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The Hunt County Commissioners Court has issued a disaster declaration for the county that includes a stay-at-home order. The order will go into effect at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday.

According to the Greenville Herald Banner, "The measure is similar to the order issued Sunday afternoon in Dallas County, under which anyone not working under an essential service must stay at home. Essential services include health care operations, grocery stores and pharmacies and businesses providing critical infrastructure. Monday's resolution calls for all county buildings to be closed until April 3, by which time the commissioners will have met again and will address whether to extend the measure."

There have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hunt or Hopkins Counties.

At The Corral Gate



We have all heard that the only permanent thing in this world is change. WELL, our society is changing so fast that 'normal' is now light years behind us. Talk about distancing! How can we keep up with the present moment, when it's already history before we can absorb the change? Socially at present, we must be less-friendly to our neighbors when we see them...no handshakes or hugs!! Remember when we'd go way across a crowded church to 'give a hug' to that dear one we seldom saw out? Forget that now! If we see that one in a store now, we just wave and go on! Back in 'the good ole days", being free to enjoy social contact with others was a condition we embraced as a human right. Now, temporarily, we must cease and desist for our common good. So, hey, let's vow to treasure, cherish and utilize that privilege whenever it is restored to us! We are not robots and never will be. I predict the loving, generous hearts of Hopkins County folks will never permanently change!

GOOD NEWS NEEDED!

At local stores and restaurants, you've seen the signs that announce limits and restrictions. On the door of one bank I do business with, signs on the door announce no lobby traffic except by appointment. A local drug store has taped-off squares on the floor for you to stand in, six feet apart, while awaiting your turn in line to pick up a prescription. The folks at Community Chest are handing out the food provisions curbside for people on the list to receive monthly food commodities. Kids are now studying at home instead of the classroom. (Who's watching the kids?)

I did find one spot of good news, the US Post Office in Sulphur Springs on Church Street still has their lobby open with no restrictive signs up, friendly workers behind the counter and a kind 'thank you!' as you complete your business and exit. Despite the abundance of depressing news so plentiful at the moment, I'm going to search out more good news to share with you. And when the blessed day comes, we have beaten the Virus and current sad trends are reversed, let's not forget our prayers of thankfulness, and that we still belong to the loving human race which God created to populate His beautiful earth!



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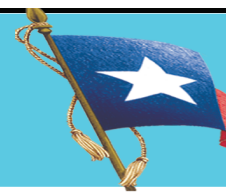
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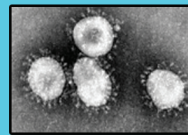
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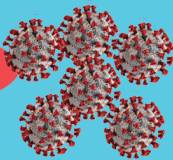
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Coronavirus

Help To Understand



Coronaviruses are a group of related viruses that cause diseases in mammals and birds. In humans, coronaviruses cause respiratory tract infections that can be mild, such as some cases of the common cold (among other possible causes, predominantly rhinoviruses), and others that can be lethal, such as SARS, MERS, and COVID-19. Symptoms in other species vary: in chickens, they cause an upper respiratory tract disease, while in cows and pigs they cause diarrhea. There are yet to be vaccines or antiviral drugs to prevent or treat human coronavirus infections.

Coronaviruses constitute the subfamily Orthocoronavirinae, in the family Coronaviridae, order Nidovirales, and realm Riboviria. They are enveloped viruses with a positive-sense single-stranded RNA genome and a nucleocapsid of helical symmetry. The genome size of coronaviruses ranges from approximately 27 to 34 kilobases, the largest among known RNA viruses. The name coronavirus is derived from the Latin corona, meaning "crown" or "halo", which refers to the characteristic appearance reminiscent of a crown or a solar corona around the virions (virus particles) when viewed under two-dimensional transmission electron microscopy, due to the surface covering in club-shaped protein spikes. The life cycle of a coronavirus

Infection begins when the viral spike (S) glycoprotein attaches to its complementary host cell receptor. After attachment, a protease of the host cell cleaves and activates the receptor-attached spike protein. Depending on the host cell protease available, cleavage and activation allows cell the entry by endocytosis or direct fusion of the viral envelop with the host membrane. On entry into the host cell, the virus particle is uncoated, and its genome enters the cell cytoplasm. The coronavirus RNA genome has a 5' methylated cap and a 3' polyadenylated tail, which allows the RNA to attach to the host cell's ribosome for translation. The host ribosome translates the initial overlapping open reading frame of the virus genome and forms a long polyprotein. The polyprotein has its own proteases which cleave the polyprotein into multiple nonstructural proteins. Then they replicate and grow.

Transmission

Human to human transmission of coronaviruses is primarily thought to occur among close contacts via respiratory droplets generated by sneezing and coughing. The interaction of the coronavirus spike protein with its complement host cell receptor is central in determining the tissue tropism, infectivity, and species range of the virus. The SARS coronavirus, for example, infects human cells by attaching to the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) receptor.

Evolution

The most recent common ancestor (MRCA) of all coronaviruses has been estimated to have existed as recently as 8000 BCE, though some models place the MRCA as far back as 55 million years or more, implying long term coevolution with bats. The MRCAs of the alphacoronavirus line has been placed at about 2400 BCE, the betacoronavirus line at 3300 BCE, the gammacoronavirus line at 2800 BCE, and the deltacoronavirus line at about 3000 BCE. It appears that bats and birds, as warm-blooded flying vertebrates, are ideal hosts for the coronavirus gene source (with bats for alphacoronavirus and betacoronavirus, and birds for gammacoronavirus and deltacoronavirus) to fuel coronavirus evolution and dissemination. Bovine coronavirus and canine respiratory coronaviruses diverged from a common ancestor recently (~ 1950). Bovine coronavirus and human coronavirus OC43 diverged around the 1890s. Bovine coronavirus diverged from the equine coronavirus species at the end of the 18th century. The MRCA of human coronavirus OC43 has been dated to the 1950s. MERS-CoV, although related to several bat coronavirus species, appears to have diverged from these several centuries ago. The human coronavirus NL63 and a bat coronavirus shared an MRCA 563–822 years ago. Alpaca coronavirus and human coronavirus 229E diverged before 1960.

Human coronaviruses

Coronaviruses vary significantly in risk factor. Some can kill more than 30% of those infected (such as MERS-CoV), and some are relatively harmless, such as the common cold. Coronaviruses cause colds with major symptoms, such as fever, and sore throat from swollen adenoids, occurring primarily in the winter and early spring seasons. Coronaviruses can cause pneumonia (either direct viral pneumonia or a secondary bacterial pneumonia) and bronchitis (either direct viral bronchitis or a secondary bacterial bronchitis). The much publicized human coronavirus discovered in 2003, SARS-CoV, which causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), has a unique pathogenesis because it causes both upper and lower respiratory tract infections.

Seven strains of human coronaviruses are known, of which four produce the generally mild symptoms of the common cold: Human coronavirus OC43 (HCoV-OC43), Human coronavirus HKU1, Human coronavirus NL63 (HCoV-NL63, New Haven coronavirus), Human coronavirus 229E (HCoV-229E) – and three, symptoms that are potentially severe: Middle East respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (MERS-CoV), previously known as novel coronavirus 2012 and HCoV-EMC; Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV or "SARS-classic"); Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), previously known as 2019-nCoV or "novel coronavirus 2019"; The coronaviruses HCoV-229E, -NL63, -OC43, and -HKU1 continually circulate in the human population and cause respiratory infections in adults and children world-wide. Outbreaks of coronavirus types of relatively high mortality are as follows: Outbreak Virus type; 2003 severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak SARS-CoV, 774 deaths; 2012 Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus outbreak MERS-CoV, over 400 deaths; 2015 Middle East respiratory syndrome outbreak in South Korea MERS-CoV, 36 deaths; 2018 Middle East respiratory syndrome outbreak MERS-CoV, 41 deaths; 2019–2020 coronavirus pandemic SARS-CoV-2, at least 15,328 deaths so far.

Obits



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Jason David Randall

Jason David Randall, age 38, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, March 19, 2020. Private graveside services will be held Monday, March 23, 2020 at Shooks Chapel Cemetery in Sulphur Springs, Texas. The family invites you to pay your respects at West Oaks Funeral Home during business hours 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 22, 2020, and 8:00 a.m., until noon on Monday, March 23, 2020. A public celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Pallbearers will be dad, David Randall, brother, Micah Randall and friends, Joel Wilson, Greg Ledbetter, Robert Carden, and Dustan Dorgan. Honorary pallbearers will be grandfather, Frank Randall, and friend Jill Banas.

Jason was born May 18, 1981 to David Wayne and Danise Randall in Sulphur Springs, Texas. He is survived by his parents, brother, Micah Randall, sister-in-law, Taylorr Randall, nephew, Ian Randall, daughters, Olivia Randall and Alexia Randall of Flower Mound, Texas.

Jason loved everyone and even though he was hugely outspoken, everyone knew that he did. He was an awesome big bear hugger. Through good times and pain he chose the road less traveled and chose to love. He loved his precious daughters more than his own life and sacrificed much to see they had what they needed and wanted.

Arrangements under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.net



David Johnson

David was born on November 8, 1967 to Frank Johnson (deceased) and Velma Johnson Hall of Sulphur Springs, TX, a stepdad that raised him as a son Chris Johnson of Wichita Kansas (Jo Bogan Johnson), one Grandmother Zola Franklin of Greenville, TX.

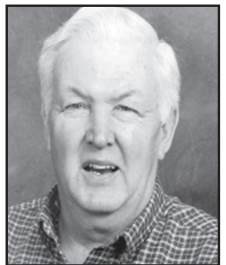
David married Rosa Johnson on November 5, 1993 and divorced in 2015. No children to this union were born. But four stepchildren he raised as his own.

A special friend Johnnie Johnson, who stuck by his side through the good and bad times, making sure his every need was met and for that she will always be loved.

He had three brothers: Chris Johnson (deceased), Steve Douglas of Dallas, TX, and Donnie Johnson of Sherman, TX; one sister: Claudene Silvel Carter (E. Carter) of Dallas, TX; seven nephews: Dakieston Johnson of Sulphur Springs, TX, Daqualin Evans of Mesquite, TX, Travis Reed (Tiffany) of South Carolina, Steven Bryant of Dallas, TX, Xavier Anderson of Dallas, TX, Corey Anderson of Dallas, TX; six nieces: Keyanna Wilson (Jackie) of Killeen, TX, Mecha Douglas of Dallas, TX, Emani Anderson of Dallas, TX, and Aaliya Johnson of Sherman, TX; eight great nieces and nephews; a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

David joined church on March 31, 2019 in Greenville, TX at New J. Nation with Eric Anthony Brown as Pastor.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Larry Maeker

Memorial service for Larry Maeker, age 81, of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at a later date. Mr. Maeker passed away on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at Rock Creek Health and Rehab, Sulphur Springs.

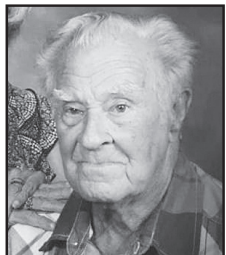
Larry Gene was born on October 7, 1938 in Slaton, TX to Hugo and Alma Maeker. He graduated from Wilson High School and Texas Tech University. Larry served in the U.S. Army in the 101st Airborne Division. He was a history teacher and coach for Sulphur Springs High School. He left the education field to open his own insurance agency, from which he retired. Larry was a longtime member of the Kiwanis Club and served on the board of the Hopkins County Crime Stoppers. He was a member of New Beginnings Fellowship Baptist Church.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law Jeff and Melissa Maeker of Lindale, TX, David and Renee Maeker of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Seth Maeker, Mason Maeker, Jared Maeker and Mali Kate Maeker; ex-wife and friend, Linda Maeker; brother, Walter Ray Steen.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Matthew Maeker, and five brothers, Orville, Arden, Ray, Buddy and Wilburn.

Memorials can be made to Compassion For The Fatherless c/o New Beginnings Baptist Church.

Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.



Ed Brice

Private memorial service for Ed Brice, age 90, of Sulphur Springs will be held at a later date. Interment at DFW National Cemetery with military honors to be held at a later date. There will be no formal visitation. Mr. Brice passed away on Tuesday March 17, 2020 at his residence in Sulphur Springs, TX.

Ed was born on August 10, 1929 in Sulphur Springs to James and Maureen Brice. He married Carol Rabjohn in Dallas, TX on March 20, 1992. Ed worked as a plumber and proudly served the U.S. Air Force.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; daughters, Debbie and Cynthia Brice; sons, Don and Gene Brice; twenty-two grandchildren and forty great grandchildren; and brother, Don Harris.

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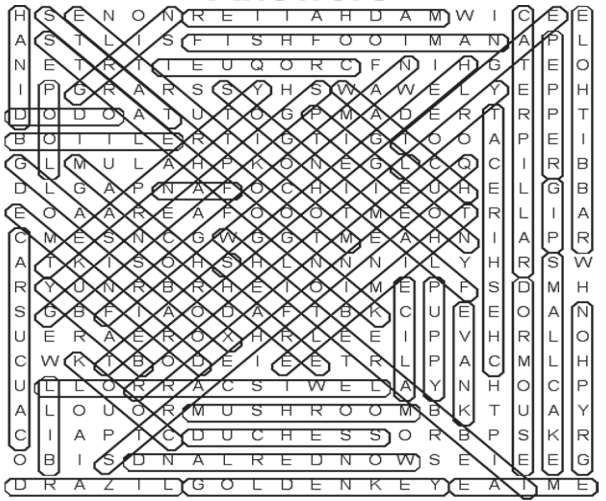
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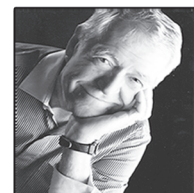
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Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

A man in Muleshoe ran the Iditarod dog sled race in Alaska. He did it a couple of times. Dog sled racing is a popular activity in Alaska. "They have a lot of sprint racing," says Mac McLeod. "It's a family activity with the women and kids joining in. It's mostly on weekends and they have 3, 5 and 10-mile races. They've got any type of mushing you want, either sprint or distance. Sprint mushers usually start with 16 or 18 dogs. You can still win a race starting with 16 dogs and dropping to 12 the second day and down to 8 on the third day. A small team doesn't mean that it doesn't have the speed. When you're on distance racing the smaller teams out on the ice along the coast have an advantage over the larger teams because they don't get blown around by the wind out on the ice."

Mac spent 30 years in Alaska. He went there to work on offshore oilrigs, then got into salmon fishing and built a successful business with that. He says Pacific salmon is better than Atlantic and the best salmon is sockeye, also known as red. He participated in the Iditarod in 1988 and came in 22nd out of 84 mushers. He spent a lot of time training his dogs. "I learned how to build strength and speed. Once the snow came I would load my sled with 300 pounds of sand bags and go into the mountains and make my dogs really work for a 20 or 30 mile run. The next day I would take them out with an empty sled where they can just run. You build strength one day and speed the following day. Before going to the mountains I would start on the beach in the sand. I tied the sled to the bumper of a big pickup and had the team pull it. The pickup was just idling along in the sand."

The Iditarod is from Anchorage to Nome, a distance of 1,120 miles, and starts the first Saturday in March. It takes about 10 days to run the race, with the mushers traveling more than 100 miles a day over the ice and snow. "Most mushers run 4 hours on and 4 hours off. But if you have a strong team you can run 5 hours on and 3 hours off. It's competitive but you've got 26 check points on the Iditarod where you've got food drops waiting for you, you've got food for yourself, booties for your dog, you've got flashlight batteries for your headlamps, extra cold weather gear, whatever you need. That stuff is flown in ahead of time. You have mandatory layovers, 8 at the first part of the race then a 12-hour layover in the middle of the race. 80 miles from the end of the race at White Mountain you have to take another 8-hour mandatory layover."

There is another long race called the Yukon Quest from Whitehorse to Fairbanks. "That's the toughest race. It's a thousand mile race and when I ran it you could only start with 12 dogs and you had to finish with 8. On the Iditarod you could start with as many as you thought you could run. I started with 16 on the Iditarod."

Mac is proud of his dog sledding achievements. "Well it was a joy and a pleasure to be able to do it. I'm a competitive person and that's a pretty good test to show what you've got. It was really something to add to my life."

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