

Katy Times



VOLUME 108, ISSUE 20

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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Katy Times starts grant

By KATY TIMES STAFF

As businesses begin to open, advertisers have told Katy Times staff they are uncertain how they can afford advertising after being forced to close for several weeks. In response, Katy Times has set up a \$100,000 grant program to allow businesses to get the word out about their reopenings and special services they may offer as the Katy area's economy recovers from COVID-19.

"The Katy Times has been able to establish a fund to help local businesses get back to full strength," Katy Times Publisher Erica Baskin said. "This is being done by subsidizing their marketing through matching grants."

The program allows locally-owned and operated businesses to apply for grants from \$250-\$7,500 in funding for advertising. Once reviewed and approved, the amount of the grant is then matched by the business over a three-month period which ends in July, Baskin said. Locally-owned franchises are also eligible, she said. Businesses interested in applying for

See **GRANT**, page 5

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

Katy Times has launched a matching funds grant program to help local businesses advertise. Here's are the numbers:

- \$100,000 total in grant funding available
- Funding is a one to one match
- **MINIMUM GRANT:** \$250
- **MAXIMUM GRANT:** \$7,500
- **3 MONTH WINDOW:** May, June, July

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R. HANS MILLER

One recommendation GrantWorks had for Brookshire city officials was to expand park space to allow residents more green spaces and outdoor recreational activities. Here, Longenbaugh Park is shown with caution tape preventing use of the gazebo due to COVID-19 concerns.

Brookshire moves forward with comprehensive plan

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

In an online and teleconferenced meeting, the Brookshire City Council approved the draft of the city's new comprehensive plan to be forwarded to state officials for review. City officials also discussed implementation of a fencing ordinance and animal control services as well as terminating the city's solid waste company, Republic Services.

"The plan has about twelve chapters. The first parts are the (basic) chapters which are population, land use and housing then we have the infrastructure

chapter - the water, sewer, street and drainage, and then we did special studies for economic development and parks and recreation," said Carlos Beceiro, a planner with GrantWorks, a consulting firm based in Austin.

Beceiro said the city's current estimated population of 5,741 is expected to grow to 6,679 by 2030. Beceiro said the firm had examined population and growth in order to determine if the city's infrastructure would support the growth coming to the city in the decade to come.

Beceiro said the city needed to add at least 386 new housing units, as well as repair, remove or replace others. Of the

homes in the city, 12% are considered substandard housing and 19% are manufactured homes, he said.

"As far as the major recommendations in the housing chapter, we recommend (the city of Brookshire) participate in the HOME program to help renovate or rehabilitate or replace dilapidated and substandard homes; continue to pursue code enforcement for manufactured housing, dangerous buildings and flood-plains," Beceiro said.

Encouraging voluntary removal of dilapidated structures or housing by

See **PLAN**, page 5



PHOTO COURTESY KISD

Ann Lalime will be moving away from elementary school students at Golbow Elementary where she has worked since 2009 to take on the role of principal at Stockdick Junior High School.

Q&A with Stockdick Jr. High's new principal

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

During its April 27 meeting, the Katy ISD Board of Trustees promoted Ann Lalime from principal of Golbow Elementary School to principal of Stockdick Junior High School. Lalime holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Sam Houston State University and began working in education in 1990 with Katy ISD. She has taught third through sixth grade students and has been serving as principal of Golbow since 2009.

Katy Times asked Lalime several questions about her plans for Stockdick once she walks into her new office this fall.

Lalime's responses below have been edited for context and to fit in the available space.

Q: You were already a principal in the district. What made you rather than staying at Golbow Elementary?

A: Ever since I can remember, I have always wanted to be a principal. I admired and respected the individuals in my life who were my principals. My education and experiences in work and in life prepared me to enjoy leadership opportunities and to enjoy students of all ages, and I have loved everything about serving as a principal at Golbow.

Becoming Golbow Elementary principal eleven years ago was a new

See **PRINCIPAL**, page 5

Council accepts emergency grant

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

After three declarations honoring National Police Week, National Emergency Medical Services Week and National Public Works Week instituted by Katy Mayor Bill Hastings, the Katy City Council approved the acceptance of more than \$10,000 in grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as contracts for disaster debris removal and moving forward with the Texas Heritage Parkway and Katy Boardwalk projects at their May 11 meeting.

The grant funding will repay the city for EMS transport of COVID-19 patients as authorized under the CARES Act according to city staff. The funding will not have to be repaid by the city, staff said.

A contract was awarded to SAFEbuilt for building inspection services with a maximum value of \$50,000 that will be paid for in lieu of four vacant positions according to documentation provided by the city.

"The supplemental inspections provided by SAFEbuilt will help keep a high level of service to our (building) permit applicants," said a memo from City Administrator Byron Hebert and Public Works Director Elaine Lutringer.

"This is a great idea. I'm glad we're able to move forward with this. This'll help in that heavy workload and it's very

See **COUNCIL**, page 3



R. HANS MILLER

Katy City Council has held their meetings virtually via Zoom since social distancing orders were enacted in March rather than at Katy City Hall which opened in 2017.

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Waller County joins Port of Houston Commission

By R. HANS MILLER
TIMES SENIOR REPORTER

Waller County announced May 4 that it has entered an interlocal agreement with the Port of Houston Commission which establishes a formal relationship between the port's and Waller County's economic development teams.

"We are excited about this new relationship with the Port of Houston," said Waller County Judge Trey Duhon. "It will be an integral part of our ongoing economic development efforts to help us continue building a strong and diversified economic base."

According to the announcement, the agreement sets up a foreign trade zone – commonly referred to as an FTZ – which the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website says allows otherwise prohibited or taxable merchandise to be moved into the area for storage, exhibition, assembly, manufacturing and processing. FTZs are usually located near major ports and provide an opportunity for inexpensive flow of parts that might otherwise be tariffed or charged duties on arrival and export, making it more affordable for companies to operate in FTZs.

Waller County Economic Development Partnership Executive Director Vince Yokom said the county does not have a projection of specific industries, but it anticipates that being in a foreign trade zone will attract manufacturing to the county. The county expects the agreement to bring jobs with those businesses and increase the county's commercial tax base which can relieve the tax burden on residents, he said.

"As a rule, manufacturing jobs pay higher wages," Yokom said.

The port and the county are hoping the agreement creates economic synergy, said Port of Houston officials.

"Waller County is a strong partner and it's through interlocal agreements such as this one that together we can support our common mission of creating jobs and economic prosperity for the region," said Port of Houston Executive Director Roger Guenther.

Yokom said that, while the port offers convenience for foreign companies, American companies also find benefits in locating operations within a free trade zone like the one the agreement pulls Waller into.

"In fact, a majority of the current FTZ users at the (Port of Houston) are U.S. companies," Yokom said.

The agreement falls under the alternative site framework rules for the U.S. International Trade Administration and allows the FTZ of the Port of Houston to be modified more easily in order to stimulate economic growth.

"The ASF interlocal agreement with the Port of Houston is the capstone of



R. HANS MILLER

An interlocal agreement between Waller County and the Port of Houston Commission folds Waller County into the free trade zone the port falls under and local leaders expect that to help the county's economy grow.

WHAT IS AN FTZ?

A foreign trade zone is a region near a port that reduces the cost of manufacturing in that region. Benefits of an FTZ include:

- CBP duty and federal excise tax, if applicable, are paid when the merchandise leaves the zone for consumption.
- While in the zone, merchandise is not subject to U.S. duty or excise tax.
- Some property taxes are also exempted.
- Goods may be exported from the zone free of duty and excise tax.
- Customs and Border Patrol security requirements protect against theft.
- Merchandise may remain in a zone indefinitely, whether subject to duty or not.
- Choices are available to vendors in regards to which taxes and duties are paid if products in the FTZ are sold within its boundaries.
- Merchandise imported under bond may be admitted to an FTZ for the purpose of satisfying a legal requirement of exporting the merchandise.

SOURCE: U.S. Customs and Border Protection/U.S. International Trade Administration

our Foreign Direct Investment program that we started back in 2019," Yokom said. "Given the current COVID-19 issues, and the geopolitical ramifications, we think there will be even more opportunity to attract both international companies and US-based firms looking to re-shore operations."

\$100,000

Local Stimulus Grant

Matching grants available to local small businesses

The Katy Times has set aside \$100,000 in matching grant money to help local businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Businesses can apply for up to \$7,500 in grants to be used on advertising campaigns in May, June and July.
- Preference given to locally owned and operated businesses.
- Apply at katytimes.com/stimulusgrant.html or look for the ad on our website.

More people than ever before have turned to our newspaper and website for news and information.

We believe this is the perfect time to do our part to lend a hand as our business community works to reopen.

Katy Times

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This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times

SUDOKU

		9		5				4
			7			5	1	6
		3				1	7	
1								3 2
	4	8						
2					5	8		
	8			2	1	6		
3	9							

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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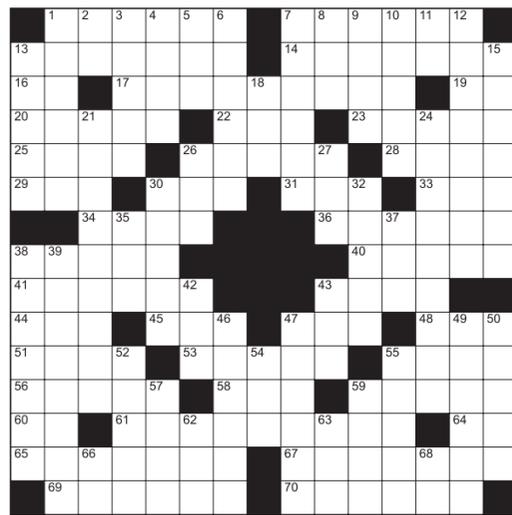
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Seed part
- Productive
- Popular cocktail
- Sausages
- Western state
- Natural desires
- Defunct British automaker
- Early media tycoon
- Move from one place to another
- Letter of Semitic abjads
- Female birds
- Umbrella brand
- Delinquent
- Tax collector
- Cooking tool
- Female sibling
- Flat-topped hat
- Angolan currency
- Boardwalk candy
- European nation
- Leaflike part of palm
- Removed with solvent
- Uttered words
- Unfashionable person
- Disappointed
- Controversial device in soccer
- 007's creator
- Pain
- UCLA mascot
- Razorbill
- Turkic people
- Mimic
- Crime involving fire
- And, Latin
- A saponaceous quality
- Dorm employee
- Estate lands
- States
- They slow you down
- Gets up

CLUES DOWN

- One or the other
- ___, so good



- Doc
- Songs have them
- Record of payment (abbr.)
- Speak endlessly
- American state
- Digressions
- Tell on
- Brews
- Belongs to the bottom layer
- American cigarette brand
- Legal voting age in US
- Dish
- Expelled air from the nose
- Body art
- Fierce, destructive act
- Bear bright yellow flowers
- Japanese delicacy
- Get off your feet
- Male organs in some invertebrates
- Cleverness
- Protest yacht
- Anesthetized
- Mollified
- Touch lightly
- Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- Some windows have them
- National capital
- Squirrels like them
- Grandmothers
- Painter's tool
- News organization
- ___ and thesis: musical term
- Famed activist Parks
- ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- A number or amount not specified
- Body part
- Of I
- Old English

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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Shooting in NE Katy area on Mothers Day



R. HANS MILLER

A shooting at the near end of this middle-class neighborhood street in the northeastern portion of the Katy area, near Cypress, occurred shortly after 9 p.m. Mothers Day near the intersection of Bonners Park Circle and S. Breanwood Road.

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

The Harris County Sheriff's Office reports that a shooting occurred in the northeastern portion of the Katy Area, near Cypress, at about 9:10 p.m. Mothers Day evening. A 24-year-old male and a 62-year-old male got into an altercation that resulted in eight wounded people taken to area hospitals.

"HCSO Violent crime investigators are reviewing charges with the Harris County District Attorney's office at this

time," said Deputy Thomas Gilliland, a spokesman for HCSO, via email.

Gilliland said witnesses had informed investigators that the 24-year-old had gotten into a confrontation with the 62-year-old in the 18900 block of Bonners Park Circle. After the confrontation, the younger man returned to his home, obtained a shotgun and fired into the group of people outside the older man's home.

Three adult females were struck by pellets, Gilliland said. Two victims whose genders and ages were unknown were also struck in the legs.

Another 31-year-old victim was struck by shotgun pellets in the shoulder, he said.

"A 5-year-old juvenile girl was struck in the arm by a pellet and was also transported with non-life-threatening injuries," Gilliland said.

The 62-year-old was also struck by pellets but returned fire with a firearm of his own striking the younger man in the abdomen.

Those injured in the incident were all taken to area hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries and treated.

Cinco Ranch HS journalists recognized

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Five Cinco Ranch High School student journalists have been recognized by the National Scholastic Press Association - the largest association for middle, junior and high school journalists - in its 2020 honor roll. The students join a total of 1300 students across the nation in receiving the recognition according to a NSPA press release.

"These outstanding students excel in both the classroom and in their school newsrooms," NSPA Associate Director Gary Lundgren said. "The future of journalism is bright if these students are any indication."

Cinco Ranch's Abigail Fosburgh, Celeste Hoover, Donovan Nichols, Esha Nigudkar and Avery Wang were all recognized for their efforts both as journalists and for academic excellence, the press release said. To be listed in the honor roll, students must serve at least two years in student media and earn a 3.5 or higher grade-point average.



ABIGAIL FOSBURGH



CELESTE HOOVER



DONOVAN NICHOLS

Fosburgh serves as staff photographer for "County Line," Cinco Ranch HS's news website. Hoover is co-editor of the publication while Nichols is news editor. Both Nigudkar and Wang work for the Cinco Ranch HS yearbook publication, "Panorama."

Cinco Ranch High School Student Publications Advisor Ed Larsen said the students had all worked to gain the experience they needed and meet the prerequisites to be on the teams for their respective publications and he enjoyed working with them.

"The beauty of my job is getting to observe their growth as writers, journalists and student leaders during their entire high school career," Larsen said.

Students take Journalism I or Photojournalism as a prerequisite for joining one of the publication classes,

Larsen said. He said students not only gain valuable trade skills, but pick up interpersonal skills they'll need in their adult careers.

"In addition to the significant work they publish, they also gain leadership skill sets as editors in our scholastic

journalism learning lab and County Line editors serve on the KISD Superintendent's Student Leadership Council," Larsen said.

Each of the NSPA Journalism Honor Roll inductees receive a certificate and senior inductees are eligible to receive a scholarship, the winner of which will be announced in May the NSPA announcement said.

"Some of these students also end up qualifying for Texas UIL All-State Journalism status based on a point accumulation for (University Interscholastic League/Interscholastic League Press Conference/Texas Association of Journalism Educators) state Journalism competition and for serving in editorial leadership roles," Larsen said. "That information will be announced in June."



Sometimes referred to as "talk therapy," psychotherapy is used to help people with a variety of mental illnesses and emotional difficulties.

Types of psychotherapy

Sometimes referred to as "talk therapy," psychotherapy is used to help people with a variety of mental illnesses and emotional difficulties. One of the goals of psychotherapy is to eliminate or control symptoms that can adversely affect a person's overall well-being and ability to function.

People who are skeptical of psychotherapy should know that hundreds of studies have found it helps people make positive changes in their lives. The American Psychological Association notes that reviews of these studies found that roughly 75 percent of people who enter psychotherapy show some benefit, while other reviews indicate that the average person who engages in psychotherapy is better off by the end of treatment than 80 percent of those who do not receive any treatment.

The National Institute of Mental Health notes that more than one-quarter of American adults experience depression, anxiety or another mental disorder in any given year. Psychotherapy may be considered to help people dealing with such mental illnesses. Mental health professionals use several types of psychotherapy to treat men and women in their care and may even combine elements from some of the following therapies to meet the needs of the people they're treating.

Cognitive behavioral therapy: Cognitive behavioral therapy, or CBT, can help people identify and change harmful or ineffective thinking and behavior patterns. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) notes that CBT aims to replace these thoughts and behaviors with more accurate and functional

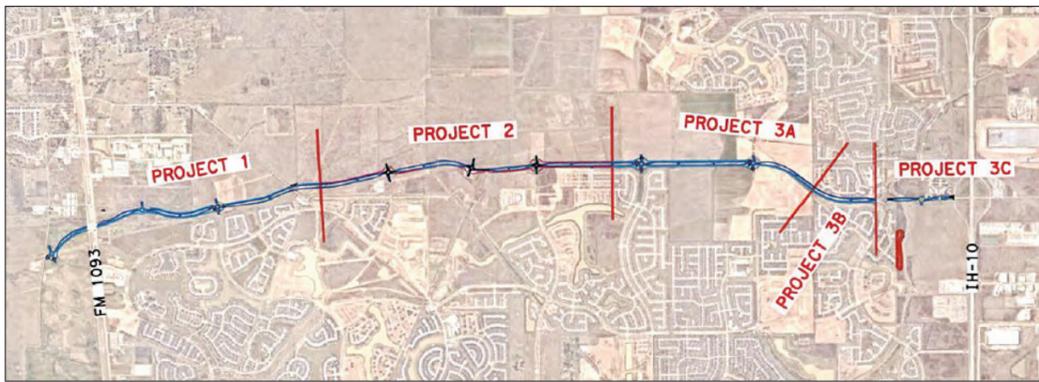
thoughts and behaviors. CBT may involve practicing new skills in the real world. Dialectical behavior therapy is a specific type of CBT that helps people regulate their emotions and teaches them skills to help them take personal responsibility in regard to changing their unhealthy or disruptive behaviors.

Interpersonal therapy: A short-term form of treatment, interpersonal therapy, or IPT, helps people understand troublesome interpersonal issues such as grief, changes in social or work roles and conflicts with significant others. According to the APA, IPT can help people learn healthy ways to express their emotions and how to improve the way they communicate with others.

Psychodynamic therapy: The APA notes that psychodynamic therapy takes the perspective that behavior and mental well-being are influenced by childhood experiences and inappropriate thoughts or feelings that are outside of a person's awareness. A person receiving psychodynamic therapy works with his or her therapist to improve self-awareness.

Supportive therapy: Employing guidance and encouragement to help people develop their own resources, supportive therapy aims to build self-esteem, reduce anxiety and strengthen coping mechanisms. Supportive therapy also aims to help people improve their social and community functioning.

Therapists may rely on various therapies to treat patients with mental illness and emotional difficulties. Learn more about psychotherapy at www.psychiatry.org.



Texas Heritage Parkway will run from Fulshear to Katy and will feature several roundabouts along its length and a stop light at the intersection just before Katy. Shown here is the south to north route the roadway will take once it is built.

COUNCIL

from page 1
customer oriented. I'm glad we're moving forward with this idea," said Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris.

Council also voted unanimously to approve a one-year renewal of three contracts for disaster debris removal. The contracts are assigned to Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. as the primary contractor and to TRF Enterprises, Inc. as the secondary contractor. Tetra Tech, Inc. is the monitoring contractor. Debris removal services would only be utilized in the event of a disaster such as Hurricane Harvey, Hebert said.

The contracts will now expire in June of 2021 according to

documentation provided by the city of Katy.

An interlocal agreement between several regional entities was also approved that will allow the construction of the Texas Heritage Parkway to move forward. The roadway will start at FM 1093 near Fulshear and intersect I-10 at Pedersen Road according to city documents. A new shopping center, Texas Heritage Marketplace, will be located in the southeastern corner of the parkway's intersection with I-10.

The Katy Development Authority will dip into funding from the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County to pull \$6 million to pay for the project which should take about 14 months, Hebert said. This satisfies the city's 11% funding requirement for the project which is

also paid for in part by landowners in the area, Fort Bend County, the city of Fulshear and other investors according to project documentation.

"It releases METRO funds that can only be used for mobility projects that Katy is awarded and that money is being utilized for that project," Harris said.

Finally, the city amended its agreement with the Katy Development Authority and Katy Boardwalk, LLC. in regard to setting the outside closing date for the hotel project associated with the Katy Boardwalk Project, a commercial development near Katy Mills, to allow for delays caused by COVID-19.

"The agreement's exactly the same, it just extends the contract by about a month," Harris said.

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Cubs trained on Catalina Island

For 30 years between 1921 and 1951 (with the exception of two years during World War II) the Chicago Cubs trained and frolicked on Catalina Island, a jewel located 26 miles off the Los Angeles coast.

Catalina Island is such a glorious spot that the Four Preps, who, during their heyday, charted 11 gold records, memorialized it in "26 Miles," a paean about "the island of romance, romance, romance."

The story behind the Cubs' arrival on Catalina is a tribute to team owner William Wrigley, Jr. On a 1919 visit, the soap turned chewing gum potentate's wife, Ada, woke, looked out her hotel window, gazed across the Pacific, and declared that she wanted to make Catalina her home. Wrigley quickly concurred, and two years later bought the island.

Wrigley's investment paid off handsomely for the owner, the Cubs' players, its fans, its broadcasters and the Catalina Chamber of Commerce. For the Cubbies, Catalina was a lark. After morning practice, the players were free to fish, hunt, horseback ride, play golf, barbecue and swim in the Pacific. The bravest Cubs roped and wrangled in a Wrigley-organized rodeo.

Players stayed at the exclusive St. Catherine's Hotel, where they dined on braised oxtail and Catalina headcheese. Unattached Cubs made new friends among the Hollywood starlets who traveled on the S.S. Catalina from Los Angeles to enjoy an afternoon of baseball. One ingenue was Norma Jeane Mortenson, aka Marilyn Monroe. Others were Betty Grable and Grace Bradley, the future Mrs. Hopalong Cassidy.

During the Cubs' three decades on Catalina, the team won four National League pennants. Among the most well-known Hall of Famers are rotund RBI record holder Hack Wilson, pitcher Jay Hanna "Dizzy" Dean, 373 game winner Grover Cleveland Alexander (who once hurled 16 shutouts in a single year), and taciturn slugger Rogers Hornsby, who between 1922 and 1925 hit over .400 three times. When Hornsby joined the Cubs, he took his place in the batting order with sluggers Wilson, Kiki Cuyler and Riggs Stephenson to form a home-run-hitting quartet with the wonder-



JOE GUZZARDI

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

ful nickname, "The Four Bludgeoners."

WHO broadcaster Ronald "Dutch" Reagan provided the Cubs fans back home in frigid Chicago with the spring training games' details. Like the Wrigleys, Reagan quickly fell in love with Catalina. On the 1937 day that Reagan arrived, Catalina was a balmy 82 degrees. Reagan, an unsuspecting Illinois native, ran to the pier, dove in and immediately learned that the water temperatures were often a frigid 40 degrees. Jokingly, Reagan claimed in order to avoid hypothermia, he walked "on top of the waves."

Wrigley created the now common spring training, all-inclusive package deal. The owner's slogan for Catalina was: "In all the world, no trip like this." Soon, posters that pictured three bear cubs tossing a ball under the bright California sun lured Chicago's winter-weary fans: "The Cubs are here! Why don't you come, too?" By 1929, Wrigley's public relations campaign increased the island's tourism from 90,000 to 750,000 travelers.

By 1952, however, the Cubs moved to the more easily accessible Arizona where other major league teams also trained. From time-to-time, Cubs old timers returned to Catalina for reunions. Baseball is still played there - the Avalon High School Lancers play their games at the old ballpark. But today, Catalina's 4,000 permanent residents are suffering from California's statewide shutdown order.

Visitors to Catalina, once welcomed by the Cubs during the island's glory days, and which pre-COVID-19 drew about 1 million tourists annually, have been asked to stay away.

When the island re-opens, make sure to plan a stop at the Catalina Museum, which offers exhibits featuring the celebrated Cubs era.

Joe Guzzardi is a Society for American Baseball Research and Internet Baseball Writers Association member. Contact him at guzzjoe@yahoo.com.



This is my family's coronavirus story

Murder hornets. (Not to be confused with their close relatives: accessory-to-murder hornets, involuntary-manslaughter hornets, justifiable-homicide hornets and turning-state's-evidence hornets.) Killer hornets. Asian giant hornets. Or the more politically correct Continent Which Must Not Be Named giant hornets.

The invasive insects go by a confusing array of names, but the New York Times, National Geographic, NBC News and other sources are warning Americans about the potential impact of their spread.

A colony of murder hornets can wipe out a honeybee hive in a matter of hours, decapitating the bees and flying away with the thoraxes to feed their young. ("No, I didn't bring a coloring book and a 32-ounce soda. Eat your bee thoraxes! There are starving hornets in China who would KILL for those thoraxes.")

Bees can't catch a break. It's always pesticides or parasites or SOMETHING. ("I



DANNY TYREE

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

just flew in from L.A. - and boy, are my wings covered with mites! AIIIIIEEEE!")

I'm taking this latest threat personally, since (a) I enjoy honey on my sopapillas at Mexican restaurants, (b) I eat a variety of fruits and vegetables that have been made possible by the miracle of pollination and (c) my wife's name (Melissa) means "honeybee" in Greek. (No, she's not from Greece. She's from New Jersey, which means she knows where all the thoraxes are buried.)

Bees are not alone in facing physical harm. The murder hornets' stingers are long enough to penetrate a beekeeping suit. Aggressive group attacks kill up to 50 people a year in Japan (leading to the faddish popularity of the "Muham-

mad Ali hornet" designation: "Floats like a butterfly, stings like a &%\$#@"), but luckily the hornets weren't spotted in the United States prior to last autumn. This has not stopped the Chinese government from insisting that the killers were maliciously introduced into Asia by frontiersman Davy Crockett. ("It's right there in the song: He killed him a samurai when he was only three.")

So far, the hornets have been verified only in Washington state (and across the border in British Columbia). But you and I know this fact won't stop the immediate proliferation of anecdotal sightings in all 50 states. ("I remember it distinctly. Thing scared me so bad I nearly spilled my sixth margarita! And it looked exactly like my cousin said his podiatrist's brother-in-law's love child described it.")

At least the authorities have succeeded in pretty much debunking that report from Florida - the one about the woman's grandson being carried around and around in the air by one of the gigantic insects. ("Ma'am, appar-

ently that was the Dumbo ride at Disney World.")

If we don't stop this threat quickly, the airwaves will be inundated with entomology nerds doing their "mandible-splaining." And everyone will be out to make a buck from merchandising: murder hornet tattoos, T-shirts, traps, detectors, etc. ("Get a six-pack of abdomens - left over from harvesting the thoraxes!")

Scientists hope to use thermal imaging and other advanced tools to stay one step ahead of the menace. The United States Department of Agriculture is brainstorming its own ways to stop the hornets. The prevailing wisdom is to saddle them with a herd of dairy cattle and watch them go broke.

Another tactic is to target the QUEEN. ("Hey, look at what your grandchildren are doing in the tabloids! Yeah, that stinger works really well for hara-kiri, doesn't it?")

Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

Katy Times

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
The Katy Times (ISSN 067-180) is published on Thursday for \$35 per year in Harris, Waller and Fort Bend Counties and \$45 elsewhere by The Katy Times, 5507 Morton Road, Ste. 103, Katy, TX 77493 Periodical-rate postage paid at Katy, Texas 77494.

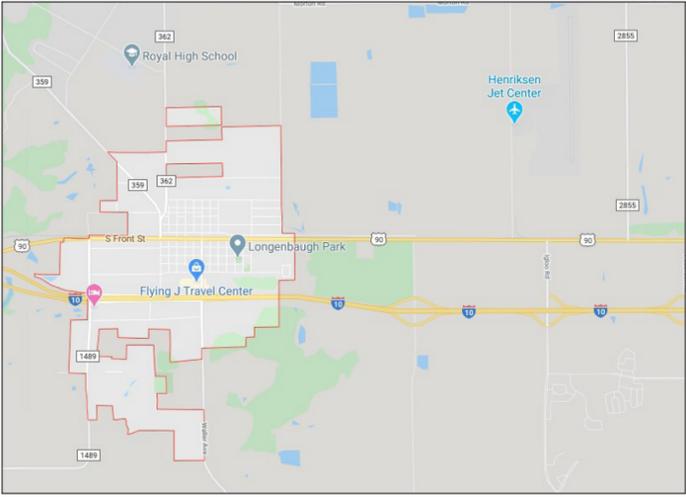
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POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678.

ABOUT OUR NEWSPAPER:
The Katy Times is a member of the Texas Press Association. The weekly newspaper is published every Thursday. Visit our Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.katytimes.com for more news and information.





SOURCE: GOOGLE

Brookshire's current population of 5,741 is expected to grow to more than 6,600 by 2030. This creates a need to plan for growth the city's planning consultant, GrantWorks, said.

PLAN from page 1

residents is also recommended, Beceiro said.

He also suggested the city monitor occupancy and vacancy rates of rental housing to ensure staff and council knew what the supply and demand for rentals was. That included information on land availability and utility rates and capacity being monitored for planning purposes.

"Besides all that, of course the city should support fair housing initiatives," Beceiro said.

Most of the city's more than 2200 acres is undeveloped or semi-developed land, Beceiro said. Of the developed land, 362 acres are single family housing, 293 acres of commercial acreage and 154 acres of industrial use, Beceiro said. About 376 acres of land in the city is within the city limits and within a 100-year floodplain with 381 single-family homes in the floodplain, 98% of which were occupied, he said.

"Basically, you have plenty of room to accommodate that projected 16% population increase by 2030, so that's good," Beceiro said.

Beceiro said GrantWorks was recommending the city continue enforcement of dangerous buildings and floodplain ordinances as it moves forward. He also recommended pursuing grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to manage properties in floodplains.

The city's water district meets all of the requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality at this point in time, Beceiro said. However, some water mains were smaller than the two-inch lines recommended by TCEQ.

Beceiro said he recommended adding 18 new fire hydrants along six-inch waterlines, adding an additional well as a long-term project, and replacement of about 6,500 feet of undersized lines to prepare for growth and ensure resident safety. Lines would be replaced on Tenth through Thirteenth streets and along Cooper Road and Fort Streets.

Brookshire's sewer system was found to be sensitive to rain events, Beceiro said.

"It was built in the 50s. Collection systems of that age typically experience a significant amount of (system) infiltration and you guys are having some of those problems," Beceiro said.

Beceiro recommended repairing or replacing old pipes and manholes to reduce infiltration into the system, making improvements to sewer lift stations to protect them from flooding and replacing about 38,500 feet of sewer lines and 88 manholes.

Drainage is a concern for the city due to its flat topography, Beceiro said. Obstructions such as railroad and street embankments make portions of the city prone to flooding, he said. Neighborhoods near Westbrook

Mobile Home Park and the area surrounding the Brookshire City Office are most susceptible, he said.

GrantWorks recommended repairing existing drainage infrastructure and maintaining ditches to control erosion, Beceiro said. These activities would need to be coordinated with the Brookshire Katy Drainage District. Recommended projects would include constructing a detention pond near downtown and replacing more than 30 culverts throughout the city.

Some streets do need repaving and the city needs to create a maintenance program for city roadways, Beceiro said. About 71,500 linear feet total of streets would need actual replacement overall, he said. This would also be done in stages, he said.

Economically, Beceiro said Brookshire is a strong member of the Greater Houston economy with healthy manufacturing similar to the rest of Waller County.

"As far as employment is concerned, the major industry in town that employs people is retail trade and that followed by services, then education like the school ... and then manufacturing is the fourth largest," Beceiro said.

GrantWorks was recommending focusing on building up businesses that are already present in the city and recruiting new companies, with the focus mostly being oriented toward existing companies. The company also recommended city officials network with or join regional and statewide organizations to help with economic development.

"The major recommendation we have ... is to enable local entrepreneurship and help the existing companies in the city expand rather than trying to recruit too much," Beceiro said.

Arts and entertainment is one of the smallest industries for the city, he said.

An evaluation of the city's parks and recreation facilities showed that the city needs more outdoor entertainment areas, Beceiro said.

The city needs more basketball and volleyball courts according to community surveys and industry standards, Beceiro said. Playgrounds, picnic tables and picnic areas were also low for both current and future populations, he said. The recommendation for acreage is five to 15 acres of park space per 1,000 people, but the city currently only has about 4 acres per 1,000 people. If no park space is added by 2030, that number would drop even further to 3.8 acres, he said.

"So, (Brookshire) could really use another park," Beceiro said.

Beceiro recommended the city apply for a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife to upgrade existing parks this fall, then in 2023 to apply again to improve parks again and finally in 2026 to apply again to improve Discovery Park.

"And then in 2028, we would recommend creation of a new park in northeast Brookshire to serve the population there," Beceiro said.

GRANT from page 1

the grant must complete the eight-question application form on the newspaper's website, Baskin said.

Under the program, all ad campaigns will include advertising in the newspaper and on the Katy Times website, Baskin said. The idea is to reach as many potential customers for each business as possible and help make sure residents are informed about their favorite stores and restaurants opening back up - including

what those businesses are doing to ensure client safety, she said.

The Katy Times understands the impact the new coronavirus pandemic has had locally, Baskin said. As staff have reported on the impacts the virus has had at the local level, they've seen small businesses struggling and trying to balance public safety with the need to keep their businesses going. That's why the grants program was set up - to support local companies that are the heart of the local economy, she said.

"A community newspaper is only ever as strong as the community it serves," Baskin said. "We are stronger together - and as a community, we will get through this together."

PRINCIPAL from page 1

challenge for me, and it has been an incredible journey. Along the way so many educators, parents and community members joined in that journey and we have worked together, cried together, laughed together and had fun together. Through it all, we bonded as a community to guarantee quality education for every single student.

As I look back on my own education, I realize how important those junior high years were for me in realizing talents and expanding my horizons, so I would like to be able to use my leadership skills to work as a junior high principal which will provide me a new and challenging opportunity.

Q: What are you most excited about as you move into your new role at Stockdick (SJH)?

A: I am most excited about the challenges associated with working with junior high students. Personal interests are developed during the junior high years, students should have opportunities to realize their talents and to find their passions. That is why I intend to provide as many opportunities as possible for them to do that at SJH.

Stockdick is a strong Katy ISD community with a mission and vision already in place with which I am in total agreement. Being a community of leaders and learners, developing the whole individual through choice, challenge, and feedback, and leveraging digital tools to create the future, has been Stockdick's mission and vision and I intend to build on the successes already evidenced in achieving those goals.

Q: What are the biggest challenges you see for Stockdick as you move into the principal role and how can parents and students help you overcome those challenges?

A: The biggest challenge will be transitioning back to the campus and providing support for staff, students and parents who have experienced unusual circumstances due to COVID-19.

The online learning experience has been rewarding for the students, but the personal relationships, which are such an important part of the educational experience, have been missing. It will be vital to provide opportunities for students to socialize and interact with each other and with their teachers because building relationships with students is a game changer.

Students can assist by doing their best work; parents can assist by communicating effectively with school staff; all adults can assist by providing positive encouragement and support which is so important for junior high students. Together we can focus on the social and emotional well-being of each other and fill the gaps, which might be there because of the unusual last nine weeks of the school year.

Q: What will you be doing over the 2020-21 school year as principal at Stockdick?

A: Preparations during the summer for the next school year are always challenging for a principal.

Getting to know the SJH staff members will be unusual since I plan to meet them over Zoom to collect valuable input before I meet them in person on campus. We will do our best to become acquainted personally online.

There are staffing needs to fill so interviews to select the best candidates will be ongoing; a master schedule for the 2020-21 school year will be developed; intervention placements for students will be reviewed and completed; a campus needs assessment will be crafted for the campus improvement plan; professional development for the upcoming school year will also need to be addressed and completed. I

anticipate a very busy summer!

Q: Are there new programs or initiatives you would like to start at the school this next school year?

A: There will be a new district-wide reading program called Lexia to provide intervention for the 6th-8th grade students. I will be working with the SJH instructional leadership team to develop a plan for students and staff to utilize and implement this new program.

This will be the second year for the new state (English Language Acquisition Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) for sixth through eighth grade students, so I will provide support for the teachers. There is blended learning for reading and writing in the sixth and seventh grade ELA classes which gives the students the flexibility in reading selections.

The district is purchasing a new advisory training curriculum for the 2000-21 school year for sixth to eighth grade students. Time will be provided for staff to review this new resource, and the SJH instructional leadership team will also work to develop a plan for implementation.

We are implementing Character Strong, and SJH will continue in its second year with this social emotional learning piece for students. Continuation to build on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support will also be an important campus endeavor.

Q: As principal, what will you do to encourage students to pursue STEM and trade professions?

A: I consider this an important focus for our students. Counselors and teachers will be encouraged to increase awareness of students who should be enrolling in these courses and the courses will be advertised for enrollment.

As principal, I will continue the career and technical education courses that are currently available to SJH students. (I am also considering a robotics club.)

There is already a strong and rigorous math and science curriculum for students, which I will continue to encourage and will work to include coding.

Several courses exist which students will be encouraged to consider. Principles of Applied Engineering ... Principles of Manufacturing ... Principles of Human Services ... Information Technology Program of Study (are all classes which support essential STEM and IT skills).

Q: As you move onto Stockdick, what message would you like to send to the students and parents of Golbow Elementary?

A: It has been an incredible eleven years as the principal of Golbow Elementary. I have grown and learned so much from my Golbow experience.

We have walked through an entire campus renovation, grown in technology through Smart Boards and student devices and bridged the technology gap so that each student can check out devices to use at home.

I have watched Blue Jays grow up and graduate from high school and go on to college or other endeavors. The Golbow community became my extended family and, as I have met with students yearly to discuss (their academic progress), I have been so impressed by (their) willingness to celebrate your successes and to work to achieve growth in needed areas. It has been such a pleasure to be a part of the greatness the students represent, and I encourage you to continue to work hard to be your best.

I want you to know how much I love the Golbow community and how grateful I am for my Golbow relationships and experiences. Although I will miss serving you as principal next school year, I will see some of you again when you transition from junior high to Paetow High School. Best wishes to each of you!

KATY TIMES PET OF THE WEEK

MEET WINSTON



Winston is a young and energetic boy who also has a fondness of laps and bath-time. Everyone loves a nice relaxing soak in the tub! And car rides? Awesome!! Winston is a loving sweetheart who deserves the best home ever. He knows basic commands and is housetrained unless left over 8 hours. But you wouldn't leave him alone that long, would you? Winston does get along with other dogs, although he may react to dogs showing ill feelings towards him. We are requiring that you bring your other dogs in to meet him before adoption, just to make sure everyone will get along nicely. Winston has not had the opportunity to be around little kids or cats.

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Eighty-four student-athletes honored

By COLE McNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The Texas Army National Guard and the Texas High School Coaches Association released the 2019-20 Academic All-State Recipients for tennis, golf, track, softball and baseball on May 1 and 84 student-athletes from the Katy area cracked the lists.

Katy High School was the leader with 35 of their student-athletes being honored, followed by Cinco Ranch (16) and Seven Lakes (15). Tompkins had seven student-athletes make lists, Taylor and Brookshire Royal each landed four and Morton Ranch rounded out the list with three.

"We understand that students' performance in the classroom can sometimes be difficult to manage while participating in athletics, but their hard work has not gone unnoticed," it says on the THSCA website. "The THSCA Academic All-State Teams recognize high school athletes who excel in GPA, class rank and ACT/SAT score. The students are being recognized as a team member based on their scores in these categories."

The website said that head coaches of respective sports could nominate a senior athlete, trainer or manager that is in good standing with the team, of good moral character and has an overall GPA of 92 or above. The academic all-state teams were split up in four levels; Elite, first team, second team and honorable mention.

Katy High School had five student-athletes make the Elite team, four made the first team, 10 made the second team and 17 more earned honorable mention.

BROOKSHIRE ROYAL

SOFTBALL
Alexis Chaar, Honorable Mention; Emma Garcia, Honorable Mention; Alexandra Lopez, Honorable Mention; Hannah Simons, Honorable Mention

KATY

BOYS GOLF
Cameron Young, 2nd Team

BOYS TENNIS

Jackson Roberson, ELITE; Kyle McCary, 1st Team; Trung Vo, 1st Team; Thien Bui, Honorable Mention



PHOTO COURTESY ROYAL ISD

The Royal Lady Falcons had four representatives make one of the Texas Army National Guard and Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State teams, honoring student-athletes who excelled on the field and in the classroom. The Katy area had 84 student-athletes on the lists altogether.

GIRLS TENNIS

Sara Guilfu Honorable Mention; Serra Kaya, Honorable Mention; Bali Nguyen, Honorable Mention; Mackenzie Owens, Honorable Mention

BASEBALL

Alec Atkinson, ELITE

SOFTBALL

Allye Castillo Honorable Mention; Dominique Crespo, Honorable Mention; Marley Gilmore, Honorable Mention

BOYS TRACK

Kyle Trembulak, 2nd Team; Connor Wood, 2nd Team; Hayden Barrios, Honorable Mention; Jacob Foster, Honorable Mention; Garrett Fuchs, Honorable Mention; Matthew Heichal, Honorable Mention; Lorenzo Orozco, Honorable Mention; Michael Yarrow, Honorable Mention

GIRLS TRACK

Olivia Einarsson, ELITE; Hannah Porter, ELITE; Joy Jegede, 1st Team; Hannah Blake, 1st Team; Carolina Ortiz, 2nd Team; Lindsey Simms, 2nd Team; Maria Sten-

kamp, 2nd Team; Linda Smith, Honorable Mention; Audrey Witham, Honorable Mention

BOYS SOCCER

Abou Nguer, 2nd Team

GIRLS SOCCER

Hannah Matthews, ELITE; Calyn Donaldson, 2nd Team; Brianna Flauteros, 2nd Team; Mariah Sutton, 2nd Team

CINCO RANCH

BOYS TENNIS
Siddhant Pandit, ELITE; Mitchell Dombrowski, 1st Team; Alan Nguyen, 1st Team; Adam Sulemanji, 2nd Team; Cameron Anderson, Honorable Mention

GIRLS TENNIS

Ananya Sagar, ELITE; Madelinh Vo, 1st Team; Seleene Rouhana, 2nd Team

BOYS TRACK

Benjamin Conacher, 2nd Team; Alex Norman, 2nd Team; Samuel Flusche, Honorable Mention; Diego Weatherly, Honorable Mention

GIRLS TRACK

Michelle Graham, Honorable Mention

BASEBALL

Reid Easterly, 1st Team; Brady Matthews, 2nd Team; Luke Albert, 2nd team

SEVEN LAKES

GIRLS TRACK
Amna Abbasi, 1st Team; Molly Humes, 1st Team; Shannon Smith, 2nd Team; Ana Velazquez, 2nd Team; Rose Campbell-Watt, Honorable Mention; Kimmie Drake, Honorable Mention;

BASEBALL

Aidan Bersche 1st Team; Samuel Benjamin, 2nd Team; Jordan Craft, 2nd Team; James Nieberding, 2nd Team; Ashe Ofield, 2nd Team; Peyton Peterson, 2nd Team; Mason Tiedt, 2nd Team; Carson Waite, Honorable Mention; Matthew Perkins, Honorable Mention

TOMPKINS

SOFTBALL
Katalina Ibarra, Honorable Mention

BASEBALL

Joel Tan-Aristy, 1st Team; John Michael Nagle, 2nd Team; Mitchell Bowman, Honorable Mention; Jalen Jones, Honorable Mention; Pryce Powell, Honorable Mention; Monray Van der Walt, Honorable Mention

JAMES E. TAYLOR

BOYS GOLF
Simon Xu, 1st Team

GIRLS TRACK

Martina Caridad, 2nd Team; Ju Eun Kim, 2nd Team

BASEBALL

John Bissaillon, Honorable Mention

MORTON RANCH

BASEBALL
Garren McLaughlin, 2nd Team; Christian McCoy, Honorable Mention; Collin Snellings, Honorable Mention

Texans open season against Chiefs, play Lions on Thanksgiving

By COLE McNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The schedule for the 2020 NFL season was released last Thursday evening, May 7, and is set to start on Sept. 10 when the Houston Texans travel to Kansas City, Mo. and take on the defending Super Bowl Champion Chiefs with kickoff slated for 7:20 p.m.

A few former Katy-area football players will be making a return trip to their home state throughout the season, starting in the final week of the preseason with Katy High and TCU alum Andy Dalton. The quarterback recently signed a free-agent contract with the Dallas Cowboys and will travel to NRG stadium for the teams' final tune-up game.

To begin the regular season, the Texans will alternate between home and away games through the first four games. After the trip to Kansas City, Houston will host the Baltimore Ravens then travel to Pittsburgh to square off with the Steelers before returning home for a meeting with the Minnesota Vikings and former Morton Ranch defensive lineman Danielle Hunter.

That opening stretch to the season also serves as the Texans' warmup before facing consecutive conference opponents from the AFC South in Weeks 5 and 6. The Jacksonville Jaguars come to town before Houston will travel to Tennessee to face the Titans, the two teams the Texans swept in conference play last season.

In Week 12, Houston will play just its second Thanksgiving Day game in franchise history and it will be a rematch of the 2012 meeting with the Detroit Lions that changed the rule books.

Then-Texans running back Justin Forsett



JOE SOUTHERN

The Houston Texans' 2020 schedule was released Thursday night and features two primetime games, including a 2012 Thanksgiving rematch against the Detroit Lions. Pictured is Houston quarterback Deshaun Watson avoiding the Denver Broncos' defense in a non-conference game at NRG Stadium on Dec. 8. Denver won, 38-24.

took a carry up the middle and bounced off a defender and although it very clearly appeared that his elbow hit the turf, he hopped up and ran the rest of the length of the field for an 81-yard score.

Then-Lions head coach Jim Schwartz quickly threw his challenge flag on the field to review the play but the year prior, the league had put in an automatic challenge rule that all scoring plays would be reviewed and any challenge flag thrown on a scoring play would result in a 15-yard penalty and nullification of the review, allowing the play to stand.

Houston went on to beat Detroit, 34-31, in overtime to move to 11-1 for the first time in franchise history.

After that will be a pair of meetings with the Indianapolis Colts over a three-week span with a contest against the Chicago Bears in the Windy City sandwiched in the middle. Last year, the Texans split the season series with the Colts.

To end the regular season, the Texans host the Cincinnati Bengals and former Katy Tiger Rodney Anderson before the final conference tilt of the season with the Titans to tie up any loose ends in the playoff picture.

In addition, another Katy connection comes from former Taylor Mustang and Texas A&M Aggie Cullen Gillaspia, who is entering his second season with Houston as a fullback and special teams specialist.

AWAY GAMES

- Week 1, Sept. 10 @ Kansas City Chiefs, 7:20 p.m. on NBC
- Week 3, Sept. 27 @ Pittsburgh Steelers, noon on CBS
- Week 6, Oct. 18 @ Tennessee Titans, noon on CBS
- Week 9, Nov. 8 @ Jacksonville Jaguars, noon on CBS
- Week 10, Nov. 15 @ Cleveland Browns, noon on FOX
- Week 12, Nov. 26 @ Detroit Lions, 11:30 a.m. on CBS (Thanksgiving)
- Week 14, Dec. 13 @ Chicago Bears, noon on CBS
- Week 15, Dec. 19 or 20 @ Indianapolis Colts, TBD

HOME GAMES

- Week 2, Sept. 20 vs. Baltimore Ravens, 3:25 p.m. on CBS
- Week 4, Oct. 4 vs. Minnesota Vikings, noon on FOX
- Week 5, Oct. 11 vs. Jacksonville Jaguars, noon on CBS
- Week 7, Oct. 25 vs. Green Bay Packers, noon on FOX
- Week 11, Nov. 22 vs. New England Patriots, noon on CBS
- Week 13, Dec. 6 vs. Indianapolis Colts, noon on CBS
- Week 16, Dec. 27 vs. Cincinnati Bengals, noon on CBS
- Week 17, Jan. 3 vs. Tennessee Titans, noon on CBS

* Bye week: Week 8, Nov. 1

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Abbott, Trump spotlight actions in pandemic

By ED STERLING
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Texas, along with the rest of the nation and the world, continued to battle the COVID-19 pandemic last week as cases and deaths attributed to the novel coronavirus increased.

Gov. Greg Abbott on May 7 met with President Trump in the White House. The president praised Abbott's leadership in handling the months-long medical emergency and in managing the resulting slowdown of the economy in the Lone Star State.

Abbott said Texas has one of the lowest COVID-19 death rates in the country, noting that half of the state's 254 counties have no cases or five or fewer cases of the virus. He said we have the knowledge and resources to contain COVID-19, adding that "It's the people of Texas who have done a great job of slowing the spread" by washing their hands, wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

"Because of that, we are now seeing more and more businesses that are opening up gradually to make sure we don't expand the spread, but we're doing so

"Because of that, we are now seeing more and more businesses that are opening up gradually to make sure we don't expand the spread, but we're doing so in a way that we'll make sure Texas will once again reclaim its position as being the number one economy in the United States."

— TEX. GOV. GREG ABBOTT

in a way that we'll make sure Texas will once again reclaim its position as being the number one economy in the United States," the governor said.

Trump asked about the Dallas-area beauty salon owner who was arrested and jailed for violating one of Abbott's executive orders by prematurely opening for business. "She's free today," the governor said during the Oval Office meeting, adding that authorities should exercise common sense in carrying out

his executive orders. In the wake of the beauty salon case, Abbott modified his executive orders related to COVID-19 to eliminate confinement as a punishment for violating the orders.

On May 10, cumulative figures posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed that some 37,860 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19, and 1,049 deaths resulting from the influenza-like virus had been confirmed.

TEA: Graduation guidance

The Texas Education Agency on May 5 announced graduation guidance for the class of 2020. Under the guidelines, ceremonies may take place as early as May 15 as the state continues the reopening of services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While school buildings remain closed to normal in-classroom instruction for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year, the TEA, in coordination with the governor's Strike Force to Open Texas, is providing four different pathways for schools to celebrate their graduating seniors:

- Virtual ceremonies that take place entirely online with the use of videoconference or other technologies;

- Hybrid ceremonies consisting of a compilation of videos of students being recognized in person as they celebrate graduation in small groups;

- Vehicle ceremonies, in which students and their families wait in their cars while other graduates are recognized one at a time with their families alongside them; and,

- Outdoor in-person

ceremonies, which are currently permitted for certain counties.

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said, "By taking the necessary precautions developed by medical experts, we can ensure we appropriately honor our class of 2020 graduates while keeping everyone safe."

AG joins in crackdown

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on May 4 joined a coalition of 52 attorneys general in a letter to the Washington, D.C.-based broadband industry association USTelecom, urging the association's members to continue developing robocall traceback and other capabilities suited to law enforcement needs.

Paxton and his colleagues said they anticipate an increase in enforcement and a need for increased investigative support from leading voice service providers.

"Texans' private phones are bombarded by constant calls that invade their privacy and often attempt to defraud them of their hard-earned money," Paxton said.

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your consolations cheer my soul.*
Psalms 94:19

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Pest Control Company seeking office assistant to assist with the day to day business in Katy. The ability to maintain multiple schedules and routing of technicians appointments in Katy and the Greater Houston and surrounding areas. Applying payments, able to use a Key Map, multi-tasker, computer skills and ability to use word and excel, confirming appointments daily, processing mail and other duties as assigned or on as needed basis.

email resume to: jwchemtech75@gmail.com

HELP WANTED

PUBLIC NOTICES

Request for Proposals

Drymalla Construction Company, Inc. (CM at Risk) is soliciting Qualifications/Proposals from Subcontractors for the Lamar Consolidated ISD HVAC renovations at Lamar Junior High, and Athletic Complex, and Site Wide Paving and Drainage. **Qualifications/Proposals are due at 2:00 PM on Wednesday May 20, 2020** at the offices of Drymalla Construction Company, Inc., 608 Harbert, Columbus, Texas 78934, via fax 979-732-3663, or email to bid@drymalla.com. **NO PHONE BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED!** For information on how to obtain copies of the Request for Qualifications/Proposals documents call 979-732-5731, or email Jason Labay at jason@drymalla.com. Documents are available online at <http://www.drymallaplans.com> and Virtual Builders Exchange.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a mixed beverage permit by WOB Katy, LLC dba World of Beer located at 2643 Commercial Center Blvd Suite B390, Katy, TX 77494. Managers of WOB Katy, LLC are Paul E. Avery and Benjamin P. Novello.

KATY TIMES CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
979-885-3562

HELP WANTED

CAREGIVER NEEDED ~ job is for 5 Days a Week - 5 Hours per Day - Salary is \$20 per Hour. For more details about the position, email me Mr Patrick (patdolan18@gmail.com)

May 7 Puzzle Answers

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6	1	4	8	3	9	7	2	5
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E	P	O	C	H	S	D	A	S	H			

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Owner: Mason Creek Utility District
Owner's Office: 847 Dominion, Katy, TX 77450
Project (the Work): Furnish, deliver and install transfer switch and motor controls with pad, weatherheads, ducts, wiring, conduits, etc. at Galleon Oaks Water Plant, including demolition, removals, etc., all as further described in the Contract Documents
Project location: 1609 Galleon Oaks, Katy, TX 77450

Owner proposes to let a contract for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owners Office by **May 29th, 2020 at 11:00 AM**, when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on civcastusa.com. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference is set for May 15, 2020 at 11 AM. at Owner's Office. /s/ Len Forsyth, Project Officer

CITY OF KATY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SERVICES

The City of Katy, Texas Is Accepting Proposals For Solid Waste Collection And Recycling Services In The City Of Katy. Proposals Will Be Received By The City Secretary At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, Until 2:00 O'Clock P.M. May 20, 2020. The Envelopes Containing The Proposals Must Be Sealed, Addressed To The City Secretary Of The City Of Katy, And Plainly Marked "Proposal For Solid Waste Collection And Recycling Services". A Bid Opening Will Take Place At 2:00 O'Clock P.M. May 21, 2020, By Teleconference At (877)853-5257, Meeting ID: 886 7830 9732. Request For Proposal Packets May Be Obtained By Contacting garbage@cityofkaty.com. The Only Method To Submit Questions Regarding This RFP Is Via Email At garbage@cityofkaty.com. City Council Reserves The Right To Reject Any and All Proposals.

City Of Katy

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Thursday, May 28, 2020, At 1:00 P.M.** By Teleconference At (888) 475 4499, Meeting ID: 891 4714 0751, On Docket No. 2020-04. The Application Of **Daryn and Robin Ebrecht**, Present Owners, Under Section 22.5-2 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **1215 Bartlett Road**, In The "R-1" Single Family District. Property Description: Lot 2 in Waller County.

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance On The Yard Exception On Corner Lots For The Placement Of A Sight Obscuring Fence.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT

AVISO PÚBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Primary Runoff election to be held on July 14, 2020, will be tested on May 19, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. at the Fort Bend County Elections Department, 4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg Texas to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automáticamente que se usará en la elección primaria de desempate el 14 de Julio del 2020 se probara el 19 de Mayo del 2020 a las 9:00 A.M. en el Departamento de Elecciones del Condado de Fort Bend, 4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg Texas para determinar si el equipo contara con exactitud los votos para todos las oficinas y en todas las medidas.

/s/ John Oldham
Fort Bend County Elections Administrator
Administrador de Elecciones del Condado de Fort Bend

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for **2020 CITY OF KATY SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT - REBID** will be received at City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28, 2020.**

The Owner is the City Of Katy, Texas

The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter into a contract with the Owner.

A Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable, without recourse, to the Owner or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a contract and execute bonds in forms provided as outlined in the Contract Documents. Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Maintenance Bond, in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required.

For public projects, not less than the minimum wage rates as prescribed in the General Conditions must be paid.

The Contract for this project will be awarded by the City based on the lowest and best bid received

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities in bids.

Bonded general contractor may obtain one set of bid documents for each project at the office of the Engineer, Clay & Leyendecker, Inc., 1350 Avenue D, Katy, Texas 77493, (281) 391-0173, upon deposit of a check or cash only in the amount of \$40.00/set, payable to Clay & Leyendecker, Inc. Bidder must telephone before coming to pick up plans. Said amount will be refunded if the bid documents are returned in good condition within one (1) week of the date of bid. Otherwise, no refunds will be made. Additional sets may be purchased for \$40.00. Subcontractors and Suppliers may purchase sets for \$40.00 which will not be refunded.

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Lawsuit argues mail-in voting won't work during pandemic

By ALEXA URA
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

A coalition of voters and civil rights groups opened a new front Monday in the legal wars over mail-in voting in Texas during the new coronavirus pandemic.

Several lawsuits already underway challenge state limits on who can vote by mail, but a lawsuit filed Monday dives into the mechanics of mail-in balloting, arguing that existing rules will deprive voters of their constitutional rights in the middle of a public health crisis. In the federal lawsuit filed in San Antonio, five Texas voters with medical conditions, Voto Latino, the NAACP Texas and the Texas Alliance for Retired Americans argue that four existing rules for absentee voting will place undue burdens on the right to vote, or risk disenfranchising Texans, during the pandemic.

First, they're challenging a requirement that voters pay postage to return mail-in ballots, arguing that it amounts to a poll tax during a public health crisis. Second, they're challenging a requirement that sets deadlines for when ballots must be postmarked and received, arguing that the window should be extended. Third, they object to a requirement for matching signatures on the flap of a ballot envelope and the signature used on an application to vote by mail, which they argue discriminates against voters with disabilities whose signatures may change. And fourth, they're challenging restrictions on the assistance absentee voters can get to return a marked ballot.

Naming Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs as the defendant, they're asking a federal judge to block the state from enforcing the provisions.

"Even if all registered voters are eligible to vote by mail in Texas in the November election, that would not be sufficient to prevent the serious risk of disenfranchisement and threats to public health that will occur if the Vote By Mail Restrictions remain in place in the pandemic," the plaintiffs, who are backed by the National Redistricting Foundation,



STOCK PHOTO FROM METRO

A lawsuit filed May 11 looks at the mechanics of mail-in balloting and argues that existing rules will deprive voters of their constitutional rights during a public health crisis.

wrote in their complaint.

With the July primary runoffs and November elections approaching, the state is facing multiple challenges to its voting-by-mail rules at a time when voters might be unwilling to risk a trip to the polls because of the pandemic.

The lawsuit filed Monday is the latest in a flurry of litigation against the state's rules for absentee voting that appears to be headed for a drawn-out appeals process. The court battles so far have zeroed in on who is eligible to ask for an absentee ballot, which can be filled out at home and mailed in. Democrats and nonpartisan civil rights groups are pushing to expand eligibility during the pandemic to include voters who lack immunity to the new coronavirus and don't want to risk going to a physical polling location. Texas' Republican leadership is fighting the expansion, citing a need to "consistently" follow the state's rules for mail-in ballots that are "specifically reserved for those who are legitimately ill."

The newest legal front centers on the actual process of voting by mail as local election officials prepare for an influx of applications for mail-in ballots and reassess their processes for storing and counting those votes.

Texas was already facing legal challenges to its mail-in ballot procedures. Last year, two voters sued the state after their votes were rejected when local officials determined the signatures on their ballots were not theirs. Like

in the current lawsuit, they raised constitutionality questions over the rejection of mail-in ballots based on signature doubts and the lack of notification to voters so they can "cure" their ballots.

But the latest challenge brings in voters who already qualify to vote by mail based on their disabilities but who must navigate the provisions for absentee voting in question during the pandemic. Among the plaintiffs is George "Eddie" Morgan, a 63-year-old former nurse in Dallas who has a genetic lung disorder and has been in strict isolation during the coronavirus outbreak in his community.

Morgan receives \$19 dollars a week in food stamps and relies on food banks. To obtain postage for a mail-in ballot online to remain in isolation, he would have to purchase an entire book of stamps for \$11, according to the lawsuit.

"The Postage Tax's burden on the right to vote is severe. At best, it requires Texans — millions of whom are vulnerable to severe complications from COVID-19 or have vulnerable loved ones — to pay to vote by mail so that they can avoid exposing themselves to the virus while exercising their right to vote," the plaintiffs wrote. "At worst, it disenfranchises the millions of Texans who cannot risk exposure to COVID-19 but who also cannot obtain postage to mail their ballots."



EDDIE GASPAR/THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Local election officials across the state have been deciphering how to safely host voters for the runoff elections under circumstances unseen by even the most veteran among them.

Texas doubles early voting period for runoff elections

By ALEXA URA
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Ahead of the first statewide election during the coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Greg Abbott has doubled the length of the early voting period for the upcoming July primary runoff elections.

In a proclamation issued Monday, Abbott ordered early voting for the July 14 runoffs to begin June 29 instead of on July 6. He noted that sticking with the truncated early voting window that's typical for runoff elections "would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the COVID-19 disaster."

Abbott previously used his emergency powers under his statewide disaster declaration to delay the primary runoffs, which were originally slated for May, and a special election for the Austin area's Texas Senate District 14. Dozens of runoffs are ongoing for party nominations to congressional and local offices. The most prominent is the contest between former Air Force helicopter pilot MJ Hegar and state Sen. Royce West of Dallas for the Democratic nomination to take on Republi-

can U.S. Sen. John Cornyn.

Local election officials across the state have been deciphering how to safely host voters for the runoff elections under circumstances unseen by even the most veteran among them. They have been stocking up on sanitizing and protective gear and considering plastic shields, like those now common at checkout counters, for check-in stations at polling places.

"In order to ensure that elections proceed efficiently and safely when Texans go to the polls to cast a vote in person during early voting or on election day," Abbott wrote in the proclamation, "it is necessary to increase the number of days in which polling locations will be open during the early voting period, such that election officials can implement appropriate social distancing and safe hygiene practices."

The extension of early voting comes as the state continues to face a growing collection of lawsuits in federal and state court aimed at expanding who can qualify to vote by mail during the coronavirus pandemic, but those legal fights remain unresolved.

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Let's work together to #KeepKatyStrong



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Jim Baker's Unified Theory Of Everything --- With God's Help

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(ad revised: 11/22/2019; previous ads are null and void)



This new book will contain a credible "unified theory of everything" that can explain the very basics of science. Albert Einstein predicted that someone "off the street" was going to do this someday. After 53 years (at approx. year 2000), I decided to include God at every step of the process of trying to come up with a scientific "Theory of Everything". Prior to this, it was about the "only thing" I felt I had not been successful at inventing or figuring out. --- You see, God had already given me the gift of inventing at age 9-10, in His response to my Second Major Prayer. --- By the year 2014, God had allowed me to assemble sufficient knowledge that I felt 95%, of what I needed to figure out, had been accomplished.

One thing I had always wished for, especially as I was approaching the age of 40, is for God to speak to me. Well, when God did speak to me, I liked my first message from God about as much, I suppose, as Abraham liked his message from God, when he was told to sacrifice his son. But God was testing both of us! God was also making us stronger.

There are still two major topics in life to be addressed, prior to publishing the new book. One is a major release of scientific information of the new theory across the U.S.A. The second is starting an evangelical ministry.

Author of new book is a Chemistry graduate (B.S. 1971/M.S. 1978) of Texas A&M (A&I) in Kingsville, TX. He also attended S.A.C. in San Antonio. He has additional hours at SWTSU, Texas Tech U., Boston College, Westinghouse PWR. He has worked at Texas Uranium Operations as Chief Chemist, at South Texas Nuclear Project as Nuclear Chemist during pre-startup, and retired from City of Houston where he was in charge of Technical Services Section of Bureau of Air Quality Control. Owner of BAKER'S BOOKS is also the author of *God's Amazing Answer To Prayer*, in 2012.



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TRIBUTES



On Thursday, April 23, 2020, Cheryl Lynn Brown, 61, of Katy, TX, passed away with her husband of 35 years by her side.

Cheryl was born May 30, 1958 in Wahiawa, Hawaii, to Joel and Nina Joseph. On February 2, 1985 she married Robert Brown. They raised six children, Joshua, Brandy, Megan, Mark, Matthew, and William.

Cheryl joined the United States Navy in 1978 in Granite City, IL. as a Hospital Corpsman. She attended Boot Camp in Orlando Florida and attended Corpsman school in Great Lakes IL. Cheryl served at duty stations such as Portsmouth Naval Hospital, New Orleans, Great Lake IL., Atlanta, and finally in Houston, where she retired in 1999 as a Petty Officer First Class.

Cheryl was a loving mother, avid sewer and knitter. She loved the Navy but loved her family even more. The one thing she wanted more than anything in life was to have children and a family.

She was preceded in death by her son, William Brown; parents, Joel and Nina Joseph; brother, Thomas Joseph and sister, Suzanne Clutts. Cheryl is survived by her husband, Robert Brown; children, Joshua Brown, Brandy Joseph, Megan Brown, Mark Brown, Matthew Brown; brothers, Joel Joseph Jr., Randall Joseph, Timothy Joseph; sister, Debra Tyser; grandchildren, Olivia and Noelle Hutchins, Tegan and Cody Brown; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.



CHERYL LYNN BROWN
1958-2020

Lonnie H. Johnson III, 31, died Saturday, April 25, 2020 at Mercy Hospital, Iowa City.

A drive through visitation to celebrate Lonnie's life was held Saturday, May 2 from 2 PM to 5 PM at the south end of Penn Meadows Park in North Liberty, Iowa. Signs were placed to guide mourners through the south entrance of Penn Elementary School. Family was present to speak with and social distancing guidelines were followed. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family's GoFundMe to help with expenses. <https://gf.me/u/xyxs8q>.

Lonnie was born March 26, 1989 in Houston, Texas, the son of Lonnie Johnson II and Livinia Moyston Johnson. He was a graduate of Cinco Ranch High School in Katy, TX and Le Cordon Bleu in Las Vegas. On November 16, 2011 Lonnie married Rebecca Mosier in Coralville.

Lonnie had worked in hospitality and other customer service fields.

He liked to cook and fish, but most important to Lonnie was time spent with his family, especially his children.

Lonnie is survived by his wife, Rebecca, and children, Isabella Mosier, Devin and Jayden Johnson; his father, Lonnie II of San Antonio and his mother, Livinia of Seattle; his sister, Ashley Johnson-Saintil and her husband of Seattle, and his half-brother Melvin Powell. Mother and Father in law Rose and Randy Mosier, Brother in law and his wife Todd and Dianna Mosier, Sister in law Amanda Miller and her husband Randy, and many nieces and nephews.

Lonnie was preceded in death by his grandparents and half-sister, Remethia Wallace.

Online condolences may be sent to www.lensingfuneral.com.



LONNIE H. JOHNSON III
1989-2020

Marie Ann Kaminski Stastny, 65 passed away peacefully in Katy on April 22, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on May 3, 1954 in Navasota, Texas to parents Leonard and Mae Kaminski.

She graduated from Sealy High School and soon after met the love of her life, Ben Stastny. They were married on October 13, 1973 at Immaculate Conception Church where they are members today. Marie work in banking for 40 years where 16 of those years she worked at Prosperity Bank/Pin Oak as a personal banker/banking officer and was well known in the Katy community. During their happy life together Ben and Marie were blessed with two children Courtney and Cole. Her pride and joy was the title of "Maw" given by her four grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband Ben Stastny, daughter and son-in-law Courtney and Jason Williamson, son and daughter-in-law Cole and Katie Stastny, sister and brother-in-law Sharon and Bobby Sharp, grandchildren Kendalyn Williamson, Brayden, Corbin, and Mason Stastny. Numerous nieces, nephew, family and friend.

The family will gather at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Sealy for a private burial. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date.

Memorial Contributions can be made to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church P.O. Box 337, Sealy, Tx 77474

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Knesek Bros. Funeral Chapel, 765 Fourth St. Sealy, Tx 77474.



MARIE KAMINSKI STASTNY
1954-2020

William David Hanson was born on May 14, 1931 in Texarkana, Texas to Jeff Davis Hanson and Margaret Thompson Hanson. David grew up in Texarkana and went to Texarkana High School. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. On December 21, 1957, David married the love of his life, Patsy Lou "Patti" Stovall in Palestine, Texas, and to this union, two sons were born.

During his youth, David developed a lifelong passion for baseball and later played in a variety of semi-pro baseball leagues in and around the Houston area. After his boys were born, David Jr. and Doug, his passion for the game was redirected towards coaching them and developing their athletic ability. He was a highly respected youth baseball coach, winning the Pasadena, TX city-wide championship in 1967. Later that year, he and Patti move to Katy where he carried on his winning ways, securing several more league championships in Katy Little League. All of the games back then were played on the old Little League field where Heritage Park sits today.

Besides sports, David loved spending time with his two boys in a variety of other ways. Every weekend you could find David with the boys close behind as they worked in the yard, washed cars, helped friends with various repairs, or help Miss Patti at The Flower Shoppe. He was an avid and dedicated Katy Tiger fan, especially when his boys and grandchildren were involved in sports and other activities at Katy Jr. High and Katy High school. David was always there to back his children and grandchildren, and to say he never missed a game would be an understatement because he seldom even missed a practice!

David worked at Sears & Roebuck for 40 years, starting out as a stock boy in the parts department before being drafted and serving in the Korean Conflict. When he returned from war in 1953, David worked his way up at Sears to become a field service technician and ultimately the division service manager at the Park-10 location. During his time as division manager, the Park-10 location became one of the most respected service facilities in all of Sears Roebuck & Co. It was the last Sears service location to close in the south.

Throughout his life, David was regarded as an expert at fixing just about anything. His nephew Mitch referred to Uncle David as "The Original YouTube". He could not only fix it, he could show you how to do it yourself. He had a tireless curiosity and loved taking things apart and putting them back together so he could learn how all the pieces worked together. He was forever helping out a neighbor or a friend who had a broken washing machine, air conditioner, water heater, lawn mower, dishwasher or ice maker, but his favorite thing to work on had to be his cars. He had a true passion for automobiles, and you would be hard pressed to find something he could not fix on them. He loved working on cars so much his son Doug says he can remember dad working on cars even when there wasn't anything wrong with them!

A devoted and longtime member of the Fry Road Church of Christ, David was a strong Christian man who was dedicated to serving the Lord, caring

for his family and helping out a neighbor, a friend or co-worker.

Above all, David loved his family and was tremendously proud of his sons and his grandchildren. He had a nickname for all of them, which added to his charm and connection. He was the world greatest grandfather, especially to his grandson, Austin. David devoted countless hours to nurturing and helping Austin, his best "Buddy", through many challenging milestones in life and was most proud to see him

become such an independent, strong, kind and capable young man.

William David Hanson passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at his home in Katy, Texas, just three weeks shy of his 89th birthday. David dearly loved the Katy community, a place he has called home for the past 52 years.

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Patti Hanson of Katy, who he affectionately referred to as "Sweet & Low"; his son, Doug Hanson (Boogie) and his wife Helen (Pretty Lady) of Katy; daughter-in-law, Belinda Hillhouse (Mrs. B) of Katy; his beloved grandchildren, Kelsie (Princess Kelkie) & Jimmy Mitchell of Chattanooga, TN, Cale Hanson (Cale-Man) of Chicago, IL, Clay Hanson (Happy Scrappy) of Tampa, FL, Kara Hanson (Kara-Boo Pebbles) of High Point, NC, and Austin Hanson (Buddy) of Katy, his great-grandson James Mitchell (Little Man) of Chattanooga, TN; as well as many other loving family members and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, William David Hanson, Jr. (Bones) in 2005; his parents, Jeff and Margaret Thompson Hanson; and by two brothers, Webster Hanson and James Hanson.

The family received friends in a unique drive-by, social distancing visitation from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel in Katy. Guest were asked to remain in their vehicles as they paid their respects to the family. Funeral services with limited attendance were held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 1, 2020 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel in Katy with Mr. David Flatt and Rev. Wayne Fancher officiating. Interment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery. The funeral service will be live streamed from David's webpage at www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net.

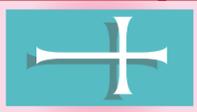
Pallbearers were Doug Hanson, Austin Hanson, Cale Hanson, Clay Hanson, Tucker Stovall, Mike Fralick, Mitch Fralick, and Blake Phillips.

Honorary pallbearers will be Kenneth Yeager and all of David's Co-Workers at Sears, Gary Lewis and Andy Lewis.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the Wolf Pack, c/o Schmidt Funeral Home, 1508 East Avenue, Katy, Texas 77493 or to The Arc of Katy, P.O. Box 6133, Katy, Texas 77491.

To express condolences, please visit www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home 1508 East Avenue ~ Katy, Texas 77493 ~ (281) 391-2424



Depression is common but treatable disorder



It's normal to experience feelings of sadness and grief from time to time. But when these feelings are prolonged or interfere with daily life, they may be symptomatic of depression.

Depression can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or economic status. The National Institute of Mental Health says around 350 million people worldwide suffer from depression. Understanding depression can help those dealing with the disorder.

What is depression?

Depression is a mood disorder that causes persistent feelings of sadness and loss of interest. The Mayo Clinic says depression can produce a variety of symptoms and affect the way a person thinks, acts and feels. Symptoms may include changes in sleeping patterns, anxiety, fatigue, weight gain or weight loss, unexplained aches and pains, and difficulty concentrating.

What causes depression?

Although the cause of depression remains a mystery,

certain distinguishing factors are common among those who have the condition. People with clinical depression appear to have physical changes in their brains. In addition, naturally occurring brain chemicals known as neurotransmitters likely play a role in depression. The Mayo Clinic states changes in the function and effect of these neurotransmitters and how they interact with neurocircuits involved in maintaining mood stability may play a significant role in depression and its treatment.

In addition to biological factors in the brain, hormones can impact rates of depression or even trigger it. These hormone shifts may be a leading reason why women have higher incidence rates of depression than men. Depression is more common in people whose blood relatives also have the condition. Therefore, those with a family history of depression may be more likely to get it than those without such a connection.

Different types of depression

There are different types of

depression. A person may have a single bout of major depression or recurring episodes. Depression that lasts two or more years is called persistent depressive disorder. A less common type of depression is called manic-depressive illness. This involves cycles of depression that alternate with extreme highs, or manias.

Treating depression

Depression is a very treatable condition. Psychotherapy (talk therapy), medications or a combination thereof can be very effective in managing symptoms. Mental health professionals can work with individuals to find the right therapy based on symptoms and severity of the depression. Also, it may take some time to find the right medication or treatment; therefore, people are urged to remain patient and hopeful.

The National Institute of Mental Health says people who suspect they may be suffering from depression should make an appointment to see a doctor or health care provider. The sooner action is taken, the more quickly the condition can be addressed.