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'CASES SKYROCKETING'

Businesses feeling pinch of workers out sick

By JIMMY GALVAN
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The Texas Health and Human Services is reporting that new cases of COVID are "skyrocketing and that COVID-19 has never spread this fast in Texas."

THHS is reporting that Texas is averaging 44,036

new confirmed cases per day and is averaging 92 fatalities during a seven-day average. Currently, Texas is showing 11,571 current hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

Last week alone, Texas reported more than 300,000 new COVID-19 cases.

According to THHS, COVID testing is up but COVID has never spread this fast in Texas.

Bay City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture President Mitch Thames said the Omicron variant and its rapid spread is wrecking havoc on workers with business-

es.

"Our business climate seems to be good from a retail side, there are plenty of people shopping locally. The situation is employees that can go to work. The current COVID cases and those who have been exposed and are in quarantine is

very large. I hear from many businesses that they are short staffed with so many people out of the office. It is really hurting production," Thames said.

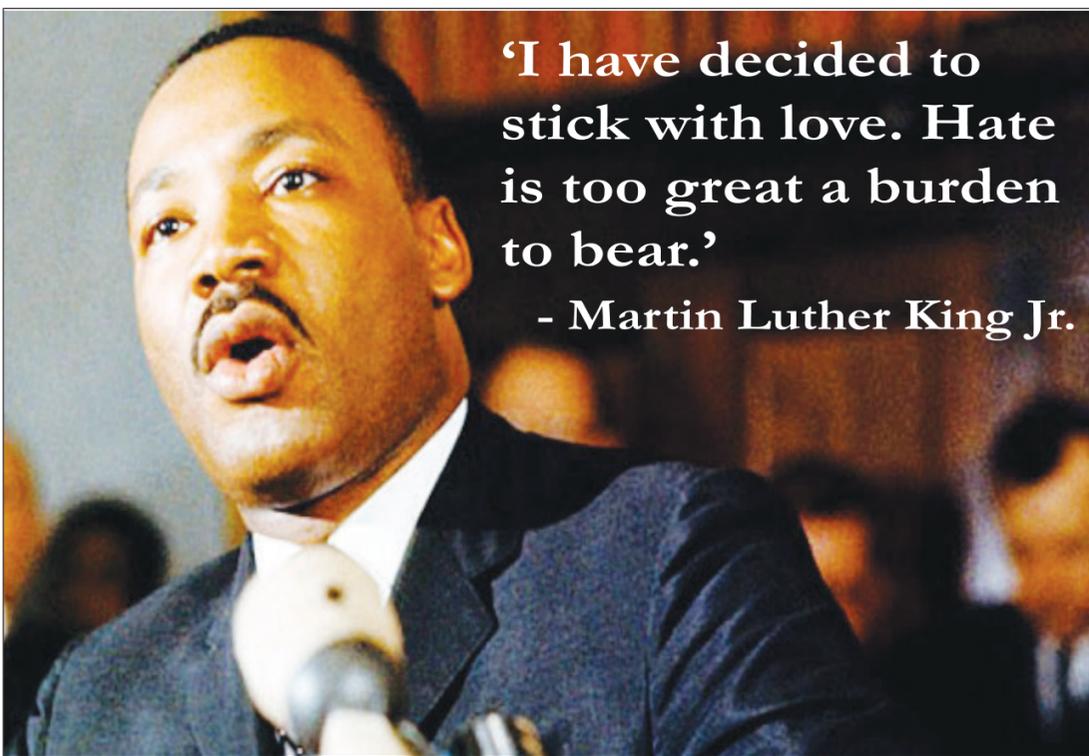
Jessica Russell with the Bay City Development Corporation said the supply chain of production

has been slowed by the variant and its rapid transmission.

"Omicron continues to disrupt the supply chain. It's my obvious in the grocery stores and larger box stores. Local businesses

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HONORING KING



'I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.'

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Silent Unity March set to honor King's legacy

By JIMMY GALVAN
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The Martin Luther King Celebration Committee of Matagorda County will host a MLK Day Celebration Silent Unity March honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at 10 a.m. on Jan. 17.

The Silent Unity March will begin at MLK Street, down JP Davis and will end at the old Linnie Roberts Elementary School.

Beginning at 11 a.m., there will be a program and celebration from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information contact Jerry Manning at 979.240.4925.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (of-

icially Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and sometimes referred to as MLK Day) is a federal holiday in the United States marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

It is observed on the third Monday of January each year. Born in 1929, King's actual birthday is January 15 (which in 1929 fell on a Tuesday). The holiday is similar to holidays set under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. The earliest Monday for this holiday is Jan. 15 and the latest is Jan. 21.

King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which protested racial discrimination in federal and

state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968.

President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed three years later. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

The idea of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a holiday was promoted by labor unions in contract negotia-

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Donation made for medical bills

By ANTHONY MAENZA
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Every year, school personnel around the state go through training that someday could save a life.

For the Van Vleck High School coaching staff, that day came last fall.

Seth Treviño, a seventh-grade student at Van Vleck Junior High, suffered a medical emergency last October during football practice that required life-saving

actions be taken by the coaching staff on hand and school nursing personnel.

Monday night during a meeting of the Van Vleck ISD Board of Trustees, athletic director Rodney Dowell presented a \$3,000 check from the Texas High School Coaches Association to the Treviño and his family.

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TWIA to discuss new RFP plans

Staff Reports

The Texas Windstorm Insurance Association Actuarial & Underwriting Committee will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 10 a.m. to review presentations from selected respondents to the Association's Request for Proposals (RFPs) for catastrophe modeling services and provide a recommendation to the TWIA Board of Direc-

tors for these services.

TWIA issued an RFP on Dec. 16 for a consultant or firm to perform catastrophe modeling analysis related to the Board's statutorily required determination of the Association's 1-in-100-year probable maximum loss for each hurricane season and reinsurance purchase decision.

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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Volunteers went about the task of putting out Christmas wreaths on the graves of military veterans around Matagorda County recently during Wreaths Across America. Wreaths were placed at Cedarvale, Roselawn and Eastview Cemeteries in Bay City, Matagorda Cemetery in Matagorda, Hawley and St. Peter's Cemeteries in Blessing, Midfield Cemetery in Midfield and Palacios Cemetery in Palacios. (Contributed photos)

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3DAY OUTLOOK

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
60/42 10%	72/43 10%	71/51 10%

