

Local Story

In recent times, the world has faced many tribulations since the COVID-19 crisis started. Whether it was the high infection rates, political and social crisis that accompanied them or the questions that surround the timetable or the legitimacy of the vaccine, it has been trying for anyone who would call themselves an American. This sort of problem could face potentially hazardous upgrades, or unlikely solutions, as the date of expiration for the statewide mask mandate ends. On March 10th, the lives of many Texans will change forever. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many small businesses to close down, including iconic eateries and historical districts. This subject applies greatly to the city of Roanoke. Roanoke is an oxymoron of sorts. It's a city that is forgettable and that is also unforgettable. It's forgettable to those who pass through between Dallas and Fort Worth. On the other hand, it is unforgettable to those who have lived there. Even those who have eaten there. It has been tabbed the "Unique Dining Capital of Texas." That is a title that shows how much their small business means to the city itself. The city features some of the greatest eatery's, such as "Bayou Jack's", "Jack and Grill", "Hard Eight BBQ", and the iconic "Babe's Chicken." During the shutdown, business fell dramatically, and had it not been for steady profits over the years and sound financial planning, the historic restaurants would have surely closed down. Perhaps no city awaits the results of Abbot's decision to stick with the expiration date further than the city of Roanoke. It is yet to be seen what will happen if the city that has the great "eats." It will either be a moment of returning to normalcy which would be triumphant, or it will be a moment of infamy, where problems got worse and small businesses were lost. I have sources that have either been in management or active employees in either a cooking capacity or as a food runner.

Open Ended:

- What has your daily routine been since the COVID-19 crisis took place?
- What was your initial reaction to the crisis taking place?
- How have you gotten by financially in wake of initial lockdowns?
- What made you decide to work at your current job?
- What advice would you give two other small businesses during this time?

Close Ended:

- Have you closed down or gotten reasonably close to closing during the pandemic?
- Have you faced any temporary shutdowns recently?
- What does your daily revenue look like in all?
- Have you had to let any staff go? Or hire new staff due to COVID-19?
- Has there ever been a year like this?