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Election Day is  
**Tuesday July, 14 2020**

July 14, 2020  
(14 de julio de 2020)

Instruction Note: Vote for the candidate of your choice by darkening in the oval.  
(Nota de Instrucción: Vote por el candidato de su preferencia llenando completamente el óvalo.)

"I am a Republican and understand that I am ineligible to vote or participate in another voting year."  
(Yo soy Republicano y comprendo que no soy elegible para votar o participar en la elección durante este año electoral.)

County  
(Condado)

Constable, Precinct No. 1  
(Condestable, Precincto Núm. 1)

**Norman Esquivel, Jr.**



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PRESS

SOUTH PADRE

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020 | SINCE 1951

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY | 50 CENTS

COVID-19 CASE TRACKER:

PI/SPI/LV Cases <b>30/14/5</b> Recovered <b>7/0/1</b>	Cameron County Cases <b>3,120</b> Recovered/Deceased <b>2,285/71</b>	Texas Cases <b>229K</b> Recovered/Deceased <b>N/A/2,935</b>	U.S. Cases <b>3.11 million</b> Recovered/Deceased <b>936K/134K</b>	© 2020, Port Isabel-South Padre Press  6 85620 00011 3
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SPI extends beach restrictions

By **GAIGE DAVILA**  
editor@portisabelsouthpadre.com



MCNULTY

The City of South Padre Island will continue restricting the space between umbrellas on the beach through July, as COVID-19 cases continue

to rise in Cameron County. In the order's extension, a new rule has been added: no setups in the 15 feet of space between umbrellas. South Padre Island Councilperson Joe Ricco said beach vendors noticed beachgoers were setting down in the space between the umbrellas, noting he had also noticed the phenomena

this past week. "The umbrellas are 15 feet apart, but we have other guests now encroaching in that space and setting up," Ricco said. "That's defeating the purpose of the 15 feet spacing." The order was extended and modified during a special emergency meeting on July 7.

The initial emergency order was issued June 30, in a special emergency meeting. South Padre Island City Council voted 5-to-1 to order all shade structures to be 15 feet away from each other on the beach. The shade structures, according to the order, can be only single-poled, with two persons maximum underneath. Any

canopies with several poles or frames are not allowed on the beach, according to the order. In a text message to the PRESS before the July 7 meeting, South Padre Island Mayor Patrick McNulty said he wanted to see the order extend through the end of July, noting he observed people following the orders.

"I think it went extremely well, considering it was implemented with very little notice to the general public," he said. During the July 7 meeting, McNulty mentioned bridge traffic during the Fourth of July weekend was down over 50 percent, in comparison to two week-ends ago.



**Flying high**  
WWII-era biplanes fly over Port Isabel on July 4, as part of the Rio Grande Valley wing of the Commemorative Air Force's annual Fourth of July Flyover.  
(Photo by Phil Kohler)

County's COVID-19 situation worsens

By **GAIGE DAVILA**  
editor@portisabelsouthpadre.com

Hundreds of people are hospitalized inside the Valley Baptist Health System with COVID-19, tens of which are on ventilators, in what Chief Executive Officer Leslie Bingham says has been a "surge response" inside the hospitals. Healthcare workers responding to COVID-19 patients in Cameron County hospitals are "exhausted," according to Bingham. "The demand that is on everyone is incredible at this point," Bingham said during a press conference held by Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. "They all continue to show up and give it their all, but they are exhausted: physically, mentally and emotionally."

Treviño said the state has sent "over 700" doctors and nurses to respond to COVID-19 cases in Cameron County. Treviño also said he is requesting more help from the state and federal government for funding for field hospitals and "alternative sites" for COVID-19 patients. As of press time, there are 3,120 cases of COVID-19 in Cameron County, 2,285 of which have recovered. Seventy-one Cameron County residents have died from COVID-19. Cameron County has a 7.82 percent positive rate of COVID-19 as of July 6, according to Treviño, saying it's lower than other places in the state, but that the positive rate is higher than it was in April and May. Bingham said the rate of mortality within the Valley Baptist Health System, 3.8 percent, has doubled since June of last year, 1.7 percent, accounting for the rising number

See **JUDGE**, Page 5

PI appeal denied in Meza case

By **GAIGE DAVILA**  
editor@portisabelsouthpadre.com

A state appeals court panel has unanimously denied the City of Port Isabel's interlocutor appeal in a lawsuit between the city and former city manager Edward Meza. The state's Thirteenth Court of Appeals, which serves Cameron County and several other South Texas counties, in a July 2 memorandum opinion

by Justice Gloria Benavidez, affirmed the 444th District Court of Cameron County's denial of the City Port Isabel's motion for dismissal. The appeals court heard oral arguments from the city's attorney, Gilberto Hinojosa, and Meza's attorney, Daniel Goldberg, in October 2019. Meza's case was first argued in the federal Southern District Court See **MEZA**, Page 5

Sheriff's Office still investigating 'Jane Doe' found on SPI

By **GAIGE DAVILA**  
editor@portisabelsouthpadre.com

Eight years since a woman was found dead on the northern end of South Padre Island, the Cameron County Sheriff's Office is still investigating who she was and how she got there. On July 3, the Cameron County Sheriff's Office said, in a Facebook post, they were still investigating the discovery of a 'Jane Doe,' an unidentified woman between 43-55 years old, 95 pounds

and around 5 feet tall, with black, straight to wavy hair approximately 17 inches long, according to the woman's missing person's profile. On October 10, 2012, a man was walking on the northern end of South Padre Island, five miles past Cameron County Beach Access 6, when he discovered the woman's body which, according to a KSAT report from 2012, had been disturbed by coyotes. In the woman's missing person's profile, her See **JANE DOE**, Page 5

Re-Elect  
**Pedro DELGADILLO**  
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1



ELECTION DAY  
JULY 14

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# 40 years of Service

## Duncan honored for exemplary duty



**Honored**  
Reserve Deputy for Pct. 1 Don Duncan receives a recognition for 40 years of service from Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (Courtesy photo)

By **DAVID LOPEZ**  
editor@sbnewspaper.com

Long-time law enforcement officer Don Duncan was recognized by Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. last month for 40 years of exemplary and unblemished service in public safety as a Texas peace officer.

“I was chosen for this rare award by Senator Lucio, who I’ve known for many years,” said Duncan. “I had all the experience and tools. I’ve got 40 years of immaculate service, and no skeletons in the closet.”

Apart from a plaque and proclamation, Duncan was recognized with a Texas flag flown over the state capital.

Currently, Duncan is

a Reserve Deputy with Cameron County Precinct 1 Constable Pete Delgadillo covering the Laguna Madre area.

Recently, Duncan was in the race for Cameron County Precinct 5 Constable and is considering running as a write-in candidate in November’s election.

Duncan began his career in law enforcement with the City of Harlingen at the age of 17, soon enrolling at the Rio Grande Valley Police Academy at 18. Finally, Duncan began working as a police officer for the Harlingen Police Department at age 20.

Soon after, Duncan attended Texas Southmost College in Brownsville and began teaching at the Rio Grande Valley Police Academy at their request.

Afterward, Duncan began serving as a deputy for the Cameron County Sheriff’s Department, working his way through the ranks to eventually become captain. As Captain, Duncan received training from top police academies in Texas and many Federal Bureau of Investigation’s training programs.

In his time with the sheriff’s department, Duncan managed the Criminal Investigation Unit. He oversaw the Cameron County Jail and its staff.

“After that, I was hired to head the Internal Security Police at Valley Baptist Health System in the Harlingen office, where I was in charge of 200 employees,” Duncan said.

Duncan remained at that position for 25 years until he decided to do some private consulting work on his own. He would go into different departments to resolve internal affairs with employees and budgets.

Duncan still dedicates his time to community service, often delivering donated food and clothes to the disabled and people in need, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I feel really inspired, and I enjoy working for people and with the people of Cameron County, who have been good to me all my career,” said Duncan. “I’m still active in law enforcement and plan to remain serving the people of Cameron County.”

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# COVID19 & ELECTIONS

## 2020 Republican Primary Runoff, Constable Precinct 1

### ELECTION DAY - JULY 14<sup>th</sup>

Polls Open From 7 am to 7 pm

Precincts	Location Name	Address
1, 83	Port Isabel City Hall	305 E. Maxan St., Port Isabel
14, 108	El Jardin Elementary School	6911 Boca Chica Blvd., Brownsville
52	South Padre Island City Hall	4601 Padre Blvd., So. Padre Island
59	Port Isabel High School	18001 Hwy 100, Laguna Heights
67	Laguna Vista City Hall Board Room	122 Fernandez St., Laguna Vista

For more locations visit [cameronvotes.com](http://cameronvotes.com) or call 1-844-CAN-VOTE

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**This position is open until filled.**

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**South Padre Island, TX 78597**  
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**Employment@myspi.org**  
**<https://myspi.bamboohr.com/jobs/>**

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- Delusions, hallucinations or paranoia

- Social withdrawal, loss of interest in personal appearance / hygiene
- Change in sleeping patterns or insomnia: change in appetite
- Dementia with behavioral disturbances such as agitation, anger and aggression

\*Patients younger than 55 will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

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— HARLINGEN —  
**Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit**  
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**(956) 389-4940**



# Chamber welcomes new director

By DAVID LOPEZ  
editor@sbnewspaper.com

The San Benito Chamber of Commerce welcomed its new executive director, Dafne Melissa Maldonado, last week.

Maldonado graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Communication from the University of Texas at Brownsville in 2008, soon after marrying and leaving for San Antonio.

In 2016, she returned to Brownsville because of her mother. Meanwhile, she held two positions as Executive Director for the Cameron County Bar Association and as an administrator for the Valdez Garza Law Firm.

"I missed the valley, going to the island, seeing my family and friends," Maldonado said about her decision to re-



DAFNE MELISSA MALDONADO

turn. "It's just home." In her time working for the bar association, she met judges and lawyers from across Cameron County, including San Benito professionals. Maldonado mentioned

that moving through with the Chamber's usual work is currently a challenge due to the pandemic.

"Right now, everyone's wondering what's going to happen with every single business, not just with the Chamber, and all I can say is that I want to assist everyone as much as possible, even if that means virtually as direct contact isn't permitted at this time," Maldonado said. "But once all these ordinances go back to normal, I would like to meet with every one of our members personally, let them know who I am, and let them know we advocate for them in San Benito."

Still, Maldonado mentioned that she is receiving multiple calls from people interested in being a part of the Chamber. Megan Treviño, the Chamber's previous executive director, is now part of the Chamber's Board of Directors, helping Maldonado with her transition into her new role.

Treviño said, "I was truly blessed by the opportunity the SBCC Board gave me to serve as Executive Director. I met so many wonderful people during my time there."

The Chamber of Commerce remains open, requiring clients to wear face masks when entering the building.

"I'm so glad that even though we can't have direct contact, we can still be united," Maldonado said. "I'm excited to help the community grow and build strong bonds with the city and residents."

# Debt forgiven

City released from HUD's findings

By DAVID LOPEZ  
editor@sbnewspaper.com

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released San Benito from a debt of \$738,000 in Community Development Block Grant money after finding that the funds were not misappropriated.

During Tuesday's city commission meeting, Emergency Management Coordinator Fred Bell updated commissioners on HUD's on-site monitoring of the City's Community Block Development Grant (CDBG).

In April 2019, HUD informed the City that San Benito would go under an audit of the CDBG program, eventually issuing six findings in September. In December, HUD notified the City that they owed \$738,000 for allegedly misappropriating those funds in 2004 on various streets, among them South Bowie and South Travis, that did not meet HUD's 51 percent low-income eligibility rate.

The City was given the option of returning these funds to the HUD office to reallocate or conduct an Income Survey.

City Staff conducted an in-depth audit of the 2004 street improvements and submitted a response to HUD.

In April of this year, HUD responded and advised that based on the City's audit and submission of documents, the balance of Ineligible costs was \$228,633.80.

Staff continued to review documents dating back to 2004 and submitted a response with additional documentation.

On June 18, HUD informed the City that that, based on the documentation provided by City staff, all outstanding findings regarding ineligible costs associated with the street improvements in 2004 had been

resolved and the City would not be required to conduct an Income Survey or return any funds to HUD.

In a statement to the press, Bell stated, "I am very proud of the staff's work. It took many employees and a lot of time to locate, review, and summarize the documents dating back to 2004. In the end, the internal audit conducted by staff further supported the position that the City of San Benito has not, and did not, misappropriate any funds provided by HUD. Having the support of our Congressional Representatives and Legislative Consultant was much appreciated. I also thank the City Commissioners and City Manager for authorizing staff to continue the internal audit at each step until the entire matter was resolved."

San Benito City Commissioners Tuesday also approved various items, including a resolution on Voter-approval tax rate, the canceling of 2020's National Night Out, and the purchase of tasers for the Police Department.

First discussed was the resolution aimed at calculating the City's voter-approval tax rate in the same manner provided for a special taxing unit (at the 8% voter-approval rate) for tax year 2020.

"The intent is to leave all options available to the city commission as we move forward with our budget," De La Rosa told commissioners. "It is not intended to alarm the community that the city commission is looking to increase the taxes up to 8 percent...you're not committing yourself at this time."

Commissioners approved the motion except for Antonio Gonzalez.

Furthermore, leaders approved the purchase of Taser X26P for the SBPD, costing \$69,240 to be paid in five annual payments from the Asset Forfeiture fund.

Una Voz Nueva



Sara Stapleton Barrera

Sara Stapleton Barrera

para el Senado de Texas Distrito 27

**La Candidata Demócrata, Sara Stapleton Barrera,** pide su apoyo una vez más en las elecciones de segunda vuelta entre ella y Eddie Lucio Jr. Si votó en las elecciones primarias o no, vote por Sara en la próxima vuelta durante las elecciones anticipadas del 29 de junio al 10 de julio o este 14 de julio el Día de las Elecciones para ayudarla a convertirse en la primera mujer Senadora del Distrito 27.

Sara Stapleton Barrera es altamente reconocida. Ella es una abogada litigante y recibió el premio Rising Lawyer en McAllen este año. Actualmente es miembro de la junta de disciplina de la región para Abogados en el Sur de Texas. También Sara tiene una serie de avalés, incluyendo al candidato Rubén Cortez, miembro de la Junta de Educación del Estado, Albert Alegría, Presidente de la Asociación de Educadores del Valle de Texas, Asociación de Maestros del Estado de Texas, Texas Rising, Mujeres Democráticas del Condado de Cameron, Annie's List y The Sierra Club, por nombrar algunos.

Sara nació en Harlingen e hizo de Brownsville su hogar. Es hija de un ex Presidente Demócrata del Condado de Cameron y no es ajena a la política. Sara también es ex Presidenta de la Asociación de Abogados del Condado de Cameron y ex defensora pública de los pobres en el Condado de Willacy.

El actual Senador Lucio ha ocupado el cargo durante demasiado tiempo y está en contra de los límites del mandato. Sara apoya activamente los límites de términos y anticorrupción. Sara tiene la experiencia para redactar legislación para el distrito con una perspectiva adicional de una madre y una ex maestra de escuela. Ella tiene la intención de reducir las pérdidas del gobierno en programas inviables y reinvertir en la educación básica, la atención médica asequible, la creación de empleos y la preservación de nuestro medio ambiente.

Una vez elegida, Sara también salvaguardará a los residentes del sur de Texas al garantizar que todos los recursos accesibles para COVID-19 estén disponibles de manera rápida y eficiente para ayudar, detectar, tratar y cuidar a las personas con el virus.

¡Cada voto cuenta! Salga y vote por la candidata Demócrata, Sara Stapleton Barrera para el Distrito 27 del Senado de Texas que representa a Cameron, la parte del Este de los condados de Hidalgo, Kenedy, Kleberg y Willacy.

Votar es una actividad esencial, pero use una máscara facial y tome medidas de protección.

Para más información por favor visite el portal de Sara en [www.sarastapletonbarrera.org](http://www.sarastapletonbarrera.org)

Publicidad política pagada por la candidata.

A Fresh Voice

**Democratic Candidate, Sara Stapleton Barrera** asks for your support once more in the runoff election between herself and Eddie Lucio Jr. Whether you voted in the Primary election or not, vote for Sara in the upcoming runoff during early election June 29th-July 10th or this July 14th on Election Day and help her become the first woman Senator of District 27.

Sara Stapleton Barrera is highly decorated. She is a trial lawyer and was the recipient of the Rising Young Lawyer award in McAllen this year. She currently sits on her region's board of discipline for Attorneys in South Texas. Also, Sara has an array of endorsements, including from candidate Ruben Cortez, a member of the State Board of Education, Albert Alegría, President of Texas Valley Educators Association, Texas State Teachers Association, Texas Rising, Cameron County Democratic Women, Annie's List, and The Sierra Club to name a few.

Sara was born in Harlingen and made Brownsville her home. She is the daughter of a former Cameron County Democratic Chair and is no stranger to politics. Sara is also the former President of the Cameron County Attorney Association, and a former public defender for the poor in Willacy County.

Incumbent Senator Lucio has held office too long and is against term limits. Sara actively supports term limits and anti-corruption. Sara has the expertise to write legislation for the district with an additional perspective of a mother and former school teacher. She intends to cut government waste on unworkable programs and reinvest in quality education, affordable health care, the creation of jobs, and preservation of our environment.

Once elected, Sara will also safeguard the residents of South Texas by ensuring all accessible resources for COVID-19 are quickly and efficiently available to help detect, treat, and care for the people with the virus.



Sara Stapleton Barrera

Every vote counts! Get out the vote for Democratic Candidate, Sara Stapleton Barrera for Texas Senate District 27 representing Cameron, Eastern portion of Hidalgo, Kenedy, Kleberg, and Willacy counties.

Voting is an essential activity, but wear a face mask and take protective measures.

Please visit Sara's website at [www.sarastapletonbarrera.org](http://www.sarastapletonbarrera.org) for more information

Sara Stapleton Barrera  
for Texas Senate District 27

Political advertising paid for by the candidate.





# How to save money on prescriptions if you lost coverage

Special to the PRESS/NEWS

(StatePoint) Many Americans are feeling the effects of job loss and furloughs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For people with a chronic condition, loss of insurance coverage can create additional stress during this uncertain time. However, it's vitally important for them to stay adherent to their medication to maintain their health and to reduce their risk of complications from COVID-19.

Fortunately, there are ways that people can obtain their medications affordably and predictably even if they have lost coverage.

One program is called Express Scripts Parachute Rx, which offers deep discounts on prescription medications, capping costs at \$25 for a 30-day supply of generics, and \$75 for a 30-day supply of select brand-name medications for eligible customers. There are more than 40 brand-name medications and thousands of generic medicines available through the program,



treating reproductive health, as well as conditions such as asthma, diabetes, glaucoma, heart disease, migraine, non-opioid pain management, seizures and thyroid conditions. The program, which is available for a limited time, is

not health insurance and does not require an enrollment fee or commitment to participate.

**Get discounted medications delivered to your home**

To take advantage of the Express Scripts Parachute Rx program, visit [www.express-scripts.com/parachuterx](http://www.express-scripts.com/parachuterx) to view the list of available medications, eligibility requirements and restrictions. Once you've checked medication prices,

select the home delivery option.

Also, if you are an Express Scripts' plan member who is losing coverage, you can transition your prescriptions to Parachute Rx by contacting the number on the back of your prescription card.

**Pick up medications at your local pharmacy**

There are more than 50,000 retail pharmacies, including national chains such as Walgreens, CVS and Rite Aid, and thousands of grocers and local community pharmacies that are participating in the Parachute Rx program. Your local pharmacist can check if discounts are available for your prescription, or you can visit [www.express-scripts.com/parachuterx](http://www.express-scripts.com/parachuterx). Additionally, customer service is available seven days a week at 877.644.0212 to answer any questions you may have about the program.

Affordable access to medication can help you come out of this crisis healthy and ready to return to work. For those whose lives have been upended by this pandemic, there are programs available that can offer a softer landing.

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# Nearly 14 percent of new U.S. COVID-19 cases are recorded in Texas

By SARAH R. CHAMPAGNE, EDGAR WALTERS AND MANDI CAI  
The Texas Tribune

With the daily number of new coronavirus infections in Texas now exceeding that of most other states, experts say Texas has become a hot spot of the global pandemic and that more aggressive measures are needed to slow the virus’ spread.

Texas’ new confirmed cases of the coronavirus now make up around 14% of the U.S. total — measured by a seven-day average — a significantly higher proportion than its 9% share of the nation’s population. Since July 1, the U.S. has reported 358,027 new infections. Of those, 50,599 were in Texas.

On Tuesday, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported more than 10,000 new cases — representing nearly 20% of the nation’s new cases for the day. It could be a “catch-up” from the July 4 holiday, DSHS spokesman Chris Van Deusen said, noting that numbers reported Sunday and Monday were lower.

“There has never been a higher risk of getting COVID-19 in Texas,” the state’s public health agency wrote on Twitter on Tuesday.

#COVID19TX update: <https://t.co/ofycOLqWQZ>Current #COVID19 hospitalizations continue to increase. There has never been a higher risk of getting COVID-19 in #Texas. Stay home when you can. Be careful in public and at work. Together for a #HealthyTexas [pic.twitter.com/3A3I8vOKX4](https://pic.twitter.com/3A3I8vOKX4)— Texas DSHS (@TexasD-



Nurses and doctors work in the COVID-19 unit at Doctors Health at Renaissance in Edinburg. (Photo credit: Miguel Gutierrez Jr./The Texas Tribune)

SHS) July 7, 2020

New York and Florida are the only other states that have exceeded a daily 10,000-case mark since the beginning of the pandemic, though New York’s case count has fallen sharply since its April peak, with the state now averaging fewer than 700 daily new cases in July.

“We are going to be in a situation where we have to seriously consider sheltering in place again,” said Dennis Perrotta, a former Texas state epidemiologist. “What we have is a large amount of virus now circulating in a large number of areas, and simply wearing masks when you’re out isn’t going to cut it.”

The number of Texans being tested for the virus grew steadily in June, but the expansion of testing alone cannot account for

the growth in new cases, said Dr. David Lakey, vice chancellor for health affairs and chief medical officer at the University of Texas System.

“If it were only that we were testing more, we wouldn’t be seeing these number of hospitalizations and ICU admissions,” said Catherine Troisi, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the UTHealth School of Public Health in Houston. On Wednesday, 9,610 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 in Texas.

An explosion of hospitalizations has strained hospitals around the state, particularly in the Rio Grande Valley.

The U.S. has reported more than 3 million coronavirus infections since the pandemic began, including more than 210,000 in Texas. But the extent of the virus’ spread remains unclear.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated in late June that more than 20 million people may have contracted the virus nationally, a figure roughly 10 times larger than the number of lab-confirmed cases at the time.

Public health researchers have pointed to various metrics as cause for concern in Texas’ efforts to contain the virus. First, the percentage of virus tests that come back positive has hovered between 10% and 15% since late June. The previous month, Gov. Greg Abbott said a rate over 10% would be a “warning flag.”

It’s one of several benchmarks that the state has blown past since Abbott laid out a plan in May that permitted the phased reopening of businesses in Texas. The governor has said he is monitoring the number of hospitaliza-

tions, the rate of positive viral test results and the seven-day average of new confirmed COVID-19 infections to guide Texas’ reopening efforts.

The White House and the CDC released guidelines for states’ reopening that included a 14-day downward trajectory of new virus cases or a 14-day decrease in the percentage of positive tests.

Instead, the number of new daily infections in Texas has grown steadily, reaching a seven-day average of 7,228 on July 7.

On June 22, Abbott said that if the three metrics he is monitoring were to double within a month, it would place Texas “in an urgent situation where tougher actions will be required.” On June 25, he reinstated a ban on elective surgeries in four metropolitan counties, then expanded it to four South

Texas counties five days later to preserve hospital capacity. On June 26, he ordered bars to close and capped restaurant capacity at 50%, down from 75%. And last Thursday, with case counts continuing to climb, he issued an executive order requiring Texans in most counties to wear masks in public.

On Tuesday, two weeks after Abbott’s June 22 remarks, the number of hospitalizations and the weekly average of new cases had doubled.

“We started reopening, and we didn’t wait long enough to see what would happen with those first steps. This was totally predictable,” Troisi said, adding that any new measure, such as the mask order, will take at least two weeks to show effects. “If people are really wearing masks, that would go a long way, but I’m not sure that will happen.”

Chris Essig and Anna Novak contributed to this story.

Disclosure: The University of Texas System has been a financial supporter of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune’s journalism. Find a complete list of them here

**Editor’s note: “Nearly 14% of new U.S. COVID-19 cases are recorded in Texas” was first published at <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/07/08/texas-coronavirus-cases-us/> by The Texas Tribune. The Texas Tribune is proud to celebrate 10 years of exceptional journalism for an exceptional state.**

# Gas falls 2.5 cents per gallon in RGV

**STAFF REPORT**

Rio Grande Valley gas prices have fallen 2.5 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$1.86/g today, according to GasBuddy’s daily survey of 410 stations. Gas prices in Rio Grande Valley are 26.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 43.7 cents per gallon lower than a

year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Rio Grande Valley is priced at \$1.65/g today while the most expensive is \$2.20/g, a difference of 55.0 cents per gallon. The lowest price in the state today is \$1.19/g while the highest is \$2.79/g, a difference of \$1.60/g.

The national average

price of gasoline has fallen 1.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.17/g today. The national average is up 14.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 58.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Historical gasoline prices in Rio Grande Valley and the national average going back ten years:

July 6, 2019:	\$2.29/g
July 6, 2018:	\$2.59/g
July 6, 2017:	\$1.99/g
July 6, 2016:	\$1.99/g
July 6, 2015:	\$2.52/g
July 6, 2014:	\$3.44/g
July 6, 2013:	\$3.17/g
July 6, 2012:	\$2.95/g

(U.S. Average: \$2.75/g)

July 6, 2018: \$2.59/g (U.S. Average: \$2.86/g)

July 6, 2017: \$1.99/g (U.S. Average: \$2.26/g)

July 6, 2016: \$1.99/g (U.S. Average: \$2.25/g)

July 6, 2015: \$2.52/g (U.S. Average: \$2.76/g)

July 6, 2014: \$3.44/g (U.S. Average: \$3.65/g)

July 6, 2013: \$3.17/g (U.S. Average: \$3.47/g)

July 6, 2012: \$2.95/g

(U.S. Average: \$3.36/g)

July 6, 2011: \$3.41/g (U.S. Average: \$3.57/g)

July 6, 2010: \$2.54/g (U.S. Average: \$2.69/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Laredo- \$1.84/g, down 4.3 cents per gallon from last week’s \$1.88/g.

Corpus Christi- \$1.87/g, down 2.7 cents per gallon from last week’s \$1.90/g.

San Antonio- \$1.81/g, down 5.6 cents per gallon from last week’s \$1.87/g.

“With July 4 behind us, we’re now half way through the summer driving season, and the pace of gas price increases has finally hit a wall. As of Sunday evening, it appears possible that we may break the nine straight weeks of rising prices thanks to a drop in demand fueled by COVID-19 cases surging in some states,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

**Meza**  
From “Meza,” page 1

of Texas in 2016, after he was fired by the City of Port Isabel in 2015 and did not receive a severance package he and the city agreed upon in 2010. The city alleges the agreement and or contract for Meza’s severance package was not valid, voting to rescind the severance package in May 2015 that

was approved in 2010 by previous city commissioners.

The case moved to the 444th District Court of Cameron County, where the City of Port Isabel had filed a preliminary motion for dismissal before the case reached a jury. Judge David Sanchez denied the motion,

and the City of Port Isabel responded with the appeal just denied by the Thirteenth Court of Appeals.

“When will the City just pay Mr. Meza what it long ago voted to pay him, which by now is less than the attorney fees that the City will also be responsible for?” Goldberg

said to the PRESS in an emailed statement.

Port Isabel City Manager Jared Hockema said the city will be requesting a rehearing en banc, where all judges of an appellate court hear a case, rather than one judge or a panel of judges. Hockema said the city disagrees with Benavidez’s opinion.

**Jane Doe**  
From “Jane Doe,” page 1

gravesite was described as being partially unearthed due to “weather-associated high tides.”

In the same KSAT report, FBI Special Agent Michelle Lee said her body being found in that area of

the Island’s beach indicated foul play.

“Her body was purposefully buried by someone who was attempting to conceal it,” Lee told KSAT.

On her body, according to the woman’s missing

person’s report, lime was found on her body, which was likely used by the murder to accelerate decomposition.

No cause of death has been publicly provided. The PRESS has filed a

Freedom of Information Act for all files relating to the woman’s death investigation.

The Cameron County Sheriff’s Office is offering a \$1,000 reward for information on her identity.

**Judge**  
From “Judge,” page 1

of deaths from COVID-19. Without deaths from COVID-19 patients, the mortality rate for Valley Baptist Health System is around 1.3 percent, Bingham said.

Sixty percent of COVID-19 patients in the Valley Baptist Health System are from 41 to 99 years old, while 30 percent of COVID-19 patients there are 21 to 40 years old.

Treviño mentioned beachgoers on South Padre Island over the Fourth of July weekend, saying he had seen videos of people following the Island’s beach guidelines—where umbrellas must be 15 feet apart with only two people under them—along with videos of beachgoers not following guidelines.

“We’ll find out within the next 7 to 14 days, if we have another spike in our cases,” Treviño said, referencing beachgoers who possibly did not follow the beach guidelines during the Fourth of July weekend.



# Number of Texans filing unemployment claims increased for second week

By JUAN PABLO GARNHAM  
The Texas Tribune

As Texas experiences a surge of coronavirus infections, more than 117,244 people applied for unemployment claims last week, an increase of 21.4% compared to the week before. It was the second week in a row that the number of claims rose.

Since mid-March, nearly 2.8 million people have filed for unemployment benefits in Texas. The peak of unemployment claims came in early April, when more than 315,000 Texans applied for the benefit in a single week. During June, as businesses reopened, the demand for unemployment benefits decreased, but it was still more than five times larger than the number of applications than during the same month last year.

“The numbers are much lower than in March, but they are rather alarming and they coincide with the increase of coronavirus cases,” said Sarah

Zubairy, associate professor of economics at Texas A&M University. “Even if you open the restaurants, bars and gyms, this virus will be on the loose and it will affect how people are deciding to engage with the economy.”

The overall unemployment rate for June is scheduled to be published next week. Texas’ unemployment rate hit an all-time high of 13.5% in April, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In May, the unemployment rate slightly fell to 13%. But the forecast for the coming months remains unclear.

“Governments are responding, so hopefully we will see improvements, but because of the coronavirus expansion, things are still very uncertain,” Zubairy said.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the state’s worst-ever monthly unemployment rate was 9.2% in November 1986, as Texas reeled from the last big oil bust. Later, during the Great Reces-

sion, the unemployment rate in the state never surpassed 8.3%.

The state’s unemployment rate is the share of Texans in the labor force who are out of work. The unemployment rate is different than the raw number of people filing for unemployment insurance because some of those filers are still employed but have been furloughed or had their hours cut.

Disclosure: Texas A&M University has been a financial supporter of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune’s journalism. Find a complete list of them here.

*Editor’s note: “Number of Texans filing unemployment claims increased for second week in a row as 117,244 sought benefits” was first published at <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/07/09/texas-unemployment-claims-coronavirus/> by The Texas Tribune. The Texas Tribune is proud to celebrate 10 years of exceptional journalism for an exceptional state.*



**Tourney ready**  
The Texas International Fishing Tournament's (TIFT) weigh station was tested on July 6, in preparation for the tournament in August.  
*(Photo courtesy of Kristi Collier, TIFT Tournament Director)*

## Laguna Heights confirms first COVID-19 cases

By GAIGE DAVILA  
editor@portisabelsouthpadre.com

The COVID-19 pandemic has reached Laguna Heights, according to Cameron County Public

Health’s recent reports on the county’s positive cases. Two Laguna Heights residents, a 27-year-old female and a 9-month-old male, have tested

positive for COVID-19. The cases were contracted within the community and from a previous case, respectively, according to Cameron County Public Health.

## SONIC Drive-In gives \$150 donation to PI teacher

**STAFF REPORT**  
  
To recognize the entrepreneurial spirit driving teachers to meet

their students’ distance learning needs during this difficult time, SONIC Drive-In matched all donations to DonorsChoose on Teacher Appreciation Day, giving Port Isabel High School geometry teacher Luis Rincones \$150. Through Limeades for Learning, SONIC donated \$1 million to public

school teacher requests across the country on Teacher Appreciation Day – Tuesday, May 5, 2020 – supporting their endeavors to provide students with essential education resources. Rincones was among the teachers whose project, Streaming Geometry, received funding.

## OBITUARIES

### Teresa Gonzales



Teresa Gonzales, 90, passed peacefully from this life on Monday, July 6, 2020 after a brief illness. A native of Dearborn, Michigan, Teresa was born on October 4, 1929 to the late Pedro and Felipa Buendia Gonzalez.

Teresa enjoyed sewing, gardening, and raising and feeding animals. However, nothing compared with how much she enjoyed spending time with her loved ones.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Pedro and Felipa Gonzalez; family members, Anselmo Gonzales, Lalito Gonzales, Pancho Gonzales, Inocencio Gonzales, Chenchon Gonzales, Roque Gonzales, Maria Gonzales, and Lazaro Rojas, Jr.

Teresa is survived by her children, Lasaro Rojas, Juan Rojas, Pablo Rojas, Cresencio Rojas, Blanca Rojas, and Delia Rojas; 14 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 50-60 great-great-great grandchildren.

She was a devout Catholic and member of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Teresa’s family will receive friends and relatives on Friday, July 10, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at San Benito Funeral Home. A recitation of the holy rosary will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Mont Meta Memorial Park.

Honored to serve as pallbearers are Juan Rodriguez, Jr., Jose Escobedo, Michael Trevino, Chris Rojas, Juan Rojas, and Juan Rojas, Jr. Amanda Barrera, Ashley Yvonne Gonzales-Cortez, and Cindy Rojas will serve as honorary pallbearers.

Teresa’s family thanks all the medical staff at Valley Baptist Medical Center-Harlingen for their compassionate care.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to San Benito Funeral Home, 1400 W. Business 77, San Benito, Texas 78586; 956-361-9192, [www.sanbenitofuneralhome.com](http://www.sanbenitofuneralhome.com).

*In accordance with Cameron County requirements, all guests must wear a facial covering and practice social distancing while visiting San Benito Funeral Home.*



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NEWS BRIEFS

Cameron County

- Cameron County Judge Eddie Trevino, Jr., said Cameron County’s

COVID-19 positivity rate is at 7.82 percent, during a press conference on July 7.

- The Texas Southmost College (TSC) board has extended remote learning for the fall semester, which begins August 24. “We strongly believe it is in the community’s best interest to take this

measure to help slow the spread of the coronavirus,” TSC Board Chair Adela G. Garza said.

**Port Isabel**  
Marcello’s Ocean Grille & Spirits changes hours, closing Mondays and Tuesdays and opening from Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

**PI-ISD**  
Point Isabel Independent School District’s summer food distribution program will now be served only at Port Isabel High School, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

**SBCISD**  
San Benito CISD’s CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM will provide multi-meals service (for 7 days) only on the last three Mondays in July (13th, 20th, and 27th) from 8:30 to 10:30 AM by campus curbside only.

Meal service will be available only at either of the following six (6) campuses:

- Angela G. Leal Elementary,
- Dr. Raul Garza, Jr. STEAM Academy,
- Ed Downs Fine Arts Academy,
- Judge Oscar De La Fuente Elementary,
- Miller Jordan Middle School, and
- San Benito Veterans Memorial Academy.

**SBCISD Summer School**

Summer school will begin this upcoming Monday, July 13. However, due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Cameron County, summer school will be provided via full remote instruction. For questions, please contact the summer school campus to which your child has been assigned. Summer school staff will be available early on Monday, July 13.

**UIL re-opens summer training**

University Interscholastic League (UIL) released new revisions to the COVID-19 risk mitigation guidelines for summer strength and conditioning and marching band activities.

The new UIL executive order states that all will wear face coverings/face shields for all employees, parents, visitors, and students ten years of age or older upon entry to an area where UIL activities are being conducted and when not actively practicing or exercising unless an exception applies.

Students may access locker rooms and engage in drills that involve one or more students on offense against one or more students on defense beginning July 13th.

Additionally, the previously announced “Period of no Activity” dates of July 20-21, 2020 have been rescinded, allowing schools to open facilities to student-athletes.

As the public health situation changes, and/or if subsequent Executive Orders are issued by the Office of the Governor, these guidelines may be further modified.

At this time, UIL plans to begin fall competition seasons as scheduled on the UIL calendar, set for August 3rd.

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Our dedicated physicians, nurses and support staff provide treatment, comfort, and compassion. They make the difference in healthcare and are the reason people choose Harlingen Medical Center. We know how to care for you, and your family, with the kind of compassionate, quality and effective care you deserve.

  
**5501 S. Expressway 77 • Harlingen, TX**  
**956-365-1000 • harlingenmedicalcenter.com**

# Area Church Schedules

### ZIMCO MARINE INC.

943-2672

400 Washington PI, TX 78578

### TROY GILES REALTY

5813 Padre Blvd.  
South Padre Island, Texas  
956-761-2040

Visit [www.tgreo.com](http://www.tgreo.com) for ALL AREA LISTINGS!



**Family Dining at its Best**

3400 Padre Blvd.  
956-761-9585



**EVA-JEAN DALTON**  
Broker  
956-279-5753

MLS

**CHAPEL BY THE SEA**  
(956) 761-5636  
33425 State Park Road 100,  
South Padre Island, Texas 78597  
[www.ChapelByTheSeaSPI.com](http://www.ChapelByTheSeaSPI.com)  
**TIME OF SERVICE**  
April - October Sunday 9:30 am  
Multi-Denominational  
Sam Steele, Chaplain  
Come as you are - coffee served  
Open for live service and facebook.

**CROSS CHURCH BAY AREA**  
1441 Santa Isabel Blvd.  
Laguna Vista, TX 78578  
956-543-5595  
[CrossChurchOnline.com](http://CrossChurchOnline.com)  
Senior Pastors Jaime and Rose Mary Loya  
Campus Pastors  
Robert & Maria Kimberling  
Service Times:  
Sunday 10AM - English

**LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH**  
Corner Port Road and Hwy. 100  
943-5372  
Pastor Steven D. Hyde  
SUNDAY  
Worship Service - 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Children, Youth & Adult  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Family Night - 7:00 p.m.  
All services translated in Spanish  
Nursery Provided

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Longoria and Washington Streets,  
118 E. Washington St.  
956-292-5129  
Pastor: Steve Martinez  
SUNDAY  
Worship on-line using a platform  
called Zoom until March 31st.  
Sunday morning, use one of these links:  
9:00 AM - <https://zoom.us/j/475237538>.  
11:00 AM - <https://zoom.us/j/976797451>.  
Also, all of our on-campus ministry events  
have been suspended until March 31st.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
101 W. Adams St., P.O. Box 1085  
Port Isabel, TX 78578  
956-943-2485  
Pastor Jenna Purdy  
Please Call the Church Office  
For Worship Times & Schedule

**FISHERS OF MEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
603 S. Tarnava Street, Port Isabel

**OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH**  
705 S. Longoria, Port Isabel  
Confessions  
Monday-Thursday - 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday - 4:00 p.m.  
Schedule of Masses  
Saturday - 5:00 p.m. - (English)  
Sunday - 8:00 a.m. (Spanish)  
10:00 a.m. - (English)  
12:00 Noon - (English)  
Laguna Heights  
Saturday - 7:00 a.m. - (Spanish)  
Weekday Masses  
Mon. & Wed. - 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)  
Tues. & Thurs. - 6:00 p.m. (English)  
Friday - 7:30 a.m. (English)

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
310 Tarnava & Washington Street  
Port Isabel  
956-943-1844  
Tum Crum, Minister  
SUNDAY  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
WEDNESDAY  
7:00 p.m. - Night Service

**ST. ANDREW'S BY THE SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
1022 North Yturria at North Shore Dr.  
Port Isabel, TX 78578  
956-943-1962  
[standrewsportisabel.org](http://standrewsportisabel.org)  
**SERVICES ON FACEBOOK**  
Sunday Services restart June 21 at 10 a.m.

**MARANATHA WORSHIP CENTER ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
401 E. Madison, Port Isabel  
956-943-4878  
Pastor Sonia y Manuel Gonzalez  
Sunday Maranatha Kids (English)  
10 a.m. - 12 pm  
Domingo Escuela Dominical (Estudio)  
5 p.m.-6 p.m.  
Domingo Servicio de Adoracion - 6 p.m.  
Martes De Intercecion Familiar  
7-8:30 p.m.  
Miercoles Servicio Familiar - 7 p.m.

**CORNERSTONE CHURCH BY THE BAY**  
2nd Madison Grove on Ted Hunt Road  
Bayview, Texas  
956-434-1425  
Sunday School, Nursery & Fellowship  
Bible Study #101 - 9:15 a.m.  
Worship - 10:30 a.m.

**ISLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**  
107 W. Mesquite, South Padre Island  
(South of the Water Tower)  
761-5029  
Bill Waddell, Pastor  
Greg Judd, Pastor of Worship  
SUNDAY  
8:15 a.m. - Traditional Service  
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary Services  
*Services also available online at [islandbaptist.org](http://islandbaptist.org).*

*The Original*  
**DOWNTOWN THOMAE-GARZA**  
*Funeral Directors*  
**Albert Vega**  
**Karla Olivarez**  
**1-800-950-1331**  
395 S. Sam Houston, San Benito  
**956-399-1331**

**COMPLIMENTS OF ISLAND SERVICES**  
**761-2649**

**Las Palmas Shopping Center**  
*Managed by*  
**TARANTINO PROPERTIES**  
**1710 Hwy. 100**  
**Port Isabel, TX**  
**713-974-4292**

**Texas Pack, Inc.**  
Navigation District  
956-943-5461

  
*"We are proud to serve this community."*



This church feature is provided through the support of these civic minded businesses





**HAPPY 5TH BIRTHDAY**

***Eiza Roselyn***

***Padilla***

**Love All Your Family**

# Valley Baptist hospitals near capacity

## Urge community to take precautions

Special to the PRESS/NEWS

Valley Baptist Health System is urging local residents to take all necessary precautions against COVID-19 as the hospitals’ ability to care for the community nears exceeding capacity.

“One of our biggest concerns during this entire pandemic has been to ensure that our hospitals remained well positioned with personal protective equipment, staff and capacity to care for our community. Over the past four months, our teams have done an incredible job managing in this new environment. However, we are now starting to feel the extreme surge of confirmed and/or suspected COVID-19 positive patients requiring hospitalization throughout the Rio Grande Valley and particularly at our three hospitals in Brownsville, Harlingen and Weslaco,” said Manny Vela, CEO for Valley Baptist Health System and Valley Baptist Medical Center-Harlingen. “Valley Baptist is at a critical capacity level just like every other hospital across our region. As of Fri-

**COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

- As recommended by the CDC and local health officials, individuals should wear a cloth face covering if they need to leave their home for essential travel.
- Stay home if you have a cold to prevent the spread of infection.
- Washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Keep six feet away from others while in public.

- Contact your physician and seek medical care if you are having trouble breathing, confusion, or high fever.
- If you will be seeking medical care for symptoms that you think may be from COVID-19, please call ahead to notify your physician so that they may be ready for your arrival.
- For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention website ([www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov)), as well as the Cameron County Public Health Department website ([www.cameron-county.us/publichealth/](http://www.cameron-county.us/publichealth/)).

day afternoon, Valley Baptist Medical Center-Harlingen has 141 hospitalized COVID-19 related patients in our designated COVID-19 units and Valley Baptist Medical Center-Brownsville has 97. To put this in perspective for our community, our hospitals are now at a total of 102 percent and 101 percent occupancy, respectively and this includes both COVID-19 related and non COVID-19 related patient beds.”

Vela went on to explain that the high number of COVID-19 patients is straining the system’s ability to care for patients requiring other types of non-COVID related healthcare as well as those requiring COVID related

healthcare.

“More than 40 percent of the hospitals’ current census is occupied by COVID-19 positive or suspected patients. What that means is that we are now at the point of grave concern,” he said. “Our entire teams are working around the clock to identify additional locations for patient care and we are working closely with the TRAC-V to bring in additional staff to help our hospitals manage this surge.”

Dr. Christopher Romero, Physician Adviser for Valley Baptist Medical Center-Harlingen, said that the hospitals continue to see numerous patients admitted on a daily basis with severe disease.

“Many of these patients are now younger than before, and often without many of the severe underlying health problems that we previously associated with severe disease. We have unfortunately seen many people pass away from COVID-19, even young individuals,” he said. “These days I cannot in good conscience say that young people or healthy individuals don’t have to worry about this disease.”

Leslie Bingham, CEO for Valley Baptist-Brownsville said physicians and hospital staff are working tirelessly to continue to care for their community, but that they require assistance to alleviate the exhausting strain of the ongoing situation.

“Everything is being done to ensure the best possible coordination and care for our patients; however, we need our community to help us help them,” she said. “We need our community to take immediate action to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the continued surge in our hospitals.”

While early efforts to fight the spread of COVID-19 – such as shelter in place orders and minimizing travel – were successful, COVID-19 cases have skyrocketed as local residents became lax in following protective measures against the virus.

“When people wear a face mask in public, maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from others, and practice frequent hand hygiene, it reduces the spread of the virus,” Bingham said. “We’re imploring the people of the Rio Grande Valley – our friends, our neighbors, our families – to do these three simple things to help us save lives.”

Dr. Jose Ayala, Chief Medical Officer for Valley Baptist-Brownsville also urged the community to continue to practice the protective measures that have been successful, especially the use of face coverings in public as a means to protect not only ourselves, but those who may be more vulnerable to the virus.

“The importance of masks is to prevent the spread of the virus by those people who may not know they are infected and contagious yet,” he said. “People can spread the virus before they develop symptoms, which has been demonstrated in research from around the world. Wearing a mask is only one of our weapons to fight COVID-19, but it’s an important one. When out and about we don’t know who may have cancer, diabetes, lung problems, or other health issues that make them more susceptible to COVID19. Wearing a mask helps protect others in our community and can slow the spread of this deadly virus.”


Vela said that despite the critical situation, he is confident in the local residents doing what they must to help local healthcare providers continue to provide appropriate care to the community.

“What we need most right now is for our community to please hear us. This pandemic is real. It is in our community and it’s on the rise. If this surge continues as it has over the past week, we will have a very real need to open some type of alternative care site in our community so that additional care can be provided for those that will inevitably require hospitalization,” he said.


**You’re Safe Care is Our Priority. If you need care, trust Valley Baptist.**

A COMMUNITY BUILT ON **CARE**

At Valley Baptist Health System, we never forget that it takes more than medicine to heal. From Maternity care to Orthopedics, and Stroke care to Trauma services, all of us are here to treat you well. **See us at [ValleyBaptist.net](http://ValleyBaptist.net).**



**Valley Baptist Health System**

@valleybaptistmedicalcenter 



# Classifieds



For information, call  
(956) 399-2436



## 3 HOME FOR RENT


**RENT ME - “BARBIE’S HOUSE”:** 1 bedroom. No dogs. Near Expressway 83, La Bahia Addition, \$400 a month plus \$300 deposit. You pay your bills. As is. Look for Barbie’s House.  
(6-19 - 7-10)

## 18 PERSONALS

**HOLA SOY ROGER,** viudo, 59 anos, soy bilingue, soy alto, soy agradable, Americano, busco una dama de 45 a 63 anos, sea carinosa, romantica, fiel, etc. Desea una relacion seria. Cell: 210-914-4970.  
(6-19 - 7-10)


## 18 PERSONALS

**THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS**  
For Miracles Granted.  
*K.B.*



**DEAR HEART OF JESUS,**

in the past I have asked for favors. This time I ask you this very special one (mention favor). Take it dear Jesus and place it within your own heart where your father sees it. Then in your merciful eyes it will become your favor not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 days, promise publication and favor will be granted. Never known to fail.  
*K.B.*



**DEAR HEART OF JESUS,**

in the past I have asked for favors. This time I ask you this very special one (mention favor). Take it dear Jesus and place it within your own heart where your father sees it. Then in your merciful eyes it will become your favor not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 days, promise publication and favor will be granted. Never known to fail.  
*K.B.*

## 20 PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION — TRC 109 & 114 THE STATE OF TEXAS 2016-DCL-06870-B MARIO CASTRO VS MARY T. HAMILTON IN THE 138TH DISTRICT COURT OF CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS**  
TO: **The Heirs-at-Law, Whether Known or Unknown of Mary T. Hamilton,**  
DEFENDANT-GREETINGS:  
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: “You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you.”  
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the **Plaintiff’s First Amended Petition** at or before 10:00 o’clock A.M. on the Monday next after the

## 20 PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE**  
BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE ISSUED **JUNE 17th, 2020** out of the **COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1 of WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS,** in **CAUSE NUMBER 2015CVQ001254C1** WHEREIN **EDUARDO GABRIEL MARTINEZ D/B/A THE AQUARIUM AMUSEMENT ROOM** is PLAINTIFF, and **PAUL GONZALEZ AND PAUL GONZALEZ INSURANCE** are DEFENDANT(S), I did on **JUNE 30TH, 2020** levy upon and seize all of the rights, titles and interests of said DEFENDANT(S) in and to the following described real property situated in CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, to wit:  
Property (including any improvements):  
**Lot One (1), Block Number Thirty-Two (32), Original Townsite of San Benito, Cameron County, Texas, according to Map recorded in Volume 2, Page 5, Official Records, Cameron County, Texas.**  
By which said land is most generally known, and located as shown on said map, and between the hours of 10:00 o’clock A.M. and 4:00 o’clock P.M. more particularly beginning exactly at 10:00 o’clock A.M. on **AUGUST 4TH, 2020** the first Tuesday of the month of **AUGUST** at 974 E. Harrison St., at the Judicial Building (Courthouse) Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, I will sell said land at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash.  
Omar Lucio, Sheriff  
Cameron County, Texas  
  
By: Mario Gonzalez  
(7-10-20; 7-17-20; 7-24-20)

## 20 PUBLIC NOTICES

expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable 138th District Court of Cameron County, at the Courthouse in said County in Brownsville, Texas. Said **Plaintiff’s First Amended Petition** was filed in said court on the 18th day of October, 2019 in the above entitled suit.  
*A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Trespass to Try Title* as is more fully shown by **Plaintiff’s First Amended Petition** on file in this suit.  
Issued and given under

## 20 PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE**  
BY VIRTUE OF AN EXECUTION ISSUED **JUNE 09, 2020** out of the **PROBATE COURT #1 of TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS,** in **CAUSE NUMBER C-1-PB-16-002350** WHEREIN **JORGE GARCIA,** as DEFENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF **ELIZABETH GARCIA TAMEZ** is PLAINTIFF, and **JESUS JUAN TAMEZ** is DEFENDANT, I did on **JUNE 15, 2020** levy upon and seize all of the rights, titles and interests of said DEFENDANT in and to the following described real property situated in CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, to wit:  
Property (including any improvements):  
**(A) Lot Eleven (11) and Twelve (12), Block Two (2), FIFTH ADDITION to the City of San Benito, Cameron County, Texas, according to the Map or Plat thereof recorded in Volume 2, Page 5, Map Records of Cameron County, Texas.**  
**(B) Lot Thirteen (13) and the South Twenty-five Feet (25’) of Lot Twelve (12), Block Two (2), VALENCIA PARK, an addition to the City of San Benito, Cameron County, Texas, according to the Map recorded in Volume 9, Page 38, of the Map Records of Cameron County, Texas.**  
**(C) Lot Three (3), Block One (1), Valencia Park Addition to the City of San Benito, Cameron County, Texas, according to the Map or Plat thereof recorded in Volume 6, Page 51 and refiled in Volume 9, Page 38, Map Records of Cameron County, Texas.**

## 20 PUBLIC NOTICES

my hand and seal of said Court at Brownsville, Texas, on this the 1st day of July, 2020.  
Attorney: Armando Escamilla  
06662100  
956-421-3937  
Law Office of Armando Escamilla  
1105 E. Tyler  
Harlingen, TX 78550  
  
Elvira S. Ortiz, District Clerk of Cameron County  
974 E. Harrison Street  
Brownsville, Texas 78520  
  
By Adriana Munoz,  
Deputy Clerk  
(7-10-20; 7-17-20; 7-24-20; 7-31-20)

## 20 PUBLIC NOTICES

**(D) Lot Seven (7), Block Ten (10), THIRD ADDITION to the City of San Benito, Cameron County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 2, Page 5, Map Records of Cameron County, Texas**  
**(E) Lot Seven (7) and adjacent South One-Half of Lot Six (6), Block Fifteen (15), Third Addition to the City of San Benito, Cameron County, Texas, according to map thereof recorded in Volume 2, Page 5, Map Records, Cameron County, Texas.**  
By which said land is most generally known, and located as shown on said map, and between the hours of 10:00 o’clock A.M. and 4:00 o’clock P.M. more particularly beginning exactly at 10:00 o’clock A.M. on **AUGUST 4th, 2020** the first Tuesday of the month of **AUGUST** at 974 E. Harrison St., at the Judicial Building (Courthouse) Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, I will sell said land at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash.  
Omar Lucio, Sheriff  
Cameron County, Texas  
  
By: Mario Gonzalez  
(7-10-20; 7-17-20; 7-24-20)

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE**  
BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE ISSUED **JUNE 15, 2020** out of the **404th DISTRICT COURT of CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS,** in **CAUSE NUMBER 2019-DCL-04067-G** WHEREIN **OVATION SERVICES, LLC** is PLAINTIFF and **JUANA MARIA MARTINEZ AND AGUSTINE TREJO** are DEFENDANT(S), I

## 20 PUBLIC NOTICES

## 20 PUBLIC NOTICES

did on **JUNE 16, 2020** levy upon and seize all of the rights, titles and interests of said DEFENDANT(S) in and to the following described real property situated in CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, to wit:  
Property (including any improvements):  
**LOT TWENTY-EIGHT (28), BLCOK TWO (2), and GARDEN PARK ADDITION CITY OF BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 7, PAGE 13, MAP RECORDS CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS.**  
**Tax Account #033-3310-0020-0280-00 Commonly known as: 133 EAST DR., BROWNSVILLE, TX 78520**  
By which said land is most generally known, and located as shown on said map, and between the hours of 10:00 o’clock A.M. and 4:00 o’clock P.M. more particularly beginning exactly at 10:00 o’clock A.M. on **AUGUST 04, 2020** the first Tuesday of the month of **AUGUST** at 974 E. Harrison St., at the Judicial Building (Courthouse) Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas I will sell said land at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash.  
Omar Lucio, Sheriff  
Cameron County, Texas  
  
By: Mario Gonzalez  
(7-10-20; 7-17-20; 7-24-20)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that Letters of Dependent Administration in the Estate of **RICHARD T. ARCEGA,** Deceased, were issued to **Nancy G. Arcega,** on June 26, 2020, in Cause No. 2018-CPC-00103 now pending in the County Court at Law Number Four of Cameron County, Texas. Claims should be addressed to the Dependent Administratrix, c/o Hamilton & Lucio, P.C., 805 Old Port Isabel Road, Brownsville, Texas 78521-3557.  
All persons having claims against such Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
/s/ Dolly Zimmerman aka Dahlia Gomez Zimmerman Independent Executor  
(7-10-20)

## 20 PUBLIC NOTICES

ing in the County Court at Law Number Four of Cameron County, Texas. Claims should be addressed to the Dependent Administratrix, c/o Hamilton & Lucio, P.C., 805 Old Port Isabel Road, Brownsville, Texas 78521-3557.  
All persons having claims against such Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
/s/ Nancy G. Arcega  
Dependent Administratrix  
(7-10-20)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that Letter Testamentary in the Estate of **ELIDA RIOS** aka **ELIDA Z. RIOS,** Deceased, were issued to **Dolly Zimmerman** aka **Dahlia Gomez Zimmerman,** on July 2, 2020, in Cause No. 2020-CPC-138 now pending in the County Court at Law Number Four of Cameron County, Texas. Claims should be addressed to the Independent Executrix, c/o Hamilton & Lucio, P.C., 805 Old Port Isabel Road, Brownsville, Texas 78521-3557.  
All persons having claims against such Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
/s/ Dolly Zimmerman aka Dahlia Gomez Zimmerman Independent Executor  
(7-10-20)



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of San Benito Planning and Zoning Commission will consider the following items in a public hearing on Thursday, July 23, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. In addition, the San Benito City Commission will consider the same items in public hearing on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. Both public hearings on the same matter will be held at the San Benito Municipal Building located at 401 N. Sam Houston Blvd. The public hearings will consider the following request:

**Public hearing to solicit input regarding a request to rezone 2045 East Stenger Street, also bearing a legal description of San Benito & Water Co. Subd. 1.000 Acres of SW Corner of W 1/2 of SE 1/4 of Block 11 & San Benito Land & Water Co. Subd. 1.00 Acres of W 1/2 of SW 1/4 Blk. 11, San Benito, Cameron County, Texas, from Single Family One (SF-1) zone to Commercial Restricted Business (C-1) zone. Applicant: Ignacio & Teresa Castillo.**

All interested parties may appear in person or by representative to show cause for or against the proposed request.

Si desea informacion en espanol, por favor llame al departamento de planeacion de la ciudad de San Benito, (956) 361-3800.

Bernard Rodriguez, Director  
Planning and Developing Department



**Look for the new South Padre Parade on racks and online!**



# TEA issues guidelines for a safe return to instruction

Special to the PRESS/NEWS

The Texas Education Agency today announced comprehensive guidelines for students to return to school, prioritizing their health and safety while ensuring that

students receive quality instruction, whether they choose to learn in a safe on-campus environment or remotely. “Both as Commissioner and as a public school parent, my number one priority is the health and

safety of our students, teachers, and staff,” said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath. “That is why the guidance laid out today will provide flexibility to both parents and districts to make decisions based

on the ever-changing conditions of this public health crisis. The state is and remains committed to providing a high-quality education to all Texas students, while ensuring the health and safety of students, teachers, staff,

and families.” Morath added that, despite what will be a challenging budget year, Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker Dennis Bonnen, and other legislative leaders are com-

mitted to fully funding in-class and remote instruction for every child in the upcoming school year. As a result, parents will have more choices than normal this year as they decide which school See **TEA**, Page 12

CLASSIFIEDS

classifieds@portisabelsouthpadre.com

HOW TO PLACE AN AD: **BY EMAIL:** Send your classified to classifieds@portisabelsouthpadre.com • **BY PHONE:** (956) 943-5545

**BY MAIL:** P.O. Box 308, Port Isabel, TX 78578 • **IN PERSON:** 406 Garcia Street, Port Isabel, TX (Open Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

**DEADLINE FOR THURSDAY’S PAPER:** Wednesday 12:00 p.m.

2 HOMES FOR SALE

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND HOUSE FOR SALE:** Six bedrooms, four bathrooms, three kitchens, two living areas, two garages and a garage apartment. Renovated and ready for you to choose the wall colors and flooring of your choice. Great large family home or investment. Possible Owner Finance. CALL 225-235-6739.

4 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

**SMALL MARINA** in Port Isabel. Possible short term owner finance. Covered and uncovered **boatslips for rent.** Call 225-235-6739.

7 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**FOR RENT:** Garage apartment on South Padre Island. Furnished, W/D, farage and yard. Small animal OK. Available April 1st. Call 225-235-6739.

8 HOMES FOR RENT

**FOR RENT:** Furnished 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 car garage home on the water. Located on the Fingers in Port Isabel. Long term rental. Must see! \$1,800 per month. Call 956-561-0508.

20 PETS & SUPPLIES

3 YORKIEPOO PUPPIES FOR SALE

\$150 each 2 female and 1 male Yorkiepoo highly intelligent, active, affectionate, and gentle. Looking for an inside forever loveable owner! Please contact Kirk 956-433-6919 or Laura 956-433-7249.

17 EMPLOYMENT

**JAKE’S NOW HIRING HEAD COOK, COOKS KITCHEN HELP, BARTENDERS, SERVERS, AND HOSTESS/CASHIER.** Apply in person at 2001 Padre Blvd., SPI.

**HELP WANTED:** Bakery department position available at the Blue Marlin. Apply in person at 2912 Padre Blvd., South Padre Island.

**BLACKBEARDS RESTAURANT** is now hiring cashiers, hostesses, servers and kitchen help. Apply in person at 103 E. Saturn Lane, SPI or call 956-761-2962.

**BURGER SHACK** in Port Isabel is now hiring a **COOK.** Apply in person at 413 Maxan, Port Isabel or call 210-518-8862.

17 EMPLOYMENT

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS**

in maintenance, housekeeping and front desk. Please apply in person at Sapphire Condominiums. 310A Padre Blvd., SPI, TX 78597.

20 PETS & SUPPLIES

17 EMPLOYMENT

**RELIABLE ELECTRIC IS NOW HIRING:**

Licensed Journeyman and Apprentice electricians. Must have a valid driver's license and personal tools. Interviews by appointment only, so please call (956) 943-5393 to schedule an appointment.

17 EMPLOYMENT

**CHIEF ENGINEER NEEDED**

at a high-rise on SPI. The ideal candidate must have at least 10 yrs experience in HVAC and heat pumps, have working knowledge of commercial motors and variable speed drives, must be knowledgeable of high-rise plumbing systems, and general maintenance. Knowledge of pool maintenance and landscaping is a plus. Send resume or apply in person at 310A Padre Blvd., South Padre Island, TX 78597.

29 MOBILE HOMES

**FOR SALE:** Park model with addition. 2 bedroom, 2 bath needs to be moved out. 331 Sun Dial, LIV. Asking \$18,000 OBO. Please call 956-778-5374.

FOR RENT

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids and proposal addressed to Mr. Jared Hockema, City Manager, City of Port Isabel will be received by the City of Port Isabel, Texas (hereinafter called owner) at Emergency Operating Center (EOC) **309 E. Railroad St., Port Isabel, Texas 78578 until 3:00 p.m. CST, Friday, July 24, 2020** and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud as follows:

**3:00 p.m. CST**

**City of Port Isabel Street Improvements Phase II – Island Ave.**

A Bidder’s Bond from a reliable surety company licensed to operate in the State of Texas or a certified Cashier’s Check, payable without recourse to the City of Port Isabel, for the amount of not less than 5% of the total bid must accompany the bid as a guaranty that, if awarded the contract, the bidder will enter into a contract with the City of Port Isabel. Payment and Performance Bonds shall be executed.

Plans and specifications may be OBTAINED at the office of:

**Hinojosa Engineering, Inc.**  
**108 W. 18th St.**  
**Mission, TX 78572**  
**956-581-0143**

Upon a non-refundable deposit of **\$75.00** per set.

**Pre-Bid Conference:** A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **Friday, July 17, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.** at Emergency Operating Center (EOC) located at 309 E Railroad St. Port Isabel, Texas.

The City of Port Isabel reserves the right to refuse and reject any or all bids and to waive any or all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the bid considered the best and most advantageous to the City, and to hold the bids for a period of 60 days without taking action thereon. Any bid received past the date and time will not be accepted.

The City of Port Isabel does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, and handicapped status in employment or provision of service.

Bid proposal must be clearly marked on the envelope:

**City of Port Isabel Street Improvements Phase II – Island Ave.**

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A MIXED BEVERAGE PERMIT AND A MIXED BEVERAGE LATE HOURS PERMIT BY 1929 BAR & GRILL INC. DBA 1929 WHISKEY TAVERN TO BE LOCATED AT 628 E. 12TH STREET, BROWNVILLE, CAMERON, TEXAS. OFFICERS OF CORP. ARE STACEY N.

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**CAVOZAS, PRESIDENT.**

**SUMMONS IN DISTRICT COURT, WELLS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA**

**JOHN THEODORE MEAGER, PLAINTIFF VS ESTEFANY MUNOZ, DEFENDANT**

**SUMMONS CIVIL NO.**

The State of North Dakota to the above-named defendant:

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the complaint in this action,

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which (is herewith served upon you) (will be filed with the Clerk of this Court), by serving upon the undersigned an answer or other proper response within twenty-one (21) days after the service of the summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

**NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING PROVISIONS**

Under Rule 8.4 of the

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North Dakota Rules of Court, upon service of the summons, you, and your spouse, are bound by the restraints following:

(1) Neither spouse shall dispose of, sell, encumber, or otherwise dissipate any of the parties’ assets except:

a. For the necessities of life or the necessary generation of income or preservation of assets; or

b. For retaining counsel to carry on or to contest the proceeding;

If a spouse disposes of,

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sells, encumbers, or otherwise dissipates assets during the interim period, that spouse shall provide to the other spouse and accounting within 30 days.

(2) Neither spouse shall harass the other spouse.

(3) All currently available insurance coverage must be maintained and continued without change in coverage or beneficiary designation.

(4) Neither spouse shall remove their minor child(ren) from North Dakota without the written

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consent of the other spouse or order of the court except for temporary periods.

**IF EITHER SPOUSE VIOLATES ANY OF THE PROVISIONS, THAT SPOUSE MAY BE IN CONTEMPT OF COURT.**

Dated June 3, 2020.

Carla Johnson,  
Clerk of Court

John Theodore Meager  
900 Adams Ave.  
Harvey, ND 58341  
701-399-9720  
(7-9-20)



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**Port Isabel, TX 78578**  
**956-433-5109**

TEA

From "TEA," page 11

setting is best for their children, including:

Daily on-campus learning will be available to all parents who would like their students to learn in school each day.

In addition, all parents will have the option to choose remote learning for their children, initially, or at any point as the year progresses. Parents who choose remote instruction for their students may be asked to commit to remote instruction for a full grading period (e.g. 6 or 9 weeks), but will not have to make that commitment more than two weeks in advance, so they can make a decision based on the latest public health information.

Health and safety procedures will be in place to support student and teacher safety.

Some health procedures are mandated for every school in the state. For example, all students, teachers, staff, and visitors coming to campus must be screened before being allowed on campus. Consistent with the Governor's most recent executive order, and assuming that order is still in place, masks will be required while in school buildings, with certain exceptions made, as noted in the order. Schools will also be required to follow any forthcoming executive orders issued by the Governor.

Additional health procedures are recommended for every school that can reasonably implement those procedures.

Districts have the option to establish a phased-in return to on-campus instruction for up to the first three weeks of the school

year, to ensure all appropriate health and safety procedures are fully in place.

TEA is providing school systems with resources to ensure a strong start. This includes:

Reimbursement for extra COVID-19-related expenses incurred during the 2019-20 school year;

Tens of millions of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies provided to school systems at no cost to Texas schools;

Free online, TEKS-aligned learning tools to deliver remote instruction;

Teacher training provided at no cost to the school system; and Statewide efforts to help bridge the digital divide for students at home, along with other ongoing support.

For more information, please visit TEA's Coronavirus website: <https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus>

This framework was developed based on the most current science with input from: Governor Greg Abbott's Coronavirus Medical Advisory Team; the Governor's Strike Force to Reopen Texas; Texas school system leaders; ongoing global analysis of school operational practices; ongoing global analysis of research on viral spread in schools; and the latest peer-reviewed viral research studies.

Due to the nature of this pandemic, parents and educators should expect to see some campuses close for brief periods during the upcoming school year. If there are significant changes to the public health situation, there may need to be additional changes to the framework as well.



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8am - 5pm

202 Second St.  
Port Isabel, TX 78578  
**Phone 943-1774**



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