

Weather Forecast

Cooler Temps Thursday

Thursday: 77/57
 Friday: 62/51
 Saturday: 73/55
 Sunday: 76/53
 Monday: 83/59

Lake Level and Rainfall:
 Proctor Lake Level: 100%
1163.41 ft
 Weekly Precipitation: 0.30
 Annual Precipitation: 11.14"
 Burn Ban is off!



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De Leon FREE PRESS



Thursday, April 16, 2020

10 pages

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Volume 130, No. 40 DeLeon, TX 76444



DELEON ISD DONATES TO MEDICAL FACILITIES. DeLeon science teacher and track coach Jeff Roemisch produced several batches of face shields utilizing a 3-D printer and donated them to Comanche County Medical Center, DeLeon Nursing and Rehab, and Accel-Health as a way to help combat coronavirus. DeLeon ISD will also have the face shields on hand for school use as well. The face shields were made using a template provided by the Education Service Center in Abilene, with the headbands printed by Roemisch and the masks themselves cut out of transparency sheets.

County keeps boat ramps open, talks about state of virus

The Comanche County Commissioners' Court met Monday in a regular meeting, although it was somewhat irregular as all commissioners attended the meeting via video conference.

A short update on the coronavirus in Comanche County was presented by Comanche County Emergency Management Coordinator Trish Grimshaw and County Judge Stephanie Davis. Grimshaw presented a map

showing that most Texas counties had at least one coronavirus case.

No new cases had been reported in Comanche County over the previous six days. Davis added that several

CCMC Employs Best Practices at Health System Sites Infection Control and Safety Protocols are working Patient Visits Steady

In a season of hope, Comanche County Medical Center leadership and staff are taking stock of the success of the organizations' COVID-19 infection control and response plans and actions, and looking forward

to returning to "new normal" operations in the coming weeks.

Since January, CCMC infection control and emergency response teams have worked thousands of hours to ensure the hospital, clin-

ics, pharmacy, and all departments and affiliated sites have what they need to respond to the pandemic. Staff across the organization have worked closely

See CCMC Employs pg 4

Senior Citizens centers receive funding to add meals

Comanche County Agency on Aging has received additional funding to get meals out to Senior Citizens in the COVID-19 crisis. To be eligible for

meals, clients must be at least 60 years old to receive a grab and go hot meal. Eligible citizens in all areas of the county may receive grab and go meals. These

are the same meals that would have been served in the dining room if it was open. Meals are picked up at curbside at the Senior

See Seniors pg 7



MEALS DELIVERED. Totelcom purchased, and the DeLeon Chamber of Commerce delivered, 130 meals this week to Golden Oak Milling, above, Farley Farm Supply, below, the DeLeon Volunteer Fire Department, F&M Bank, and a number of DeLeon residents. As a thank you to Totelcom, First National Bank provided similar meals to 32 Totelcom employees, while F&M Bank provided treats to employees of the DeLeon Post Office. The Mark Beaty family also provided cookies to the staff of DeLeon Nursing and Rehab.



No City Hall? No council meeting, either

Have a concern? The City of DeLeon apparently will not have a City Council meeting for the foreseeable future.

Although the regular meeting date of April 13 came and went this week,

no council meeting was held. No recent announcement canceling the meeting was offered on the city's website or the city's Facebook page. No public information as to the reason for a cancellation was shared.

Reportedly, the cancellation of the meeting was due to fears about the spread of the coronavirus, at least that was what was reported to the Free Press by City

See City Hall page 4



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE. DeLeon's First Baptist Church pastor Daniel Harper preached to a parking lot full of worshippers Easter Sunday morning at the DeLeon Community Park. As coronavirus rules prevent the gathering of people together, Harper pulled them together by keeping them apart in their vehicles while he preached on John Chapter 20.

Tax appraisal season goes all sorts of sideways

The DeLeon Free Press has come into possession of a letter circulated from the Comanche Central Ap-

praisal District last week, and it is one that all taxpayers in Comanche County should pay attention to.

In it, Chief Appraiser JoAnn Hohertz indicated several worries that she

See Appraisals pg 4

Appraisal district closes doors

Comanche Central Appraisal District (CCAD) has closed our doors to public access until further notice to keep our customers and employees healthy. The

staff will continue to assist the public by phone, fax, mail, email or thru the drop box at office. More information may be obtained on our website, www.comanchedad.org.

New-updated property tax information and upcoming deadline for all taxpayers:

See CCAD pg 5

COVID cases hold at three

Last Tuesday afternoon, after the DeLeon Free Press had been sent to press, Comanche County Judge Stephanie Davis and Local Public Health Authority Dr.

Paul Livingston jointly reported a third positive case of COVID-19 in Comanche County.

The individual representing this third case has

been quarantined in rural Comanche County, and has been under quarantine since diagnosis. It was reported that the case was still under

See COVID cased pg 9



DESTRUCTION. Sometime prior to Friday morning, a vandal destroyed the front window of Lisa's Coffee House in downtown DeLeon by throwing a flashlight through the window. Anyone with any information about the identity of the vandal, or anyone who recognizes the flashlight is asked to contact DeLeon police.



A Forgotten World...

by Jon Awbrey

Newcomers face murder of father

You've been on wagon for weeks, bumping up and down on a hard wooden bench, toting all your farm equipment and household goods to a new home out on the Texas prairie.

You've left the green, green grass of home in Green County, Kentucky to try your hand at agriculture in a new Texas railroad town called DeLeon. When you get there, it won't be

as green as Kentucky was. The unbroken ground will be hard and full of rocks. Whatever you gain from the soil, you will have earned every bit of it.

It would seem that a whole extended family had come with you, you and your wife and children, your brother, his wife and children, your sister and her husband, who was set

See A Forgotten World pg 7

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When is the application deadline?

If your land has never had a productivity appraisal or you are a new owner, you must apply to your local appraisal district before May 1 to take advantage of this benefit on your property taxes. You may get up to 60 extra days if you have a good reason and ask for it before May 1. If you miss this deadline, you may still be able to apply, but you will pay a penalty. Check with your appraisal district office.

Do you need to reapply annually?

If your land already receives agricultural or timber productivity appraisal, you normally don't need to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so. If a new application is required, the appraisal district will notify you by mail.

For more information, call or come by:

COMANCHE CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT
8 HUETT CIRCLE
COMANCHE, TX 76442
325-356-5253
www.comanchecad.org

City Hall

From page 1
Administrator David Denman late last week.

Like last week's City Hall office closings, this appears to be a uniquely DeLeon phenomenon, at least in Comanche County. At present, the City of Comanche, the Comanche County Commissioners' Court, the Comanche County Hospital District, and the DeLeon Independent School District have all had their regular meetings or intend to do so without cancellation.

Appraisals

From page 1
had about the upcoming tax season – a tax season in the midst of coronavirus limitations.

Hohertz reported that the Comanche Central Appraisal District was required by law to appraise property as of January 1 of each year, and that the district is required to begin sending notices of appraised values out to taxpayers in April. Along with this notice of appraised value is an "invitation" for taxpayers to protest those values. Taxpayers then have a 30-day window to file a protest or talk to the appraisal district informally.

This is the routine way that appraisals and protests are handled.

Last year, the appraisal district handled 550 informal inquiries, which requires telephone conversations and walk-in appointments. The appraisal district also heard over 450 property hearings, which required 14 days to complete. In addition to these require-

ments of time and resources, members of the county's appraisal review board must receive mandatory training every year before they can participate in property hearings.

However, Hohertz indicated in her letter that the coronavirus pandemic has created a difficult situation. Training procedures, Hohertz said, have not been revised to address the conditions of the pandemic. She also indicated that the economy had drastically changed since January 1. "Therefore, the protest numbers may increase drastically," Hohertz said. Hohertz indicated that the State Comptroller's office regarded Comanche County's appraisals as "barely above the lower limit."

"I need to raise values," Hohertz wrote. "School districts will still depend on our values for funding and delays will adversely impact them." "There is nothing currently

without the approval of the mayor, if necessary, even under an "emergency declaration."

For those residents who have legitimate complaints or concerns, the DeLeon City Council retains the legal ability to hear those concerns and take action if it becomes nec-

essary to do so.

Council members include Larry Harlin, Jon Awbrey, Laura Brown, Heather Armstrong, and Buddy Welch. If a need arises, each one of these council members was elected to represent the people of DeLeon and would be available to contact.

CCMC Employs

From page 1
with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state and local public health authorities, Comanche County Office of the Judge and Emergency Operations Management teams, to ensure an effective response and mitigation of virus spread.

Building on its standing emergency preparedness plan and on the strength of its management of operations and cross-functional teamwork, CCMC rapidly put into place specific COVID-19 infection prevention and safety protocols, and patient care

processes. All nursing staff were provided new education and training on critical care protocols for PPE, EKG, IV, intubation and off-site nursing operations. CCMC established the COVID-19 Screening Hotline 254-879-4999 as a patient-centered call site through which area residents with coronavirus exposure concerns and/or non-emergency respiratory symptoms call and are initially triaged by telephone. The hotline receives nearly 50 calls per week; callers are triaged based on degree of illness, and given tele-support and specific guidance on what to do next. Medical providers and staff at Doctors Medical Center conduct follow-up virtual or face-to-face appointments to ensure every patient receives the care they need.

CCMC also implemented a telehealth program to provide patients with care and services. The program uses communication applications ("apps") downloaded on a patient's computer or mobile

device. The apps, such as Skype, Facetime and Zoom, easily connect a patient with their provider. The service, which is expected to grow substantially in the coming months, increases patient access to needed care and supports them in managing their health.

Additionally important has been the vigilance of CCMC department managers who carefully monitor all resources needed for the pandemic response. Ongoing controls have included equipment and supplies usage monitoring, enhanced order purchasing, and ensuring all additional needed resources are in the supply pipeline.

Of great importance in the response process are the extreme cleaning, disinfecting and sterilization steps that are being taken, in the hospital wings, ER, Med-Surg, medical clinics, pharmacy, digital imaging and in every other department and affiliated site to protect patients and health workers from acquiring any

infection. CCMC already had a best practice cleaning and maintenance system in place, safeguards against the coronavirus are at the highest level.

Dr. L. G. Troxell, CCMC Chief Executive Officer, sees the realization of CCMC's vision statement, "We are working round the clock, providing caring, efficient and responsive service, and addressing the ever-changing health care needs of the people we serve. I couldn't be more proud of our staff who are answering the call to serve across departments and across the system."

With case counts remaining low in the County, and no COVID-19 patients in the CCMC hospital, Dr. Troxell and the entire CCMC staff are breathing a collective sigh of relief while acknowledging Texas and the nation are not yet over the hump of the flattening curve. They are looking forward to the promise of antibody testing, which the hospital plans to conduct, a vaccine, and a diminishment of community spread.



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7	2	1	8			4
	3	4	6		7	8
				3	1	
		9	2		4	
3		8	1	6		5
	2	3	4			
	8	5				
1	7		4	8	9	
9			3	1	8	6

Sudoku level: Easy

Each row, columns and 3x3 square must contain the number 1 through 9

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