglass as a safety barrier for indoor visitation to prevent spread of COVID-19.

Further guidance on limited indoor and outdoor visitation rules will be posted on the HHSC COVID-19 provider web page.

EMERGENCY RULE ENHANCEMENTS

Enhanced emergency rules for nursing facilities include:

Each facility must have a COVID-19 response plan that includes designated staff to work with cohorts of residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, and staff should not change designation from one day to another, unless required to maintain adequate staffing for a cohort.

All nursing facilities must screen all residents, staff, and people who come to the facility in accordance with specified criteria, and each resident must be screened at least three times a day for signs or

symptoms of COVID-19.

Each facility must have plans for obtaining and maintaining a two-week supply of personal protective equipment and resident recovery plans for continuing care when a resident recovers from COVID-19.

The full emergency rules will be posted on the HHSC COVID-19 provider web page.

The latest guidance for nursing facilities is posted here. Texas HHSC continues to investigate all long-term care facilities in the state that report one or more positive case of COVID-19, as well as coordinate closely with local, state, and federal health authorities.

OPINION PAGE

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Challenging Times

A friend of mine who had a stroke in late June was telling me how challenging it has been not being able to drive, much less work for the first time in over 45 years. His only family members are in North Carolina, so he has had to depend on the few friends to get him to and from doctor appointments. He was debating on canceling the physical therapy appointment as he was also beginning to feel the financial strain of having four appointments weekly with \$40 copayments and then having to depend on others to get him to the pharmacy as well as grocery store. To say he was feeling down is an understatement.

No sooner was he telling me about how difficult it was to load up the laundry, find a ride to the washeteria and then do laundry and find a ride home, another friend called. The caller is someone he has known for the past 12 years and was on his way to an appointment but called to just share an encouraging word.

I was left to laugh as when he started to tell me about that phone call, I stopped him to share a text message that I had just received from a friend. If ever two people were feeling challenged, it was us and then in the perfect timing, we each had others to stand in the gap and encourage us.

Perhaps the one activity I miss now more than ever is attending church in person. I am very thankful for the options of live streaming, Facebook, YouTube, and all of the others, but there is something so special about worshipping with others in person. Anyone who knows me, knows I am a social butterfly.

There have been countless other meetings that I have missed out on hugging people. I think the delivery drivers have tagged me in the system to just drop off packages and run before I the door and hug them.

Even more challenging is for those who typically volunteer with different ministries where they bring hope to others. People like Neal Valk, who at the age of 90 still volunteers with North Channel Assistance Ministries, are missing out talking to the clients. Those who are involved in prison ministries are no longer allowed inside of the prisons or jails to minister to inmates. I am not saying that those incarcerated should have an easy stay, but imagine if you looked at the same people 24 hours a day? Many of the senior adults I know are afraid they will never see their incarcerated loved ones again. These are certainly challenging times and as we move forward, we need to throw kindness around as if it were confetti. Call someone today. Be kind. And certainly say an extra prayer for someone.



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"Summer Storm"

I was headed out for my daily hike. There was thunder in the distance. "It's getting lighter," my husband, Peter, said. "I don't think we're going to get any rain."

The air smelled like a storm to me, but what do I know? If my dog, Milo, were still alive I would have asked him. Milo would huddle in the corner of the kitchen when a thunderstorm approached.

"There's no storm on the radar," Peter would tell him. Milo didn't care what the radar said. We called him, "Doppler Dog," because if Milo was in the corner, bad weather was never far behind. But Milo is no longer with us and I was headed out on a hike.

"Do you think I need a hat?" I asked. If the sun came out, I'd want a hat.

"I don't think you'll need it," Peter assured me.

It might be worth noting that both Peter and I grew up on the plains of the Midwest where you can see a storm coming from miles away and the weather is predicted accurately to within the quarter of an hour. We live in the mountains now and things are different.

I left the house without a hat and it started to rain before I'd even made it to the trail. That might have been a good time to turn around. I didn't.

I go on my hike almost every day. I hike in the snow and the drizzle and the cold.

"There is no bad weather," a naturalist in Alaska once told me, "only inappropriate clothing choices." I like that.

So, when it started to rain, I wished I had my hat. But the weather was warm and, as Peter pointed out, it was getting lighter up ahead. Unfortunately, that's not where the weather was coming from.

By the time I got to the trail, the rain was steady but it wasn't cold. I started walking faster.

It was just as the trail goes into a ravine that the sky opened up. A sheet of rain fell and, in moments, I was as wet as it was possible to get. I was now going at a brisk trot.

It couldn't have been more than five minutes later that the sky crackled with lightning. I have never had thunder crash so close overhead in my life. My hair would have stood on end if it hadn't been plastered to my head. The lightning and thunder were simultaneous, so I figured I had walked smack-dab into the middle of a summer storm.

The rain was now coming down in buckets and the entire trail had become a swiftly flowing stream. I needed my hiking poles to hop along the newly formed riverbank—jumping from one rock to another, my boots filled with water, my eyes stinging from the rain—and all I could think was, "Oh my gosh, it's good to be alive!"

By the time I was headed home, the rain started to slow. It came to a stop about a half-mile from home. I noticed the puddles getting smaller until the ground was nearly dry.

Peter was surprised when I got home. "You sure hiked fast today!" He had no idea what had been happening just a couple of miles away. At our house, it had hardly rained.

I got in a hot bath and, as I washed the mud off my legs, I knew I would never have gone on that hike if I'd known how bad it would get.

And I was so glad I hadn't missed it. Till next time, Carrie

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

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Chris Cobler

Instead of No. 2 pencils, PPEs top back-to-school list

Back-to-school lists aren't the same this year. Gov. Greg Abbott talked last week about why the state is stockpiling personal protective equipment. "As local school boards make determinations on how and when they choose to open schools, the state is working to help ensure that there will be a strong supply of PPE waiting for them to keep students, teachers and staff safe," he said.

Texas already has distributed to Texas schools: 59,410,640 masks 567,948 gallons of hand sanitizer 24,017 thermometers 511,294 face shields

SENDING UP A FLARE The Railroad Commission of Texas is proposing rule changes to reduce the amount of flaring in the oil and gas industry.

The proposed regulatory changes include: Reducing the time for operators to obtain an administrative exception to flare gas. For certain exceptions, the duration might be reduced by 50% to 80%.

Providing incentives for operators to use technologies to reduce the amount of gas flared. Requiring operators to provide more specific information to justify the need to flare or vent gas in accordance with state rules.

The draft changes are open for a 30-day comment period and may be found on the Railroad Commission's website, <https://rrc.texas.gov/about-us/resource-center/forms/proposed-form-changes/>.

Flares, which can burn for weeks at a time, release harmful chemicals such as benzene as well as fine particle pollution, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, heavy metals and black carbon. Several of these combustion-related pollutants are linked to a higher risk of preterm birth and reduced birth weight in other contexts, according to a recent study by the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California.

"Our study finds that living near flaring is harmful to pregnant women and babies," said Jill Johnston, an environmental health scientist at Keck. "We have seen a sharp increase in flaring in Texas' Eagle Ford Shale, and this is the first study to explore the potential health impacts."

GET A HOSPITAL ROOM WITH A VIEW Being able to see trees while recovering from surgery decreases patients' need for pain medication and shortens their recovery time, according to a study shared by the Texas A&M Forest Service on Twitter.



"As research is being conducted and becoming available, findings reinforce what much of the urban forestry community already knows — that trees have a positive impact on human health," said the Southern Group of State Foresters, a nonprofit organization promoting the importance of healthy forests to a stable economy in the South.

DOCS EMPHASIZE PRIMARY CONCERNS TO ABBOTT Primary care doctors are urging the governor to expand on reforms begun because of COVID-19.

The Texas Primary Care Coalition sent an open letter to the governor asking him to take a variety of steps to increase residents' access to health care. Texas ranks 47th out of the 50 states in the ratio of primary care physicians available, the coalition wrote.

Because of the pandemic, the group noted, Abbott took an important step by directing the Texas Department of Insurance to issue an emergency ruling to allow medical visits conducted via telemedicine to be paid at the same rate as in-person visits.

"With three months of experience to document the viability and cost-effectiveness of telemedicine, Texas should eliminate the barriers that could keep primary care physicians from maintaining this service beyond the pandemic, including requiring state regulated insurers to continue payment parity between in-person versus virtual visits," the consortium wrote.

PUT FIBER IN YOUR COMMUNITY'S DIET Libraries and the rural communities they serve need to make fiber a top priority, according to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Libraries should make every opportunity to acquire fiber optic connectivity, wrote Henry Stokes, a technology consultant for the commission, in a recent blog post. He said they need to jump on Facebook's news that it has been working to develop a robot that can deploy fiber optic cables quickly over power lines. This would dramatically reduce the cost of fiber construction.

"Harnessing it will ensure that both the library and the community it serves will continue to thrive in the future," Stokes said.

THE WIND BENEATH OUR WINGS

Happy American Wind Week. When you drive through West and Central Texas, as we did recently visiting family in Colorado, you readily see why Texas is the country's top producer of wind energy.

PoweringTexas.com is observing the fourth anniversary of American Wind Week Aug. 9-15. No word on whether blowing out candles is involved.

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texaspress.com.

top ten

Most Crowded U.S. Islands

1. Manhattan
2. Roosevelt Island (NYC)
3. Balboa Island (Newport Beach)
4. City Island (NYC)
5. Long Beach Island (NY)
6. Staten Island
7. Long Island
8. Lido Isle (Newport Beach)
9. Oahu
10. Key West

Source: Wikipedia

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SPANISH PAGE

Aldine ISD comenzará las primeras 3 semanas de clases virtualmente

El plan de reingreso de Aldine ISD, Return to Learn, ahora hará que todos los estudiantes aprendan virtualmente desde casa durante al menos las primeras tres semanas del año escolar 2020-2021.

damos pero lo más lento que debamos. Goffney enfatizó que el año escolar académico comienza el 17 de agosto.

desarrollando capacitación y desarrollo profesional para que los maestros estén preparados para enseñar en ambos entornos. El plan actual del distrito tiene a todos los maestros de Aldine ISD informando a los campus este otoño, ya sea que estén apoyando el aprendizaje tradicional en el campus o las clases virtuales.

alienta a todos los padres a seleccionar la opción que mejor satisfaga las necesidades de sus hijos. Cualquier familia que no tenga acceso a Internet o dispositivos para el aprendizaje a distancia también puede solicitar un dispositivo al distrito escolar.

Mensaje del Superintendente

10 de agosto de 2020 Estimada comunidad de Aldine: ¡Estamos haciendo la cuenta regresiva hasta el primer día de clases! En solo una semana daremos inicio al ciclo escolar 2020-21.

a los estudiantes, con otra fecha de recogida el 14 de agosto. Este evento de distribución está dirigido a familias que: • seleccionó Aprendizaje en la escuela en la Forma de compromiso y aún no ha recibido una computadora chromebook, y • recibió confirmación para recoger un dispositivo prestado el 3 de agosto, pero no asistió (independientemente del motivo).

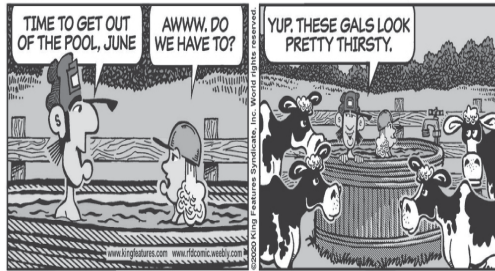
ENTERTAINMENT

Posting Date August 17, 2020

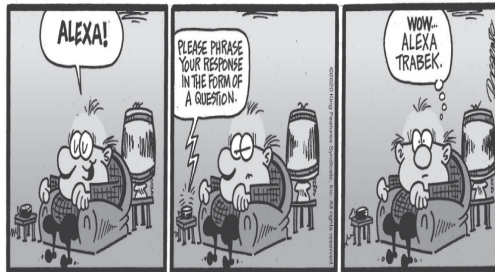
Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. A 9x9 grid with some numbers filled in. Includes difficulty level 'Moderate' and 'Challenging'.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. A cartoon illustration of a man looking at a board with 'MEAT ONLY' signs. Includes a puzzle instruction: 'Find at least six differences in details between panels.'

King Crossword

A crossword puzzle grid with clues listed on the left and right sides. Clues include 'Homer's cry', 'Comotion', 'Couturier Bill', etc.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. A list of 10 trivia questions covering literature, general knowledge, animal kingdom, geography, television, U.S. presidents, medical, language, history, and music.

King Crossword solution. A crossword puzzle grid with the words filled in. Includes the text 'Solution time: 27 mins.' and '© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.'

1. Crookshanks; 2. A fern; 3. A lower; 4. Michigan; 5. Central Park; 6. Eight; 7. Flow of tears; 8. A washcloth; 9. Nicholas II; 10. Kara's Flowers

El día escolar virtual se verá un poco diferente a un día normal, pero aquí hay algunas cosas para recordar. • Los estudiantes iniciarán sesión en Schoology usando su identificación de estudiante, I.D. • Los estudiantes deben revisar el horario publicado para cada clase (o maestro). • Cada maestro ofrecerá instrucción en vivo en grupos pequeños y horas de oficina para los estudiantes que tengan preguntas o necesiten apoyo adicional. • Los estudiantes deben iniciar sesión en su clase de Homerom (escuelas de preescolar y primarias) y en el segundo período (escuelas intermedias y secundarias) antes de la 1:00 p.m. ser contado presente. • Los estudiantes tendrán la flexibilidad de completar las tareas y lecciones de cada maestro y/o curso hasta las 11:59 p.m. cada día. Las calificaciones se tomarán semanalmente. Nuestra estrategia La semana pasada dimos a conocer un Medidor de COVID que define el plan de acción de Aldine ISD tanto para el personal como para los estudiantes. Actualmente estamos en la Fase Roja. El rojo significa un nivel severo y descontrolado de COVID-19 en nuestra comunidad según lo determinado por los funcionarios de salud locales, lo que significa que los brotes están empeorando actualmente. Las autoridades aconsejan a los residentes que minimicen el contacto con otras personas siempre que sea posible y eviten salir de casa excepto por una necesidad esencial. A medida que los brotes de COVID-19 de nuestra comunidad aumentan o disminuyen, nuestro distrito anunciará la fase (por ejemplo, naranja, amarillo o verde). Esto, a su vez, resultará en elementos de acción relacionados con la apertura de escuelas para el aprendizaje en persona. Opciones tecnológicas para estudiantes Aldine ISD se compromete a garantizar que sus estudiantes tengan acceso a oportunidades educativas. Debido a que el aprendizaje ahora tiene lugar fuera del aula o salón tradicional, el distrito ofrecerá aparatos de tecnología

COVID-19 Relief,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Families are hurting. We need to be responsive to them, and help them out during these difficult times," said Commissioner Rodney Ellis. "We have the means and the responsibility to step in and relieve those who are struggling. We know that the Relief Fund was effective in helping some of our vulnerable residents, but more residents are in need of relief. We will pull through this crisis by pulling together and protecting our most vulnerable."

The latest data demonstrates that additional relief is needed in Harris County and that direct assistance is an effective tool to provide that relief. Since March 7, 2020, Harris County residents have filed at least 504,407 initial unemployment claims with the Texas Workforce Commission. Low-income households of color are struggling the most, with almost half of Black and Latinx households reporting they could not pay April bills in full. Direct assistance to low-income families can help

reduce poverty rates, inject money into the local economy and, most importantly, help families afford their basic needs. Economists who studied how low-income households used federal payments from the CARES Act found that the money was primarily used on things like food, supplies and rent.

"Many times our clients have needs that go unmet. With the Harris County COVID Relief Fund, Wesley has been able to serve over 500 families with those types of needs," said Erica Luna, Community Services Manager at Wesley Community Center, who testified at Commissioners Court on Tuesday. "We heard time and again of families that were going to use the assistance to catch up on mortgage payments that would keep them out of foreclosure. Another recurring need we kept hearing was car notes." Erica cited a mother of two who used the assistance to get her car back, which had been repossessed and she needed it to get to and from work at a local restaurant.

Of the over 500,000 families that applied for the Relief Fund in June, 20,000 households and almost 40,000 individuals received assistance. This new round of \$25 million in direct assistance will help reach an estimated 20,000 households, but is not enough to bring relief to all families in need. Commissioner Ellis will continue to advocate for using existing resources to help working families, and will continue to encourage the federal government to provide additional support for people to weather this public health and economic crisis in the upcoming stimulus package.

\$32M in Funding to Ensure Digital Access to Low-Income Harris County Students The Digital Access Program Will Provide Devices and WiFi Hot Spots to Students

All children deserve to have access to high-quality education. However, as public health experts have recommended that we delay in-person instruction and our schools move classes online, some children have been left without the tools to continue their education. Low-income families often cannot afford high-speed internet access and devices that their children need to complete their online coursework, leaving thousands of students without a way to begin school during the pandemic.

A recent study by the nonprofit group, Common Sense, found that one in four Texas students do not have devices at home for distance learning, and one in three lack adequate access to the internet. Of those without adequate connectivity, two thirds are Black, Latinx or Native American.

"Educational outcomes were already highly unequal before COVID-19," said Commissioner Rodney Ellis, "As instruction moves online, we need to make sure that no child is left behind in their education,

particularly those in low-income and communities of color, who do not have high-speed internet and devices at home. I am proud to support County Judge Lina Hidalgo's initiative, because it will ensure that all Harris County children have access to the necessary tools to safely continue their education."

The Digital Access Program will use \$32 million in CARES Act funding from Harris County to provide 82,000 WiFi hotspots and 211,000 devices for Harris County children through the school districts through two separate programs. The program provides \$19 million toward the "Operation Connectivity" program, done in partnership with the Texas Education Agency, to provide 211,000 devices to children in Harris County school districts. Also, \$13 million will go toward "Project 10 Million," a public-private partnership program launched by T-Mobile that will provide 39,000 hot spots for students in under-resourced communities in Harris County.

Complete details of the program and how residents can apply will be communicated as soon as they are available.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —
 1. Is the book of Isaiah in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. A number of herbs and spices are mentioned in the Bible (KJV). Which one is mentioned the most? Salt, Pepper, Sage, Thyme
 3. Whose first chapter begins, "The former treatise have I made, O Theo-

philus"? Matthew, Luke, John, Acts
 4. In 2 Kings 1, what Philistine city worshiped Baal-zebub? Ekron, Succoth, Gomorrah, Antipatris
 5. From Acts 9, where did Peter cure Aeneas? Tyre, Neapolis, Lydda, Gibeon
 6. In Numbers 20, where did Aaron die? Mount of Olives, Pisgah, Mount Hor, Gilboa

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Salt; 3) Acts; 4) Ekron; 5) Lydda; 6) Mount Hor
 Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."
 Matthew 13:31,32

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NORTHEAST NEWS

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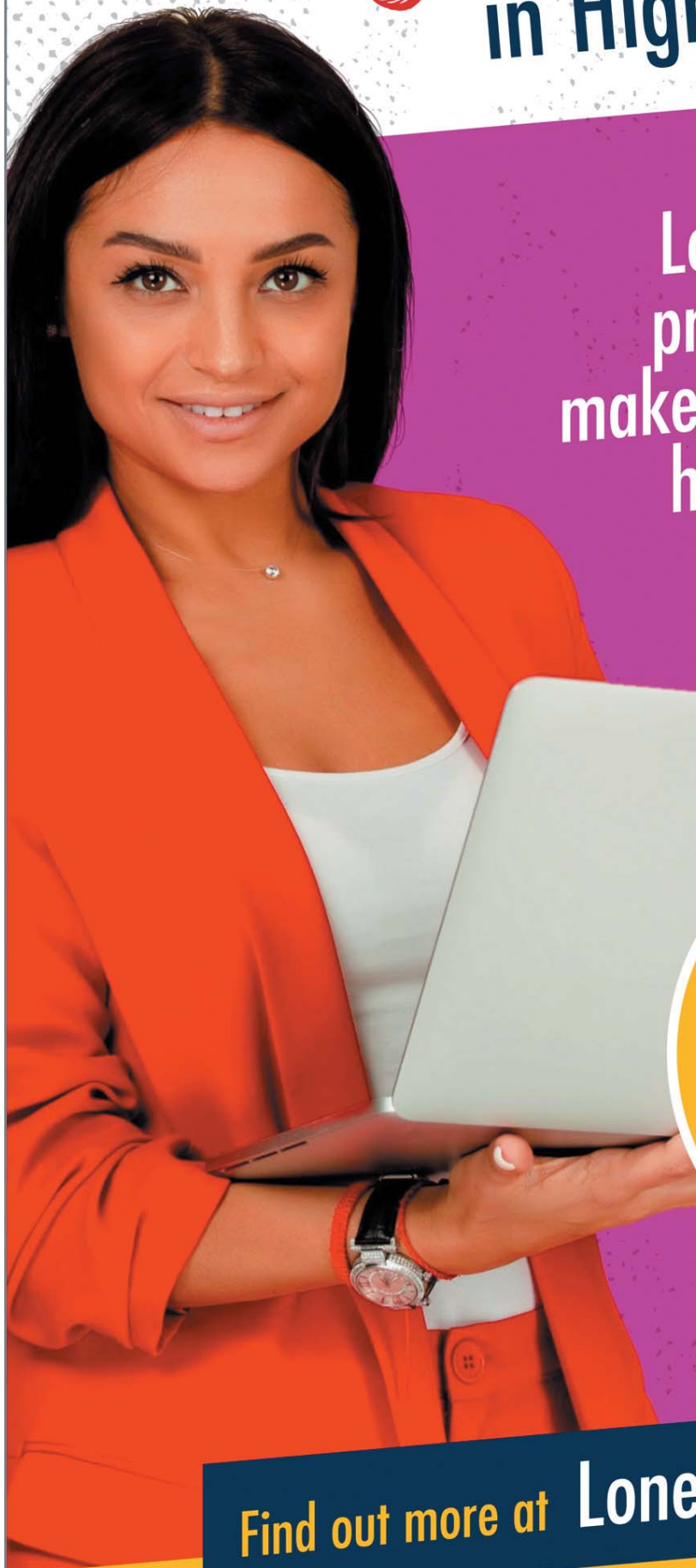
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