

THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD

La Grange, Texas 78945

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INSIDE



Celebrate Fayette

Eventually Fayette County is going to be back and better than ever. Inside today, you'll find lots of ideas to help celebrate when it does (we know you have extra time to read now!)

* This glossy magazine was printed prior to many coronavirus postponements, so make sure to double check any upcoming events included inside.

FOR THE RECORD

United Evangelical

All services at United Evangelical Lutheran Church at Swiss Alp are closed through the end of the month. Hymns, scripture, and prayer service at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday on Facebook. Folks are invited to join in worship. The sanctuary is open for prayers 24/7, but you are asked to keep safe social distancing while you are encouraged to come and pray.

LGISD Closed

The La Grange ISD Administration Office lobby will be closed beginning March 23-27. If you need assistance, contact the Administration Office at (979) 968-7000 as phones will be monitored.

Blinn Star Party

Please be advised that the Star Party that was scheduled for March 27 on the Schulenburg Campus of Blinn College has been cancelled.

Fish Fry Postponed

The fish fry drive thru scheduled for March 27 at the KC Center in La Grange has been postponed until further notice.

There's more
For the Record
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WEATHER WATCH

This Week's Forecast	High	Low
Friday:	88	70
Partly cloudy		
Saturday:	77	53
40% chance of rain		
Sunday:	78	60
Partly cloudy		
Monday:	79	61
80% chance of rain		

Burn Ban Is Lifted

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Even the Criminals Are Taking Coronavirus Precautions

Schulenburg Cafe Sprayed Down With Lysol Before Money was Taken

By ANDY BEHLEN
The Fayette County Record

Even the thieves seem to be heeding warnings about the coronavirus.

Schulenburg Police investigated a burglary at Tillie's Cafe that happened sometime over the weekend. The business is located at 621 North Main Street in downtown Schulenburg.

Police Chief Troy Brenek

said whoever was responsible pushed in a plexiglass window to gain entry. Once inside, he said they sprayed everything down with a can of Lysol that was found inside the business, before taking \$150 in cash, some checks that were already filled out and some ice cream.

"I don't know what they were going to do with the checks, because it's not like they

could cash them," Brenek said.

Brenek said the burglar or burglars left through the front door and locked it behind them. Police found some latent fingerprints, he said. However, he said the coronavirus crisis has slowed processing at the crime lab that the department uses. Therefore, it could take some time to determine whether the prints belong to a suspect or an employee.

Tillie's announced last week that it would close on Saturdays and would only offer take-out service after Governor Greg Abbott ordered restaurants to stop taking dine-in customers last week.

Brenek said his department is seeking leads in the case. If anyone saw anything suspicious around Tillie's over the weekend, please call the Schulenburg Po-

lice Department at (979) 743-2677.

The Record asked Brenek whether he thought the crime was committed by someone intentionally taking advantage of the crisis or possibly by someone acting out of desperation due to the crisis.

"I don't know if it's that," he said. "I do think its someone
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Food pantry volunteers, left to right, Ralph Streicher, Glenn Altwein and Linda Oltmann were taking precautions (all wore rubber gloves and Oltmann wore a face mask) but they said it was important to keep volunteering at the food pantry, especially during this time of coronavirus impact.

Photos by Jeff Wick

Service Above Self

Food Pantry Volunteers, Many of Them Older, Keep Working During Pandemic to Feed Those in Need

By JEFF WICK
The Fayette County Record

The cars kept arriving at the AMEN food pantry Monday in La Grange.

And ten volunteers worked hard to keep the bags of groceries coming to them.

Fears of the coronavirus have brought so many things in this world to a halt, but not the spirit of service the food pantry volunteers have.

So many volunteers showed up Monday that one had to be sent home because of the state and county wide orders to keep

gathering of people to 10 or below.

"We've had lots of volunteers and they all are in the 60-65 age range or older. They have been real troopers," said AMEN President Cassie Girard.

"I'm 82 and I think I'm one of the youngest volunteers," joked Glenn Altwein.

Wasn't he scared of the coronavirus?

"I'm retired Army and retired LCRA," Altwein said. "I guess I've already been exposed to a lot worse stuff."

But the volunteers were

taking precautions. The format of the food distributions was changed to drive-through to accomplish social distancing. Food was pre-bagged into portions based on family size.

One volunteer, Linda Oltmann, wore a facemask as she talked to the clients coming to get food.

"So many people are in need," Oltmann said. "We need to be here for them."

Keeping the food pantry operational is tougher than ever.

Because of the coronavirus scare, people that have the

means are stocking up on food at the grocery store, wiping out many items, meaning the weekly donations to the food pantry from HEB and Walmart have dwindled to almost nothing. So Girard has had to dip into the food pantry's funds just to buy groceries to give to clients. A \$10,000 gift to AMEN from the Fayette County Disaster Recovery team helped, but Girard said more donations (of non-perishable food and money) are needed and appreciated, especially because the pantry is currently expanding its service.

"If you need food assistance and you are not registered, we are not requiring qualifications, we are waving that like we did during Hurricane Harvey," said Girard.

The food pantry pick-up times have also been changed to Mondays from 2-5 p.m.

"To hear and see these clients, you know they are really appreciating this," said volunteer Stell Midgett.

You can bring donations by the pantry at 805 Mode Lane in La Grange Monday afternoons or call (979) 968-3943.

Still Just One Confirmed Coronavirus Case in Fayette County

By ANDY BEHLEN
The Fayette County Record

Fayette County still only has one confirmed case of coronavirus as of Thursday, March 25. That person remains in isolation. Fayette County Emergency Management Chief Craig Moreau said many more have tested negative for the virus, although he declined to say how many people have taken the test.

County Judge Joe Weber asked citizens to "stick with the plan" during the coronavirus crisis.

He said citizens should take the following precautions:

1) If you have symptoms, call a medical provider and discuss your symptoms with them. If your health providers instructs you to self-quarantine, follow their instructions.

2) Not everyone needs a coronavirus test. Weber said Fayette County and the State does not have enough test kits to test everyone. Your medical provider will determine whether you need to be tested.

3) Take personal responsibility in regard to hygiene and gathering in groups. Wash your hands often. Try not to touch your face. Avoid shaking hands and close physical contact.



County Emergency Management Chief Craig Moreau (center) traveled to Austin on Monday to pick up supplies of personal protection equipment for use by first responders and healthcare workers in Fayette County. Interns Brenden Gilbreath (left) and Chris Story (right) demonstrated some of those supplies, including face masks, gowns and eye protection. Gilbreath, a student at Texas A&M Corpus Christi, and Story, a student at Texas A&M in College Station, are assisting the county office of emergency management while their classes have been cancelled due to the coronavirus crisis.

Photo by Andy Behlen

Avoid large gatherings. Do not gather in groups of more than 10. Only go out in public for essential business and emergencies.

"If we stick to that plan,

then we'll be OK here in Fayette County," Weber said. "Law enforcement and the judge cannot make that work. It's the individual people in the County doing those things that'll make

it work."

Moreau travelled to Austin on Monday to pick up N-95 face masks and other personal protection equipment to be used by local medical providers. Last

week the county was running low on those masks, which are recommended for use by medical professionals during the coronavirus crisis.

"The priority for those masks will be our medical providers," Weber said. "We have been gathering requests from the hospital and our health providers around the county."

Weber said the state and federal government do not consider Fayette County a high priority for medical supplies, due to the high number of coronavirus cases in urban areas.

"They're going to be pushing that stuff to the hot spots," Weber said.

Moreau would not say how many masks he was able to pick up. However, he said the county now has enough for all first responders and healthcare workers in the county.

"Fayette County should not have any transmission due to a lack of personal protection equipment," Moreau said on Wednesday.

Healthcare providers around the county are running low on hand sanitizer. Fayette County EMS picked up five gallons of sanitizer from Bone Spirits

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