

Katy Times

KATY PREPARES FOR NEXT HURRICANE SEASON
PAGE 3

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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020



R. HANS MILLER

Waller County commissioners discussed construction and renovation of county facilities, the COVID-19 pandemic and accepted a criminal justice grant of more than \$100,000. The meeting was held via teleconference to observe social distancing rather than at the county courthouse (pictured above).

Waller talks virus, grants

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

The Waller County Commissioners' Court received updates on several construction projects, discussed a recent uptick of COVID-19 cases and approved several monetary items during their May 27 meeting.

The court was given updates on renovations made to the Hempstead Library and the Precinct 4 Building by Waller County Construction Manager Danny Rothe. Rothe said the library project is on schedule and on budget. It is expected to open by the end of summer. The Precinct 4 Building is also near completion, with more than 80% done, Rothe said. The annex may be named after a local hero, but discussions are still up in the air. Payments for each construction company involved in the renovations and construction were approved by the court as well, totaling about \$512,000 to Dahvar Construction and Design, and Collier Construction.

See WALLER, page 5

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June 4, 2020
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Mold closes Katy fire station

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

An outbreak of mold at the Katy Fire Station One has forced all office and operations personnel to be moved out of the station, according to Fire Chief Russell Wilson.

City of Katy Mayor Bill Hastings said COVID-19 has made it harder to get in touch with individuals who can help with the mold issue, but repairs remain a priority.

"We have a proposal to have it renovated and that proposal says that it would take three and a half to four months," Hastings said. "Now, we're in the process of trying to go through that. We have a price on it. We're just trying to figure out at this time how to budget for that."

The engine and medical crews are currently staged at the Senior Center on East Fifth Avenue for operating units for the north side of town. This location is a designated backup fire station and includes

See MOLD, page 5



SANDRA SADEK

TOUGH TIMES

Opening for business but floundering for help

By R. HANS MILLER
TIMES SENIOR REPORTER

Bobby Katsabas and his wife Effie Katsabas are the owner-operators at Katy's Snappy's Café and Grill on Hwy. 90 in downtown Katy. Together with slightly more than a dozen staff, the Katsabases run a gathering space for the residents of old town Katy and have for more than 16 years, Bobby said. It was close, he said, but he was able to make it through the last two months of new coronavirus-related limited operations without letting any staff go.

"I was very close to having to shut down," Bobby said. "I had to use my own money (from my retirement fund). I thought about it and I've been working all my life for this and I didn't want to let anybody go."

Snappy's isn't the only business struggling right now, said Don McCoy, president of the Fulshear Katy Chamber of Commerce. In his role he's spoken with several chamber members facing financial, demand and workforce challenges due to COVID-19. They do have hope though, he said.

"A general feeling I get from my members is they know this isn't going to last long term," McCoy said. "(They're) grateful about the governor opening responsibly where other states are not and they're grateful for that."

McCoy said the chamber has been working to connect members with aid through the federal government

such as the CARES Act relief that many members are eligible for as well as local programs.

The Katsabases said they are grateful for the help from the CARES Act's Paycheck Protection Program, but the assistance comes almost too late due to the way the program was rolled out.

"They changed the applications three times," Bobby said. "It took forever, then they run out of money. I think the banks were giving the PPP to the big businesses." Bobby is right to an extent.

A May 30 report from the U.S. Small Business Administration shows that about 2.2 million PPP loans went to companies with more than \$10 billion dollars in assets while about that same amount went to companies with less than \$10 billion in assets. The second round of PPP loans granted 1.23 million loans to businesses with less than \$10 billion in assets while awarding 1.6 million loans to companies with \$10 billion or more in assets. Loans to small businesses in the first round amounted to 44% of the total and in the second round about 35.56% of the \$186 billion in loans to date have gone to small businesses like Snappy's.

The second round of PPP loans was signed into law Apr. 25 by President Donald Trump after funds had run out in mid-April for the first round of \$349 billion in small business support. As of May 30, about \$184 billion of the second round of \$370 billion in SBA loans through

See TOUGH, page 5



R. HANS MILLER

The parking lot at Snappy's Café and Grill in downtown Katy sits mostly empty April 5 while the restaurant was forced to only provide curbside service to its customers. At the time, co-owner Bobby Katsabas said he was concerned about the possibility that Snappy's might be forced to close permanently. He also expressed worry for his staff, some of whom have worked for him for more than 15 years.

Constable killed in accidental shooting

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Fort Bend County Constable Office Pct. 4 Deputy Caleb Rule was killed in the line of duty at about 2 a.m. May 29. Rule was accidentally shot by a Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office deputy when he responded to a call in the 3900 block of Chestnut Bend in Missouri City, southeast of the Katy Area according to a FBCSO press release.



CALEB RULE

"We are heartbroken over this," said Sheriff Troy Nehls in an early-morning press release. "We are praying for everyone involved and will have chaplains



NEHLS PRESS CONFERENCE

Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy Nehls (in brown at the podium) is joined by his brother, Fort Bend County Constable for Precinct 4 Trever Nehls (left in blue) and other representatives of the constables office at a press conference to discuss the death of Constable's Deputy Caleb Rule the morning of May 29 in an accidental shooting.

See SHOOTING, page 5



Virus patient recuperating after anniversary

By R. HANS MILLER
TIMES SENIOR REPORTER

Matt Reed was admitted to Memorial Hermann Katy April 1 to be treated for COVID-19 and celebrated his eighth wedding anniversary by watching his wife, Barbara Reed, out of his quarantined hospital room April 5. He was discharged April 7 and has since begun donating convalescent plasma and helped his father, Ron Reed recover from COVID-19.

"I was so relieved to be out of there and be able to sit at home and sit outside - just look at something other than the hospital wall or daytime TV," Matt said.

Barbara said she was proud of the hard work Matt had put into his recovery at the hospital. He had set a goal to get out quickly and recover, and he managed to do just that, she said. Matt had a hard time talking to people for a while because he was so short of breath and would get tired, she said.

"It felt good just to be able to start talking to people again," Matt said. "I just didn't do very well talking to people in the hospital because it was such a loud room. It was a struggle talking and after a while, you got tired of talking just five minutes (into a conversation)."

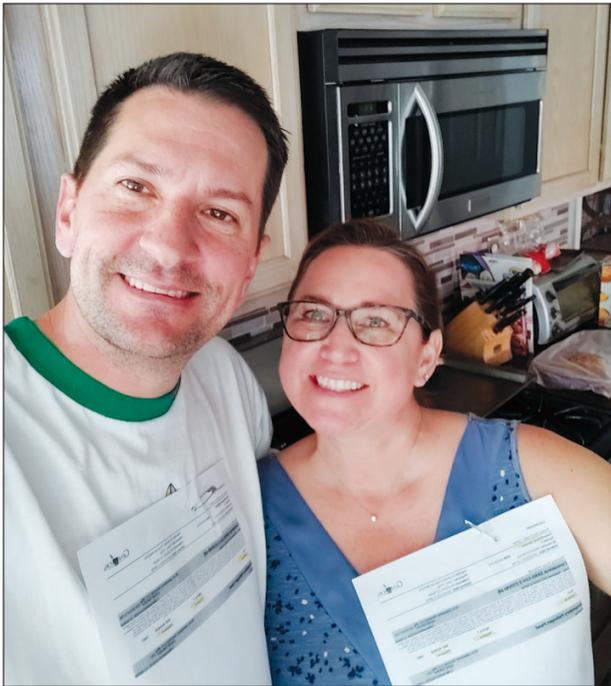
Meanwhile, Barbara said she was fearful of a relapse which she'd heard was a possibility. She had just gotten her husband back in what she felt was a dramatic hospital exit which had her repeatedly blasting "Come and Get Your Love" by Redbone to make sure it was the song that greeted Matt when he got out.

"Just seeing him in that wheelchair - even with the mask on and looking as hard as he did was such a relief," Barbara said.

She said Matt immediately tried to get back into the projects he'd left behind, but his endurance wouldn't allow it.

"I still had low, low energy but I wasn't sick anymore," Matt said.

After his discharge, Matt said he focused on getting healthy,



Matt and Barbara Reed pose with test results showing that both of them are now new coronavirus free.

working with the breathing exercises - working with one of the training machines with three balls a respiratory patient is supposed to breathe into to keep the balls suspended in the air. He said he knew it would help with his endurance and make sure he strengthened his lungs quickly. Otherwise, his medications were simple vitamin C and Mucinex, he said.

Eventually, Matt recovered and was well enough that he was able to participate in a program to donate convalescent plasma to help others recover from COVID-19. Each donation Matt gives can help up to two new coronavirus patients, Barbara said. The program Matt participates in is through the Baylor College of Medicine, she said.

While Barbara has never developed COVID-19, despite exposure to Matt's illness. Matt's

father, Ron Reed, wasn't as fortunate. At first his symptoms were mild, but eventually he needed help and came to stay with his daughter and son-in-law. Doctors eventually recommended a COVID-19 test.

"He masked up and I masked up and I took him to (get tested)," Barbara said.

Ron's testing took place at the testing site at Legacy Stadium in downtown Katy, Barbara said. He eventually had a positive test result come back. Barbara had brought him home with herself and Matt on a Sunday but had to take him to Memorial Hermann that Sunday where Ron was eventually approved for convalescent plasma treatment.

The treatment caused Ron's temperature to rise and a nurse explained to Barbara that the fever was a sign the treatment was working and kicking Ron's



Matt Reed and his father Ron Reed recover from COVID-19 at the Reed's home in the Katy area.

immune system into high gear.

"For the next couple of days, my mantra was: Go plasma! Go!" Barbara said.

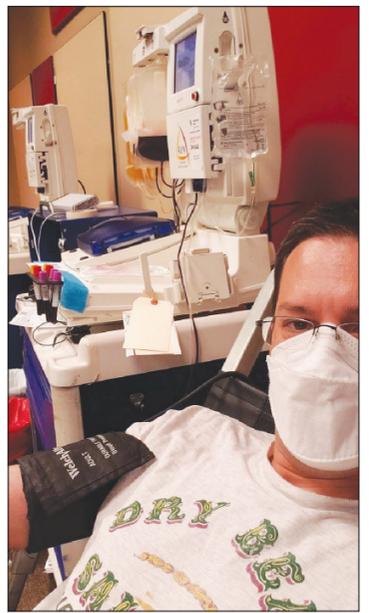
Eventually, Ron was discharged and over time both he and Matt have gotten better and are ready to be active again, Matt said.

Barbara said both of their oxygen levels are normal and they're both eating properly.

Matt is still giving plasma donations while Ron, who is 77, is ready to get back to work, Barbara said.

Both Matt and Barbara said keeping at it and doing the breathing exercises was important for both Ron and Matt to recover quickly. They just hope sharing their experience will help others recover and understand the disease.

"When you're in the middle of this, it feels like the disease is never going to end," Matt said. "It could have been worse - it felt like Hell - but it could have been worse."



Matt Reed donated convalescent plasma to help others recover from COVID-19 through a program with the Baylor College of Medicine.

Typhoon Texas reopened with new COVID-19 rules

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

Typhoon Texas reopened Friday, May 29 at 10:30 a.m. for its 2020 summer season. In line with Governor Greg Abbott's capacity limits, the waterpark has implemented several changes to its usual business model.

Visitors must now use an online reservation system to ensure their spot within the park. Guests can purchase a summer pass at TyphoonTexas.com and make an advance reservation, choosing a date, time of arrival and size of the party. Walk-up sales and entry are not available.

"The online reservation system is the smart way to offer a safe experience for our guests," said Evan Barnett, president of Typhoon Texas, in a press release. "Plus, it ensures adherence to state capacity guidelines."

According to Kaplan Public Relations' Bernard Kaplan, who represents Typhoon Texas, the waterpark operated in accordance with Gov. Abbott's guidelines, capping occupancy at 25% the entire weekend. Kaplan did not provide the Katy Times with actual attendance figures.

Ticketing has been simplified for the 2020 summer season. Guests who purchase a day ticket can get the rest of the summer free with unlimited visits. Reservations are still required.

To maintain a clean environment, hand sanitation stations have been added in restrooms, locker areas, dressing rooms, event spaces and at food and beverage outlets. Decals have been placed to indicate where to maintain social distancing while in line.

Other measures have also been implemented throughout the park. Restrooms will close every hour for cleaning and disinfecting. All loungers, cabanas and seating areas will be cleaned and disinfected once a group leaves. Guests can also use cashless pay wristbands to minimize contact when purchasing food, beverages and retail items.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is no evidence COVID-19 can be spread to people through the water in pools, hot tubs, or water playgrounds. Proper operation of these venues and disinfection of the water with chlorine or bromine should inactivate the virus the CDC's website says.



Customers wait in line to purchase tickets May 28 so they can get access to Typhoon Texas over the summer season. The local water park, which features several water slides and a lazy river, has instituted safety measures which meet the requirements of Gov. Greg Abbott's current executive order allowing Texas to open back up.

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Katy prepares for next hurricane season

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

The Willowfork and Fort Bend County drainage districts have been working on several projects since Hurricane Harvey hit the Katy area in 2017 in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season. Several projects have been completed alongside the Harris County Flood Control District, including inspections, repairs and debris removal.

Willowfork Drainage District Director Wendy Duncan said the district's board of directors was able to pull money from an already existing desilting fund which had around \$1.5 million by the time Hurricane Harvey hit. This allowed the drainage district to quickly start cleaning some of the diversion channels.

"During Hurricane Harvey, a lot of material was blown into the diversion channel and it was about four to five feet of silt. It was blocking a lot of the outfalls," Duncan said. "When it receded in October, we began immediately clearing out those channels and cutting a center channel so that we could get positive flow to drain water out of the neighborhood."

Duncan said clearing out the silt allowed for many homes to withstand the Halloween storm on Oct. 31, 2017.

Since then, WFDD has been getting reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for other projects addressing drainage issues since Harvey, Duncan said. The federal government will pay up to 90% of a project and the Willowfork district pays the remainder.

Discussions of a flood tunnel to further aid in water flows during storms are taking place between the Barker Flood Prevention advocacy group and HCFCD. According to Duncan, who is a co-founder of the advocacy group, the project is already in its second phase of studies. Duncan believes this tunnel can be a viable option, if funded, to aid in alleviating overflowing issues in reservoirs that arise during severe rain events.

"From an engineering perspective, there's a lot of positive feelings for the flood tunnel, because we would not be the first to have a tunnel that conveyed water, they're all over the world in multiple parts of the world," Duncan said. "We wouldn't be the guinea pigs for flood tunnels. This has been done multiple times."

BEING PREPARED

As hurricane season quickly approaches, the HCFCD is predicting an above-normal storm season. HCFCD encourages families to start preparing early by:

- Completing a communication plan to determine how the family will assemble in case of a storm, including how they will contact and meet each other during and after a storm.
- Purchasing flood insurance and finding out if their home is in a flood plain.
- Signing up for Flood Warning System alerts offered through the HCFCD website. This system sends text alerts to area residents to inform them of storm and flood dangers.



Willowfork Drainage District's manmade channel helps convey water from the Katy area to Barker Reservoir to alleviate flooding during severe storms. After Hurricane Harvey, channels across the Katy area were blocked with sediment and silt, prompting many removal projects.

Duncan said one drawback of the flood tunnel proposal is the cost. Initial estimates for the project neared \$2.5 billion but that "oftentimes, first estimates are wrong."

On the other side of the Barker and Addicks reservoirs is Buffalo Bayou, a natural channel that also helps with redirecting water from the reservoirs. Mark Vogler, chief drainage engineer for the Fort Bend County Drainage District, said the district has also worked on removing the silt from the channel but has yet to finish addressing the erosion along the bayou.

"The silt was removed but as long as the erosion (isn't) repaired, there's some continued silt occurring downstream. Erosion will continue to progress upstream until it's repaired," Vogler said.

According to Vogler, the project to address the erosion is moving forward in phases. This includes obtaining appropriate permits, protecting the endangered species living in the bayou and then starting work on the site.

HCFCD has also been working on several projects on the Addicks and Barker reservoirs. Current projects in the Addicks Reservoir include sediment removal in the

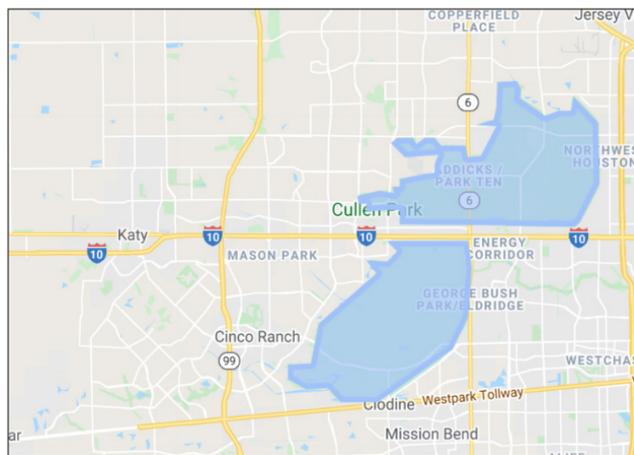
Addicks Bayou and Watershed, as well as excavation for a detention channel. In the Barker Reservoir, the main project addresses sediment removal.

According to the HCFCD website, the five Addicks Reservoir projects' budget nears \$40 million. The Barker reservoir project's current budget is \$25 million.

When it comes to hurricane season preparedness, Vogler said the Buffalo Bayou has been restored to its original design capacity.

"It's not bigger, it's not smaller, it's the capacity it's designed to have," Vogler said. "And so, if you get the same storm, you're gonna get the same flood. But again, the majority of people that flooded were not a result of the channel capacity, it was a result of the water backing up from Barker Reservoir, which is totally out of the county's control."

Although the area is in better shape to convey water due to repairs and desilting done over the last few years, Duncan said the channels in her drainage district will be in the same condition before Harvey.



Addicks Reservoir (top polygon) and Barker Reservoir (bottom polygon) each have watersheds that flow out of the Katy area and into them. Getting water out of the Katy area and into the reservoirs and subsequently safely through Houston is the job of local drainage and flood control districts.

"When Hurricane Harvey hit, our manmade channels of our district were in optimal working condition," Duncan said. "However, despite the excellent system we have, the fact remains that our area can still flood when the gates of the

Barker Reservoir are closed and filled beyond government-owned land and in this respect, we really are no better situated than we were before Harvey. And really, the primary takeaway from that information is to buy flood insurance."

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

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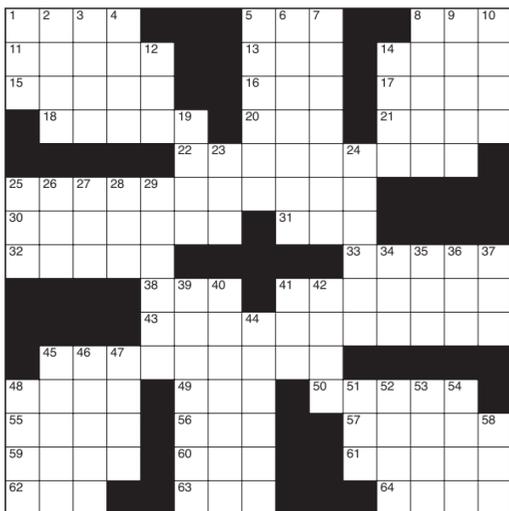
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Swiss shoe company
- Caesar, comedian
- and flow
- Horsefly
- Egyptian pharaoh
- African nation
- Tony-winning actress Daisy
- Initial public offering
- Long-winding ridge
- Guinea peoples
- Fellow
- About aviation
- Able to make amends
- Easy to perceive
- Cut off
- Northeast Thai language
- Earthy pigment
- Water nymphs
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Those who deal
- Apply a new fabric
- Confusions
- "To ___ his own"
- Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
- Heavy cavalry sword
- Partner to pain
- A type of savings account
- In a way, felt pain
- Wide-beamed sailing dinghy
- Consume
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Body part
- Midway between south and southeast
- Cheek

CLUES DOWN

- Indicates a certain time (abbr.)
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Central American lizard
- Muslim military commanders



- One who takes to the seas
- Select jury
- Parts of the small intestine
- Painter's accessory
- Honk
- Ballpoint pen
- Large, dark antelope
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Exhausts
- ___-bo: exercise system
- Not written in any key or mode
- Chinese principle underlying the universe
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- Powdery, post-burning residue
- Company that rings receipts
- Rugged mountain range
- Commercials
- NY football player
- A form of be
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Kindnesses
- Natural electrical phenomena
- Your
- Diana ___, singer
- Upper surface of the mouth
- National capital
- Fluid in Greek mythology
- Renowned jazz trumpeter
- Freedom from difficulty
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Revolutionaries
- Criticize

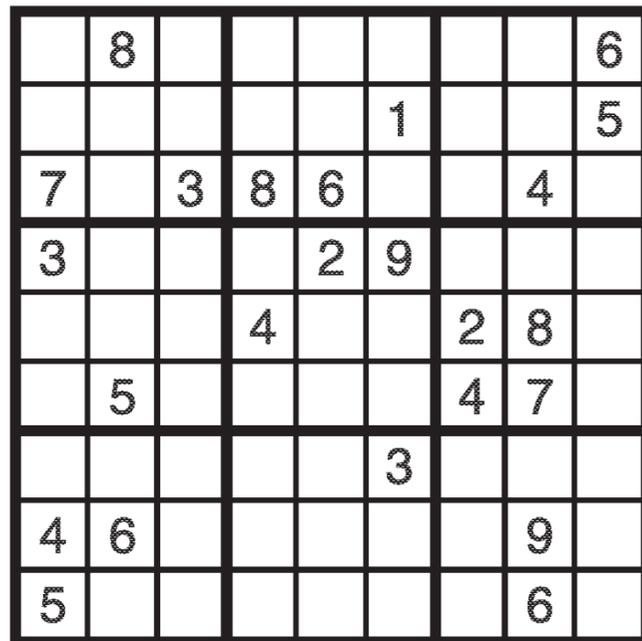
Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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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.

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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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Which songs make you cry?

“Late at night when it’s hard to rest/I hold your picture to my chest/and I feel fine, I feel fine/ But it’s a rainy night in Georgia...” – written by Tony Joe White and performed by Brook Benton.

I need your input. I know this is a terribly personal question, but which songs make you cry? And why? (And would you be miffed if you suddenly, inexplicably started receiving spam emails for Kleenex and Visine?)

I could name a dozen or more songs that reliably put ME on a spectrum of emotional reaction from “misty-eyed” to “weepy” to “bawling” to “No, hold off with the Jaws of Life until I hear what happened to poor little Teddy Bear ...” (Those manipulative so-and-sos behind TV’s “This Is Us” added “You Are My Sunshine” to the mix a while back, darn it.)

I can share such potentially embarrassing information with you because we’re all friends here, because the macho “Big boys don’t cry” mantra was always a bunch of hooley anyway and because if I DON’T hurry up and write SOMETHING, the paper will probably fill this space with “Family Circus” rejects. (“Who left little dotted lines all over a columnist’s career?” “Not Me!” “Ida Know!”)

You would think that a person would swap out painful songs instead of accumulating them over a lifetime, but whoever said “Time heals all wounds” was WRONG. Time doesn’t heal all wounds; it accidentally sews a surgical sponge inside of you before hitting you with an unexpected out-of-network bill!

Certain songs should carry TRIGGER WARNINGS, as they dredge up poignant memories of unrequited love, deceased pets, faraway homes and shattered dreams. Who am I kidding? I’d probably ignore the warnings. I would masochistically insist on a little of “the hair of the dog that bit him” (especially if the dog wound up shot because of rabies).

WHY do I deliberately



DANNY TYREE

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

subject myself to a barrage of time-tested tear-jerkers on YouTube or my MP3 player? Well, sometimes I just need a CATHARSIS.

Granted, fellows who say things like “Sometimes I just need a catharsis” are the ones who EXPERIENCE unrequited love more than guys who say, “Sometimes I just need a joint; can I get you one while I’m up?”

My 29th wedding anniversary is fast approaching, but “Leaving On A Jet Plane” still delivers retroactive stress related to my long-distance courtship of my wife. “Watching Scotty Grow” is a joyful song, but I get choked up because our son is growing up too fast.

One of the “songs” that is most gut-wrenching for me is actually a recitation: Walter Brennan’s 1962 rendition of “Old Rivers” (written by Cliff Crofford). If you’re not familiar with it, the narrator reminisces about a poor, hardworking neighbor he traipsed along behind as a youngster. Old Rivers is quoted as promising, “One of these days I’m gonna climb that mountain/Walk up there among the clouds/Where the cotton’s high and the corn’s a-growin’/And there ain’t no fields to plow.”

“Old Rivers” resonates because it makes me appreciate the hardscrabble existence endured by my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles during the Great Depression. Of course, it also resonates because I have to get up off the sofa and find the remote so I can watch Walter Brennan in high-definition reruns of “The Real McCoys.” *Sigh*

Seriously, turn on the waterworks and send me those comments.

Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetyades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page “Tyree’s Tyrades.”



Drive-in theaters poised to profit

Here’s one COVID-19 silver lining: The drive-in theater, a uniquely American creation, is doing booming business again.

I’ve long been nostalgic for this wonderful piece of Americana. When I was growing up in the ’70s, my mother and father often packed my five sisters and I into our massive station wagon to see outdoor movies.

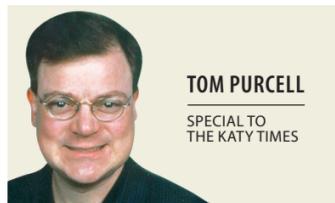
America’s first drive-in theater opened on June 6, 1933 in Camden, N.J. According to History.com, it was the creation of Richard Hollingshead, whose mother found indoor theaters uncomfortable. His idea, which he patented, was to create “an open-air theater” that would let patrons watch movies from “the comfort of their own automobiles.”

The concept was a success, but it wasn’t until 1949, when Hollingshead’s patent was overturned, that drive-in theaters began opening all over the country.

“The popularity of the drive-in spiked after World War II and reached its heyday in the late 1950s to mid-60s, with some 5,000 theaters across the country,” reports History.com. “Drive-ins became an icon of American culture ...”

Kerry Segrave, author of “Drive-in Theaters: A History from Their Inception in 1933,” explains that the boom resulted from several uniquely American trends in the 1950s.

New highway systems allowed entrepreneurs to purchase inexpensive



TOM PURCELL

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

farmland for outdoor theaters, which patrons could easily drive to.

Americans’ love of the automobile also was important. Car designs were bold and creative – the 1957 Chevy is still widely loved as a classic, beautiful design.

American cars in the ’50s weren’t just machines to get people to and from places – they were statements. Americans loved spending time in their cars, including hours at drive-in theaters.

And with the baby boom well under way, for many single-income families with more than two children – like my family – the drive-in theater was one of the few entertainment venues they could afford.

We attended outdoor movies frequently in the mid-1970s and it was always a treat. The cooler was packed with soda pop and sandwiches. The family-size potato chip bag could feed a village. We lowered the tailgate of our Plymouth Fury station wagon and set up a glorious buffet on it.

Soon, the blue sky fell dark and the film projector began rattling.

Black-and-white numbers – “5, 4, 3, 2, 1” – flashed onto the screen. Yellowed 1950s footage advertised hot dogs, popcorn and other concession items we could never get our father to buy. Finally, the feature film – such as “The Love Bug” – would play.

The drive-in theater never was as popular in any other country as it was in America. All great things come to an end, however. In 1978, as operating costs grew and rising land values encouraged entrepreneurs to sell to developers, the drive-in theater began to decline.

The United Drive-in Theatre Owners Association says only 305 drive-in theaters now exist – and, boy, are they needed now, as the coronavirus, and its social-distancing mandates, are impeding freedom to be entertained.

I trust that many more entrepreneurs, the lifeblood of our economy and the engines that will drive our economic recovery, will invent creative ways to get us to the movies. Large, blow-up screens? Temporary theaters in mall parking lots? How about dinner and a movie in restaurant parking lots?

Where there’s a need, a solution quickly follows, as the American drive-in theater is reinvented all over again.

Tom Purcell, author of “Misadventures of a 1970’s Childhood,” a humorous memoir available at amazon.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Send comments to Tom at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

CORRECTION

Volume 108, Issue 22

Katy provides update on flood mitigation bond: Flood mitigation projects in Riceland Terrace are expected to be

finished with engineering in time for the June 8 city council meeting. The article has been corrected above to reflect that.

Katy Times

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SHOOTING

from page 1

available for whoever needs them, regardless of what agency they're with."

The sheriff's deputy fired at Rule after mistaking him for an intruder at the residence at the scene of the call. Rule was wearing his protective gear including his bullet proof vest at the time, according to the FBCSO press release. He was flown to Memorial Hermann Hospital downtown with a gunshot wound to the chest and later died of his injuries.

The Constable for Precinct 4 is Trever Nehls, Sheriff Nehls' twin brother.

Sheriff Nehls said at a press conference that three FBCSO deputies and Rule had responded to a report of a suspicious person in the Sienna Plantation subdivision at about 1:40 a.m. this morning. The deputies noticed a back door that was not secured and then entered the residence to clear the home. Soon after, an FBCSO officer discharged his firearm in the belief that an intruder in the residence, hitting Rule.

First aid was provided immediately, Sheriff Nehls said.

Rule was on the scene as part of the mutual assistance regularly practiced by Fort Bend County law enforcement agencies, Constable Nehls said. Since he was nearby in his assigned area, he responded to the call with the FBCSO deputies to aid them in the call, which is standard practice.

Constable Nehls said Rule was a fine man with nearly 15 years of law enforcement experience. Rule served 14 of those years with the Missouri City Police Department, including time as a detective from 2011 to 2018, Constable Nehls said.

Rule was hired by the precinct four constable's office in September 2019 and was assigned to the Riverstone subdivision as a patrol deputy, Constable Nehls said. As a veteran law enforcement officer, Rule was a mentor to his fellow officers, and had an outgoing personality and loved to interact with the community, he added.

"He was a family man - devoted husband, devoted father - and he spoke often of his family and the love of his family," Constable Nehls said at a late-morning press conference.

Rule is survived by his wife, Eden Rule and their four children between the ages of 13 and 18, Constable Nehls said. Rule's oldest daughter is scheduled to graduate this evening, he added.

Constable Nehls said details as to how the misidentification happened which led to Rule's death was not something he was going to speculate upon.

Sheriff Nehls said the Texas Rangers, Fort Bend County District Attorney and his own office were all conducting investigations into the incident.

"This is a somber day for the entire law enforcement community here in Fort Bend County," Constable Nehls said.

TOUGH

from page 1

the SBA's PPP was still available. To date, Texas businesses have received about \$40.2 billion in PPP funding.

After the third time applying, the Katsabases said they were finally able to get the PPP loan when it renewed, but if it hadn't been for the support of community members, they might not have made it through their third disaster shut down in the last four years - The 2016 Tax Day Floods, getting flooded by Hurricane Harvey and now the new coronavirus pandemic.

Effie said she truly appreciated the public's support not just of Snappy's, but of the restaurant's waitstaff.

"They've been coming in and tipping the staff extra to help them with money," Effie said.

McCoy said he's seen other businesses go through what Snappy's has and the chamber is working to help with new tools, a support group on Facebook and coordinating with local officials to set up locally generated aid programs.

"I just got off a conference call and the chambers in Fort Bend County have put together a small business grant program," McCoy said. "Up to \$8,000 for as many small businesses as possible."

McCoy said the program could be used by Fort Bend businesses with annual revenue less than \$2 million and would be designed to help with rent, purchasing supplies, and other items needed to safely reopen. The application for the grant is expected to be available June 15, McCoy said.

Bobby said opening up dine-in seating again has been a relief, though the initial 25% capacity he was allowed to open at wasn't useful, but now that he's allowed to operate at 50% capacity, it's really helping.

"It's started picking up," Bobby said. "The only thing we're waiting for now is to find out when (Tex. Gov. Greg Abbott is) going to let us open up all the way. It's essentially open and thank God it's picking up."

Bobby and Effie said the other challenge they've had is getting the word out that Snappy's is open. The restaurant has been receiving phone calls asking if they're open and they've had to figure out how to navigate Google to update their status to open because the search engine had flagged the eatery as "temporarily closed."

McCoy said he has heard similar concerns about getting the word out about reopening from chamber members and business owners. To help, the chamber is launching a subscription which allows non-member businesses to announce

HELPING HANDS

The programs and references below are available to help businesses which are struggling due to the new coronavirus pandemic and its economic impacts.

ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN (EIDL)

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration
AID AVAILABLE: Up to \$10,000
ELIGIBILITY: Agricultural businesses
PROCESS: Apply at <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOAN

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration
AID AVAILABLE: Varies by business
ELIGIBILITY: Small businesses
PROCESS: Apply through local lenders

MAIN STREET LENDING PROGRAM

AGENCY: Federal Reserve
AID AVAILABLE: Varies by business
ELIGIBILITY: Fewer than 15K staff, \$5 billion or less in 2019 revenue
PROCESS: Still in development

SBA EXPRESS BRIDGE LOANS

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration
AID AVAILABLE: Up to \$25,000
ELIGIBILITY: Have an existing relationship with SBA
PROCESS: Apply at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

CITY OF FULSHEAR SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

AGENCY: City of Fulshear
AID AVAILABLE: Up to \$200,000 citywide
ELIGIBILITY: Small businesses in Fulshear city limits
PROCESS: Visit <http://www.fulsheartexas.gov/businesses/covid-19.php> to apply

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES MAY BE FOUND AT:
www.fulshearkaty.com
www.katychamber.com

— Compiled by Sandra Sadek

their opening on the chamber's website. The chamber is creating a new search engine called TriCountySearch.com which is expected to go live soon. The search engine will provide an updated status for the businesses and help keep money in the local economy, McCoy said.

Still, McCoy said businesses are having a hard time because demand is low and people are still ordering online rather than going to local businesses because they're worried about keeping their families safe from COVID-19.

"The stumbling blocks right now are simply the lack of demand because people were being told to stay home and people aren't coming into their businesses. They've had to lay off. When everything comes along and demand goes down, you've still got to pay the rent," McCoy said.

It's also hard to get people to start working again, Bobby said. He's currently looking for a cook, but is having a hard time finding someone because many of the people who lost their jobs are making more money on unemployment under the CARES Act than they would at a job.

"They're making more money. You think they want to be working? They want to come back when they finish the (unemployment) money," Bobby said. Under the CARES Act, those on un-

employment receive \$600 in addition to their regular unemployment insurance benefits according to the Texas Workforce Commission which manages the state's unemployment claims.

McCoy said chamber members are complaining about the same thing the Katsabases are.

"Staff aren't coming back because they're actually making more money from government assistance than they were when they were actually working," McCoy said.

However, according to rules to remain eligible for unemployment, TWC and federal guidelines indicate that workers must actively search for employment and accept suitable work if it is offered to them.

Despite staffing concerns and financial challenges, McCoy said he believes with the aid available and the demand that will be coming as the state continues to open up, area businesses will adapt and find ways to continue to operate in the Katy area - especially if they ask for the help they need.

"We do have the proper help from the chamber, the state and the SBA. There is help. All you've got to do is ask for it and apply for it and it is available to you," McCoy said.

WALLER

from page 1

A \$12,500 payment and agreement with the Fort Bend Children's Advocacy Center was also approved by the Court. The center is a nonprofit agency serving child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect through Court Appointed Special Advocates and the Advocacy Center. The payment was allocated in the 2020 budget.

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon gave a COVID-19 update and said the county may be "leading the pack" with the number of new cases in the Houston-area counties relative to its population. The cases are mostly close contact infections. Duhon said there are no identified hot spots in the county so far but reminded residents that "reopening the economy does not mean letting your guard down." He advised people continue to practice social distancing and wear masks while out. As of May 26, Waller County has 15 active cases. No fatalities have been reported yet.

The court opened two proposals for Administration/Profession-

MEETINGS

The Waller County Commissioners' Court meets Wednesdays at 9 a.m. at the Waller County Courthouse in Hempstead. Meetings are currently being held virtually, including the public comments portion of the meeting. Local callers should call 979-921-6212 and non-local callers should call 800-576-1131. User code is 14329937.

al Services for the 2020 County Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant Program and will be reviewing those.

The court also accepted a Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 19 Gulf States Regional Law Enforcement Technology Assistance Initiative grant from the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The grant amounted to \$101,831 and the 2020 budget will be amended accordingly.

MOLD

from page 1

dorms, office space and communication systems tied back to City Hall, Hastings said.

"They're being well taken care of and I know it's an inconvenience for everybody but even in the times that we're in, it's just not an overnight fix," Hastings said.

At the moment, there is no set date for the fire station to reopen, Hastings said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mold grows in moisture-heavy areas, such as around leaks in roofs, windows or pipes, or where there has been a flood. It can grow on paper, cardboard, ceiling tiles and wood, as well as dust, paints, wallpapers, insulations, drywall, carpet, fabric and upholstery.

The CDC says mold can cause several health effects, including a stuffy nose, sore throat, coughing or wheezing, burning eyes, and skin rash. People with asthma or who are allergic to mold may have more severe reactions. Immune-compromised people and people with chronic lung disease may get infections from the mold.



SANDRA SADEK

The Katy Fire Department is temporarily operating Station 1 out of the Fussell Senior Center due to a mold infestation at the actual station. City officials have said they are working on a solution, but getting mold remediation taken care of is difficult due to COVID-19's impacts.

KATY TIMES
PET OF THE WEEK

MEET LEO

11-month-old Leo came in with his brother Roux. They seem to be bonded so we would like them to be adopted together.

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Nine Katy golfers honored by HAGCA

Five earn all-area first team, four more garner all-area second-team honors

By COLE MCNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Nine Katy ISD golfers were recently recognized with spots on all-area teams as awarded by the Houston Area Golf Coaches Association. Seven Lakes High School had the most with five total selections, followed by two from Cinco Ranch and one each from Taylor and Tompkins.

The Seven Lakes Spartans' all-area selections were split between two female first-teamers, two male second-teamers and another female second-teamer. Freshman Maelynn Kim and junior Lauren Nguyen were the all-area first team representatives for Seven Lakes on the girls' side with junior classmate Grayson Heilman earning the second-team spot for the Lady Spartans. Junior Van Miller and sophomore Ted Sui garnered all-area second-team recognition for their seasons in Seven Lakes colors.

The Cinco Ranch Cougars had one first-team representative as well as a second-team honoree. Sophomore Holden Kittelberger landed on the all-area first team and junior Mallorie Luitwieler earned a spot on the all-area second team for the Lady Cougars.

Kevin Kim was the Taylor Mustangs' lone representative although it was a first-team nod for the junior who won the individual district championship as a freshman.

Another golfer who has made noise since being a freshman is Tompkins' lone honoree, Elina Sinz. The senior ended her Lady Falcon golf career a four-time team MVP, three-year varsity captain, earning all-district honors all four years and obtaining all-region honors three years.

Sinz was also named to the Texas Golf Coaches Association's all-state first-team this year for her second career all-state honor. On Feb. 5, she signed her letter of intent to play golf for the University of Auburn Tigers next year.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Nine Tompkins student-athletes signed their letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers at the next level on Feb. 5. Elina Sinz, second from left, was among the Falcons at the signing ceremony and will join the Auburn Tigers next year. Sinz was recently honored with all-area first-team recognition from the HAGCA.



Taylor junior Kevin Kim recently earned all-area first-team honors from the Houston Area Golf Coaches Association. Pictured is Kim after taking second place from a two-day tournament at the Blackhorse Ranch Golf Course in February.

H.A.G.C.A All-Area Awards Released:

Thank you to all the coaches who nominated their players to represent the Houston Area as outstanding golfers!

H.A.G.C.A. Boys All-Area First Team

- Jacob Barow - Brazoswood
- Nicholas Canales - LaPorte
- Carson Cooper - Oak Ridge
- Hunter Drotts - Clear Creek
- Brecken Franklin - Lake Creek
- Kevin Kim - Katy Taylor
- Holden Kittelberger - Katy Cinco Ranch
- Vishnu Sadagopan - Shadow Creek
- Matthew Spaulding - Klein Cain
- Jeffrey Zatorski - Houston Memorial



H.A.G.C.A. Girls All-Area First Team

- Natalie Cao - Fort Bend Clements
- Anne Chen - Fort Bend Clements
- Reagan Gray - Fort Bend Ridge Point
- Angela Guo - Clear Lake
- Kiana Hsiu - Fort Bend Elkins
- Maelynn Kim - Katy Seven Lakes
- Jackie Nguyen - Houston Memorial
- Lauren Nguyen - Katy Seven Lakes
- Elina Sinz - Katy Tompkins
- Zoe Slaughter - Houston Memorial
- Halle Whitney - Magnolia

H.A.G.C.A. Boys All-Area Second Team

- Walker Bergen - Houston Memorial
- Cameron Curtis - Clear Falls
- Grant Greathouse - Magnolia
- Boris He - Fort Bend Clements
- Bryant Hiskey - Houston Lamar
- Princeton Hoang - Fort Bend Elkins
- Van Miller - Katy Seven Lakes
- Preston Rouse - Houston Memorial
- Jacob Salazar - Clear Creek
- Andrew Spaulding - Klein Cain
- Ted Sui - Katy Seven Lakes

H.A.G.C.A. Girls All-Area Second Team

- Nicole Anderson - Conroe Oak Ridge
- Brandee Flemming - Magnolia
- Grayson Heliman - Katy Seven Lakes
- Trinity Le - Clear Creek
- Kaydee Lowe - Magnolia
- Mallorie Luitwieler - Katy Cinco Ranch

H.A.G.C.A. Boys All-Area Third Team

- Johnny Cooley - Houston Memorial
- Kirk Evans - Fort Bend Clements
- Gavin Franck - Magnolia
- Tyler Gardner - Houston Memorial
- Spencer Gray - Houston Memorial
- Will Overall - Houston Memorial
- Andrew Pearson - Clear Creek
- Trey Ponce - Clear Creek
- William Sammons - Oak Ridge

The full list of the Houston Area Golf Coaches Association all-area team awardees. Nine Katy ISD golfers made the list with five on a first team and four on a second team.

Fans will soon be allowed to attend outdoor pro games

By ALEX SAMUELS
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

In a new proclamation, Gov. Greg Abbott announced that fans will be allowed at outdoor professional sporting events in most Texas counties with limited occupancy, under a new expansion of his most recent wave of economic reopenings.

Starting May 29, all Texas counties — excluding Deaf Smith, El Paso, Potter and Randall counties — were able to host in-person spectators for outdoor sports in venues as long as visitors are capped at 25% capacity. Leagues first had to apply to — and receive approval from — the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Under the revised rule, fans are still banned from attending indoor sporting events in person. The rule does not address college or high school athletics.

Abbott had already allowed certain professional sports — basketball, baseball, car racing, football, golf, softball and tennis — to resume in Texas starting May 31. He'd initially said those games would go on without fans in the stands.

The revised order was issued May 22, according to Abbott's office, and while it was subsequently



MATTHEW EMMONS-USA TODAY SPORTS

Dallas Cowboys fans cheer during the second half of a game against the Los Angeles Rams at AT&T Stadium.

posted on the Texas Department of State Health Services website, the governor's office did not publicize it. The Austin American-Statesman first reported on

the existence of the revised order the morning of May 27, after which Abbott's office posted it on his website. His latest announcement

comes nearly a week after the governor said the state is working to start the college football season on time, with at least some enthusiasts in attendance.

"If you want a prediction, my prediction is yes, we are gonna have college football beginning as scheduled ... with at least some level of fans in stands," Abbott said Friday in an interview with KXAN-TV in Austin.

The health agency's protocols for adult recreational sports participants include a recommendation of wearing face masks during sporting events and practices, screening individuals for symptoms of COVID-19, and using and carrying hand sanitizers.

Spectators, meanwhile, are encouraged to avoid being in groups larger than 10, maintain a 6-foot distance from others when possible and wear cloth face coverings.

Regular COVID-19 testing is also recommended throughout the professional sports season.

On May 26, Abbott issued a separate proclamation allowing food courts in shopping malls to reopen immediately and giving the green light for water parks to begin operations with limited capacity starting Friday.

The May 27 announcement comes as the total number of coronavirus cases in Texas increased to 57,921, including 1,562 deaths, according to the latest data from the Department of State Health Services. Out of Texas' 254 counties, 230 are reporting cases.

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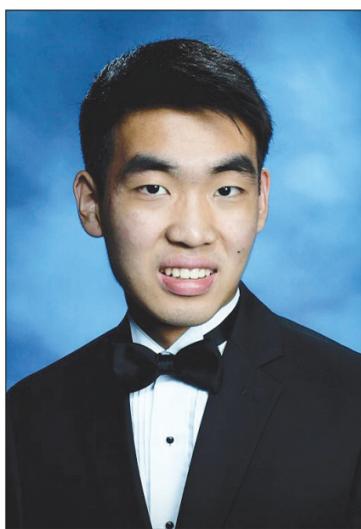
TOMPKINS HIGH SCHOOL



CINCO RANCH HIGH SCHOOL



Jimmy Lee Zhang
Valedictorian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: Carnegie Mellon University
MAJOR: Computer Science
GPA: 4.8438



Edward Peihua Lu
Salutarian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
MAJOR: Math and Computer Science
GPA: 4.8095

KATY HIGH SCHOOL



Maverick Anderson
Valedictorian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: University of Texas in Austin
MAJOR: Chemical Engineering
GPA: 4.8281



David Wu
Salutarian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: University of Waterloo in Canada
MAJOR: Computer Science
GPA: 4.8125

MAYDE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

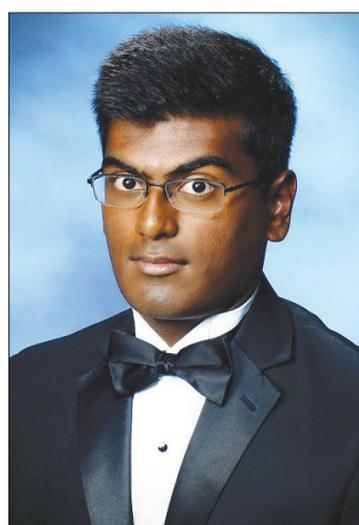


Thuan Thi My Doan
Valedictorian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: University of Texas in Austin
MAJOR: Biochemistry
GPA: 4.7857



Juliet Dhanie Meas
Salutarian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: University of Texas in Austin
MAJOR: Finance
GPA: 4.7857

MORTON RANCH HIGH SCHOOL



Abhinav Jayaraman
Valedictorian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: University of Texas in Austin
MAJOR: Computer Science
GPA: 4.8



Matthew Marin
Salutarian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: Texas A&M University
MAJOR: Chemical Engineering
GPA: 4.7586

PAETOW HIGH SCHOOL



Kenny Bryan Hung
Valedictorian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: University of Houston
MAJOR: Engineering
GPA: 4.7077



Daniela Maria Macias
Salutarian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: University of Houston
MAJOR: Strategic Communications
GPA: 4.6441

SEVEN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL



Vineet Paidisetty
Valedictorian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: Baylor University
MAJOR: Biochemistry
GPA: 4.8594



Sriya Kakarla
Salutarian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: Rice University
MAJOR: Psychology and Neuroscience
GPA: 4.8451

TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL



Michelle Mengfan Li
Valedictorian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: University of Pennsylvania
MAJOR: Finance
GPA: 4.8676



Gabriela Cortes Arias
Salutarian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: Stanford University
MAJOR: Aerospace Engineering
GPA: 4.8507

TOMPKINS HIGH SCHOOL



Nicolas Matthew Kao
Valedictorian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: University of Texas in Austin
MAJOR: Business
GPA: 4.8545



Ramandeep Singh Sethi
Salutarian
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: University of Texas in Austin
MAJOR: Finance
GPA: 4.8472

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!



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Sandra Lynn Raschke was born on June 11, 1957, in Newnan, Georgia to William Edwin Tillison and Margaret Ann Church Tillison. Lynn grew up in Marietta, Georgia and would become a dedicated and lifelong member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 1975, Lynn graduated from R.L. Osborne Senior High School, in Marietta, Georgia. She then attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education. After graduating, she accepted a job offer in Houston to teach in Spring Branch Independent School District. After her first year of teaching, Lynn accepted an assignment to serve God on an 18-month mission in Santiago, Chile. It was through this mission of service and immersion, she became fluent in Spanish which would serve her career as a teacher and was a tremendous benefit to her beloved



SANDRA LYNN RASCHKE
1957-2020

Katy community. When she returned to Houston from her mission, she went to work for Houston Independent School District, where she taught elementary education for four years. Then, she joined Katy Independent School District, where she taught for two years at Sundown Elementary School, ten years at Zelma Hutsell Elementary School, and 14 years at Robert King Elementary School, where she officially retired in

2015. During her 31-year teaching career, she mostly taught in kindergarten through second grade, but her greatest passion was working with kindergartners. With her fluency in Spanish, Lynn was an exceptional Bilingual Kindergarten Teacher, helping many children gain a language foundation for their education and the rest of their lives. Even after her retirement in 2015, she felt called to continue helping children and soon returned to the classroom as a long term substitute teacher, working nearly the same long hours as she had before retiring.

Lynn was a well-known teacher and everyone loved her. Her instinctive compassion and animated manner of teaching assisted all of her students throughout the years to develop a love for her determination and attention. One student she had taught, who had become an Ivy League graduate, gave a speech at a teach-

ers' conference, mentioning Lynn as the most influential teacher she had throughout all of her years of schooling. This former student wasn't the only one though; many former students that Lynn had taught talked about Lynn being their favorite teacher.

Her passion for teaching others also included teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to adults in night classes and teaching Primary and Youth Women in her church.

On June 14, 1986, Lynn married Randall Raschke in Dallas, Texas. Together they shared a beautiful life and had three children: Karl, Emily, and Michael. Lynn was an exceptionally loving mother, a wonderful wife, and a true matriarch of her family. Lynn was an angel in Randall's eyes and those of her children. Always looking for the positive, she stubbornly refused to see the bad in anyone and was an extremely forgiving person. Lynn was close to all of her children and was very

involved in their lives. Her children will tell you that she would always stop what she was doing and take time to listen attentively to whatever was on their mind. She loved to hear about their day or about anything that was on their mind. Lynn had a loving heart that was pure and full of positivity. She was a gracious woman who was selfless and devoted. Lynn was an exceptional cook, a strong and independent woman, and someone who was always wanting to give and care for others.

Sandra Lynn Raschke passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2020, at her home in Katy, Texas at 62 years of age.

She is survived by her loving husband of 34 years, Randall Raschke of Katy; her children, Karl Raschke and his wife Tiffany of Katy, Emily Holcomb and her husband JJ of Rexburg, Idaho and Michael Raschke and his wife Sara of New Braunfels, Texas; her grandchildren, Paisley Holcomb, Jameson Hol-

comb, Rosie Raschke and one on the way, Camila Raschke; her brothers, Richard Tillison of Marietta, Georgia and David Tillison and his wife Marlene of Cartersville, Georgia; and numerous other loving family members and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Edwin Tillison and Margaret Ann Church Tillison; and by her sister, Nancy Gay Tillison.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2020, at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel, in Katy, where funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2020, with Bishop Jim Cline officiating.

To express condolences, please visit www.Schmidt-FuneralHome.net.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1344 W. Grand Parkway South in Katy, Texas. They can be reached at 281-391-2424.

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This devotional page and directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services. For more information, see our Church Directory Online at www.katytimes.com

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2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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Sealed electronic bids, addressed to Memorial MUD, will be electronically received on the CivCastUSA Website until **10:00 a.m. local time, Friday, June 19, 2020** and the Apparent Low Bidders will be automatically generated and posted on the CivCastUSA Website for **Proposed Water Well No. 3 For Memorial MUD Water Plant No. 1**. A **Non-Mandatory** pre-bid conference will be held via conference call number 346-235-0346 ID number 277 748 074#, at **10:00 a.m. local time Thursday June 11, 2020**. Plans, specifications and bid documents may also be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Reproduction charges will apply according to CivCastUSA rates.

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland/100-Year Floodplain
These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Waller County. To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals on 6/4/2020: This is to give notice that the Waller County has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant Program contract 20-065-062-C180 is located in a 100-year floodplain and a wetland, and Waller County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain/wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain/wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. Waller County proposes a Street Improvement project to repair and reconstruction of approximately 49,632 linear feet of driving surface, sub-grade, and road base by milling, applying asphalt, and striping of several streets with incidental repairs to roadside ditches located area-wide and shall complete associated appurtenances at Laneview Road, between FM 1488 and FM 1736, City of Hempstead, Waller Co., Texas. The project shall include activities within approximately .22 acres of the 100-year floodplain and .04 acres of the wetland. There are three primary purposes for this notice: (1) People who may be affected by activities in floodplains/wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain/wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts; (2) An adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains/wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas; and (3) As a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Written comments must be received on or before 6/19/2020 by Waller County at 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX 77445, (979) 826-7700. Attention: Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon, County Judge, during regular business hours. A full description of the project may also be reviewed during regular business hours at 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX 77445. Comments may also be submitted via email to ben@grantworks.net.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to the City of Katy will be received at Katy City Hall at 901 Avenue C, Katy, TX 77493 until 2:30 p.m. local time, Tuesday, June 30th, 2020 and then publicly opened and read for the **WATER, DRAINAGE AND PAVING RE-CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATNA DRIVE, REXORA LANE AND CALORO LANE WITHIN THE RICELAND TERRACE SUBDIVISION**. Proposals received after closing will be returned unopened. Bid opening will do online using the Zoom application:
Web Application: Zoom <https://zoom.us/>
Call in: 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 862 6868 2356
A **MANDATORY pre-bid** conference will be held online on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 2:30 PM. Below is the website and call in information:
Web Application: Zoom <https://zoom.us/>
Call in: 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 859 1477 1783
Each **PROPOSAL** shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount not less than ten percent of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds and Guaranty on the forms provided within five days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening of **PROPOSALS**, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.
The successful bidder must furnish **MAINTENANCE, PERFORMANCE and PAYMENT BONDS** on the forms furnished with the **PROPOSAL**, in the amount of one hundred percent of the total Contract price, from a surety company acceptable to the Owner.
Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Reproduction charges will apply according to CivCastUSA rates.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all **PROPOSALS** and to waive irregularities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the **PROPOSAL**, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the **PROPOSAL**.

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May 28 Puzzle Answers

A	S	A	P	S	O	M	M	E	A	S	C	I
B	E	L	L	B	R	A	E	S	B	O	R	A
B	R	E	A	A	N	I	L	E	E	R	A	S
A	B	E	T	S	A	N	A	R	A	B	B	I
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A	B	A	S	E	D	B	M	W	P	A	N	E
T	A	K	A	S	F	A	A	S	A	H	I	B
A	C	E	D	T	A	B	R	A	C	E	M	E
R	A	N	S	I	M	S	A	T	D	A	L	
				S	I	L	I	C	A	T	E	S
A	A	R	O	N	L	I	T	S	A	M	A	S
G	L	I	A	A	I	R	E	S	L	A	C	E
A	M	O	K	C	A	R	E	S	E	R	I	N
R	A	T	S	T	R	I	N	E	S	I	D	E

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

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Texas sales tax revenue dips 13.2% in May

By CASSANDRA POLLOCK
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas collected about \$2.6 billion in state sales tax revenue in May, leading to the steepest year-over-year decline in over a decade, Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced Monday.

The amount is 13.2% less than the roughly \$3 billion the state collected in the same month last year.

A majority of the revenue collected last month was from purchases made in April and reflect the state's first full-month look at how the novel coronavirus impacted businesses. That is when Texans lived under a statewide stay-at-home order and Gov. Greg Abbott, like leaders across the globe, ordered businesses across several sectors to close to combat the spread of the virus.

"Significant declines in sales tax receipts were evident in all major economic sectors, with the exception of telecommunications services," Hegar said in a news release. "The steepest decline was in collections from oil and gas mining, as energy companies cut well drilling and completion spending following the crash in oil prices."



PHOTO BY EDDIE GASPAR | THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Brentwood Social House in Austin is one of many businesses that cut hours of operation and closed its dine-in services during the coronavirus pandemic.

Monday's announcement is the latest reminder of the economic devastation facing the state — and how recovering from it could last months if not years even as businesses begin reopening their operations, which feed into the sales tax revenue. As social distancing guidelines continue to loosen, Hegar said, the sectors most impacted by the pandemic "should begin to

slowly recover," but "operations resuming at reduced capacity will result in continued reductions in employment, income and activity subject to sales tax for months to come."

Monday's numbers are also reflective of the lag in data as revenues are collected and then reported by the state. Last month, for example, Hegar announced that

the sales tax revenue collections for purchases in March dropped roughly 9% — which at the time was the steepest decline since January 2010.

State leaders are already beginning to offset some of the state's losses, which will all but certainly be at the forefront of the next regular legislative session in 2021.

Abbott, along with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and retiring House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, instructed certain state agencies and higher education institutions last month to reduce their budgets by 5%. A number of agencies and programs were exempted from the directive, including the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Texas Workforce Commission and funding for school districts.

The agencies and programs excluded from the directive make up a majority of the state's general revenue funding, according to the Legislative Budget Board, though the three GOP officials made clear that additional budget cuts could become necessary as the fiscal picture continues to come into focus.

Agencies subject to the 5% reductions have until June 15 to

submit their plans for cuts to the governor's office and the Legislative Budget Board.

Some Republicans have pushed for double-digit budget reductions, arguing the economic fallout merits such an action. After Hegar's last announcement on sales tax revenue in May, the hardline conservative House Freedom Caucus issued a statement calling on state agencies "to immediately identify a minimum of ten percent of non-essential expenditures to eliminate," saying that "the need for strict fiscal responsibility going into the next legislative session" is clear.

At least one state agency has so far exceeded the 5% directive, with Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller announcing last week he had ordered the Texas Department of Agriculture to cut its budget by 10%.

"This is going to be a tough year for Texas families, and state government needs to tighten its belt along with everyone else," Miller said in a news release. "While Texas might just be reopening, we will feel the economic impact of this pandemic for a long while."

House eases restrictions on small-business loan program

By ABBY LIVINGSTON
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House overwhelmingly passed legislation Thursday to ease rules on small-business owners who are participating in a loan program meant to mitigate the economic complications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new legislation was a bipartisan effort, spearheaded by two freshmen — including U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, R-Austin. The goal is to give business owners and operators more flexibility in the rules small businesses must follow in order to have their loans forgiven. The bill now moves to the Senate, where Roy has said he expects it will pass.

"We want to make sure that money is being targeted and focused in ways that's best for those businesses in order to stay alive,"

Roy said in an interview last week as he was shepherding the bill through the chamber. "That's the concern, that businesses are unable to get through this and stay alive."

The legislation made significant changes to the Paycheck Protection Program, a fund aimed at keeping afloat small businesses devastated by the coronavirus pandemic. In this program, small-business owners secured loans that will ultimately be forgiven if they play by the law's rules. Roy's bill loosened those rules for small business owners by:

- Allowing recipients to defer payroll taxes.
- Extending the time in which business owners can use the loans from June 30 until Dec. 31.
- Reducing the ratio of loan funding that must be allocated to payroll from 75% to 60%.

• Extending the period in which small-business owners who are not eligible for forgiveness can pay back the loans to five years.

The bill passed with some Democratic members voting on behalf of colleagues in a newly implemented — albeit controversial — vote-by-proxy process brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roy is a firebrand conservative freshman in the delegation and former chief of staff to U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas. He represents parts of Austin, San Antonio and the Hill Country. He teamed up with Democratic U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips, a fellow freshman from Minnesota, on the legislation. Roy struck up a friendship with Phillips in their first year serving together as they discovered common ground on other fronts including foreign affairs.

In an interview last week, Roy said the partnership is reflective of a growing discontent many freshmen have of the partisanship on Capitol Hill.

"We need to start figuring out how to have simpler, targeted approaches that is less political and less partisan," he said.

Roy and Dean came together to write the bill as each received feedback on the PPP program from stakeholders that included small-business owners and trade groups. Once they settled on the language, they split up to sell it to their respective caucuses.

"Dean did a great job trying to get that through," Roy said.

Disclosure: The Texas Tribune, as a non-profit local newsroom and a small business, applied for and received a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program in the amount of \$1,116,626.



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Velma Louise Engstrom, age 91, passed away on Monday, May 25, 2020. She is survived by two sons, Travis Christiansen and Gaylan Christiansen; seven grandchildren, Angie, Christie, Tasha, Chance, Martin, Marla and Matthew; eight great grandchildren; ten great great grandchildren; her brothers, Charles and James; and her sister, Patsy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Emil George Petersen & Lena Mary Holscher; and a sister, Dorothy.

A long time member of Katy First United Methodist Church, she enjoyed the worship services and choir singing. Recreationally, she enjoyed country dancing and bowling. She also enjoyed regular casino



**VELMA LOUISE
PETERSEN ENGSTROM**
1921-2020

trips to Louisiana and the buffets.

Her dog Taffy was a companion and comfort in her later years. Hummingbirds could be found flying in her beautiful yard among the many

flowers that she grew and tended. Her fascination and watching of the hummingbirds provided peace and tranquility on days that appeared hectic.

A private memorial service will be held at the Schmidt Funeral Home Chapel, in Katy.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be made in memory of Velma Engstrom to Meals on Wheels, 3303 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

To express condolences, please visit www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1344 W. Grand Parkway South in Katy, Texas. They can be reached at 281-391-2424.

Churches confront COVID-19

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 changed life as people know it. In the wake of the outbreak, hundreds of millions of people across the globe were forced to change how they work, how they spend their free time and even how they eat their meals as social distancing measures were enacted in an effort to stop the spread of a virus that, by late-March 2020, had already claimed the lives of thousands of people.

Seemingly no aspect of life was unaffected by social distancing measures, including how people celebrate their faith. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, many religious organizations were forced to reconsider how they interact with their congregants. For example, in recognition of changes within the religious realm prompted by the COVID-19 outbreak, the United Synagogue of Conservative

Judaism provided a free list of tools and resources (www.uscj.org/synagogue-resources) to help synagogues operate more effectively. Similarly, in accordance with an executive order from New York Governor Andrew Cuomo limiting social gatherings, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany canceled all public liturgies, but also announced measures to livestream Masses and even provided a schedule of those masses through its website (www.rcda.org/livemass).

Livestream religious services allow people of faith to continue to celebrate their faith. Such services also provide access to non-members who might nonetheless be looking for guidance during a time that is unlike any many people alive today have ever experienced.

People interested in engaging in faith-based services and programs while social distancing are urged to contact a local religious organization to see how it is providing spiritual guidance during this unique time.

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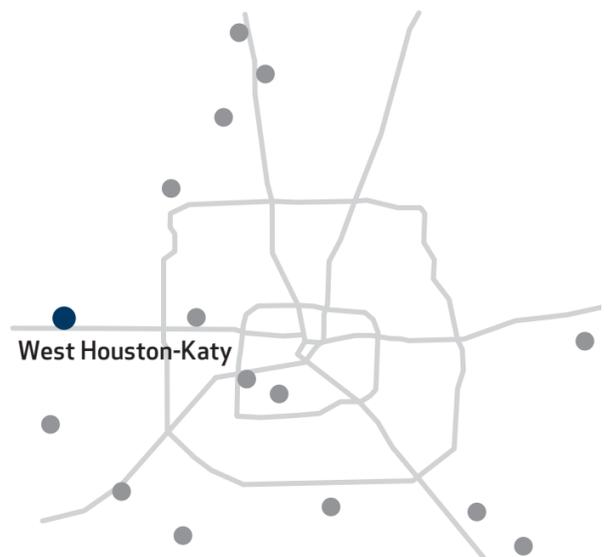


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