

# THE DJJ RUNDOWN



Welcome to The Rundown!

August 7, 2020

With our DJJ Weekly Letter currently on hiatus, we want to welcome you to The DJJ Rundown, a quick but informative way for our agency, providers and community partners to stay connected. We look forward to bringing you important news and updates on what's happening with Team DJJ as well as sharing some fun topics and ideas. Thank you for taking a moment out of your day with us and as always, thank you for supporting our agency's work in helping Florida's youth and families.

## DJJ News You Can Use

The second round of voting for the Clash of the Heroes Comic Book Contest is happening now! The contest features artwork and creative writing from DJJ youth. You can view their submissions and vote for your favorite as often as you would like [here!](#)



## Quotable Quote

— “ —  
Act as if what you do makes a difference.  
IT DOES!  
— ” —

- WILLIAM JAMES



Whether your child is taking part in virtual learning or heading back to the classroom, everyone can take advantage of the 2020 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday beginning August 7 and ending August 9. During this sales tax holiday period, qualifying items will be exempt from tax, including certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item; clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less per item; and the first \$1,000 of the sales price of personal computers and certain computer-related accessories purchased for noncommercial home or personal use.

For more information and a list of qualifying items, please review the Department of Revenue's [Tax Information Publication \(TIP\) on the 2020 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday](#).



In recent months, a nostalgic throwback is making a comeback. Drive-in movie theaters having been popping up around Florida and the U.S. Our friends at Visit Florida have a [list](#) of drive-in theaters from around the state. As more open up, be sure to check your local area for a fun way to watch your favorite movies.

## The Good News Report

### Texas 4th Graders Pave the Way for 20,000 Rescued Animals to Find Loving Homes



Seventeen years ago, elementary school students in Dalhart, Texas came together to save a neglected litter of puppies without a home. The elementary school students created the Dalhart Animal Wellness Group & Sanctuary with the leadership of their teacher, Diane Trull, who still runs the shelter today. During the pandemic, the shelter has seen a rise in the number of animals brought to the shelter. Fortunately, with the help of Ms. Trull and her many former students who still volunteer, the animals are finding loving homes.

## A Note From the Secretary

Team DJJ,

Although we have faced many challenges these past few months, the dedication to Florida's youth and families has remained strong. Our team continues to deliver necessary services to Florida's youth and families despite having to make adjustments in the way we do what we do.

While we currently find ourselves traveling down a rocky road, our team is made up of seasoned travelers who have made it through tough terrain before. I am proud to be a part of an agency that never backs down from a challenge. Thank you for keeping our agency going through these trying times and for your unwavering dedication to our mission.

- Secretary Simone Marstiller

## California Teen is Sewing Masks That Help Hard-of-Hearing Read Lips

High school student Isabella Appell has been making masks since the beginning of COVID-19 and recently identified a need for her talents among the deaf and hard of hearing. Traditional face masks eliminate the option of lip reading for those who are hard of hearing making it more difficult for them to communicate. Appell sought to solve this problem by creating a mask with a clear window to effectively prevent the spread of the virus while allowing lips to be seen.



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