

# Katy Times



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THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

## Heavy rain to hit East Texas

By SANDRA SADEK  
EDITORIAL INTERN

As tropical storm Cristobal is expected to make landfall this weekend, Governor Greg Abbott held a press conference about the potential impact of the storm on the state of Texas.

According to the latest models of the storm's trajectory, Cristobal is expected to hit the state of Louisiana the hardest but could still bring heavy rainfall to deep East Texas. However, Abbott reminded citizens to remain vigilant as a change in conditions could force the storm westward, making Texas a focal point.

Abbott said the storm will likely remain a tropical storm but still has the potential to become a hurricane. Heavy rain is expected in deep East Texas and high winds are expected in Southeast Texas.

Abbott reminded emergency

See **RAIN**, page 3

# PEACEFUL PROTEST



SANDRA SADEK

The protest at Katy Park began at 5 p.m. and went until about 9 p.m. and included a march around the park, guest speakers, one dancer and a rapper. Sign language interpreters were on hand to ensure those with hearing disabilities could partake in the message the student organizers and community leaders expressed.

## Speakers address black experience in Katy

By COLE McNANNA, R. HANS MILLER and SANDRA SADEK

More than 1,000 Katy area residents of all ages, races and genders came together to protest the death of Houston native George Floyd, who died in Minneapolis, Minn. police custody May 25 and call out what they called systemic racism in the U.S. The nearly four-hour long event remained peaceful with officers from Katy area law enforcement agencies providing security but keeping their distance from the student-led event.

Organized by three Katy ISD students, the event consisted of a march around Katy Park and concluded with guest speakers from all over the area and a few from out of state. Protesters chanted "Black Lives Matter" and "Hands up, don't shoot" in addition to Floyd's name and names of other African Americans killed in police shootings such as Breonna Taylor.

Foyin Dosunmu, one of the three organizers of the protest which included a march around the park spoke about the stereotypes she feels are assigned to black people.

"As I get older, I begin to question who taught me to hate the texture of my hair. Who told me my nose was too big. Who told me my skin was too dark - my voice too loud," Dosunmu said. "My momma always told me black was beautiful but how could I believe black was beautiful when the things that set me apart from my white peers made me look like an outcast."

Originally set for the Mary Jo Peckham Park, the protest was moved to Katy Park after Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz stepped in to aid the students in accommodating the protest and connecting them to black community leaders.

Following the march, guest speakers and students spoke near the park's pavilion about their experiences with racism.

Twins Sydney Hart and Ethan Hart, Cinco Ranch High School students, gave a joint speech about being black in the Katy area.

"I've heard it said that children are the future. Does it not count for people like me? At what age do I go from being an innocent child to being a threat?" Sydney said.

A young student named Hope shared her experiences as a black child in Katy.

"In just the third grade, I was called the N-word and spat on, on a bus ride home from school. And from there, I was instantly aware - I was other from my peers," she said. "In 2012, I witnessed Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old boy die. Being informed about something like that at such a young age really took a toll on me. And I remember asking my mom, why was he shot? What did he do? Why him?"

See **PROTEST**, page 5

### BE READY

As hurricane season is in full swing, the CDC recommends the following tips to ensure safety:

- **PREPARE FOR A HURRICANE:** Take basic steps now to ensure your safety should a storm hit.
- **GET EMERGENCY SUPPLIES:** Stock your home and your car with supplies.
- **MAKE A PLAN:** Create a family disaster plan.
- **PREPARE TO EVACUATE:** Never ignore an evacuation order.
- **PROTECT OLDER ADULTS:** Understand older adult health and medical concerns.
- **PROTECT YOUR PETS:** Ensure your pet's safety before, during, and after a hurricane.

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R. HANS MILLER

Fortuna Drive (pictured above) and Patna Drive are slated to have curb and gutter systems and other drainage improvements installed to reduce flooding on the north side of Katy in Riceland Terrace. Work is expected to be completed in 2022.

## Katy gets clean bill of financial health

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

Whitley Penn consultant Lupe Pena delivered a clean bill of financial health for Katy at the city's July 8 City Council meeting in the form of an unmodified finding of the city's 2019 annual financial report - commonly referred to as a CAFR.

"This Audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, so a very clean report in regards to the city's financial statement," Pena said.

As of Sept. 30 of 2019, the report indicates total revenues for the city of more than \$43 million with total expenditures of about \$50 million which accounts for items such as bonds

See **REVIEW**, page 3

## Hospitalizations rise as state opens again

By SHANNON NAJMABADI  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

For the second day in a row on June 9, Texas reported a record number of patients hospitalized with the new coronavirus, a metric Gov. Greg Abbott has said he's watching as businesses continue reopening and limits on their operations are loosened.

Data released Tuesday by the Texas Department of State Health Services shows 2,056 people were hospitalized with COVID-19, up from 1,935 the day before. The previous high was May 5, when 1,888 people were hospitalized.

The figures come a little more than a month since Abbott's statewide stay-at-home order ended and he began a phased reopening of businesses. It also comes about two weeks after Memorial Day.

A spokesman for Abbott's office did not respond to a request for comment Tuesday night.

The hospitalization figures — and the total number of new infections — have trended upward since about late May. Experts have said there's a lag between when changes in people's behaviors, like more social interaction, are reflected in coronavirus case data. It takes about 9 to 16 days to see increased

infections, and generally another 5 to 7 days to see changes in the numbers of people hospitalized, said Rebecca Fischer, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the Texas A&M University School of Public Health. (Some individuals are only diagnosed once they make it to the hospital.)

"In terms of new infections, we are seeing a surge ... in part attributed to activities surrounding Memorial Day weekend, such as gatherings where protective behaviors may have been lax," she said.

Since then, Texans have protested police brutality across the state, sparked by the killing of George Floyd — who died in police custody after a Minneapolis police officer was filmed kneeling on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

"I'm concerned but not yet alarmed," Abbott told a North Texas television station. "I look at Amarillo that was a hot spot zone a couple of weeks ago where they had a lot of concerns. We had surge response teams that addressed it, and now their hospitalizations are going down."

Texas has 15,400 available hospital beds and 1,700 available ICU beds, the data shows. There are

See **HOSPITALIZATIONS**, page 3



## Waller court talks protests, virus testing

By SANDRA SADEK  
EDITORIAL INTERN

Waller County Commissioners discussed the nationwide protests regarding law enforcement's relationships with minority communities and announced a new mobile COVID19 testing site during their June 3 meeting.

### Testing

Judge Trey Duhon announced a new mobile drive-thru COVID19 testing site on June 5 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Waller County

Community Center, located on 21274 FM 1098, Prairie View. Registration opens 48 hours prior. Residents can log on at [txcovid-test.org](http://txcovid-test.org) or call (512)-883-2400. The location can screen up to 120 people.

Duhon said the county is still working on obtaining a regular testing center through the use of CARES Act funds.

### Protests

In light of the recent protests across the country, Precinct 3 Commissioner Jeron Barnett addressed the situation and relationship between the community and law

enforcement during the public comment section of the meeting. He emphasized that law enforcement needs to continue to honor the badge and oath they took.

Barnett asked community leaders to sit down together and come up with a plan of action to "bring about an understanding between the community and law enforcement."

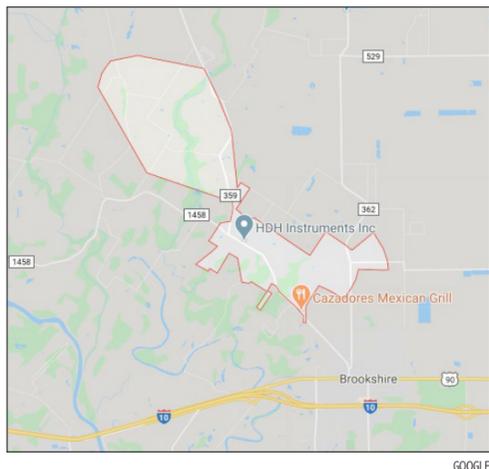
"It's going to take time and we can start it here in Waller County," Barnett said.

### Other Items

The court also approved the re-nomina-

tion of Brian Cantrell and Justin Beckendorff to the Houston-Galveston Area Council Advisory Committee for the remainder of the June 2019-May 2021 term. They will be representing the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Council.

*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.*



Pattison is a small but growing town to the west of Katy and north of Brookshire at the intersection of FM 359 and FM 1456.

## Pattison CC OKs permit agreement

By SANDRA SADEK  
EDITORIAL INTERN

Pattison's City Council approved an interlocal permit agreement with Waller County and a contract for new signs as well as appointed a deputy city secretary during their June 2 videoconference meeting.

An interlocal agreement between the county of Waller and the city of Pattison for on-site sewage facility permits and inspections was approved. The agreement would better communications between both entities for approved permits and would align county and city requirements for the permits, which are currently different. Waller County will have to approve the agreement as well.

A contract with Launch Graphics was also approved to design and install four "No Dumping" and 18 "No Thru Trucks" signs. The signs would reflect in headlights to ensure visibility at night. If the reflective signs are selected, the total cost of the signage would amount to \$5,840.34. City Council Member Seth Stokes abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

A deputy city secretary position was approved and appointed during the meeting to aid current City Secretary Christa Molloy with her duties. Lorene Hartfiel has been appointed to the position. She currently works as a paralegal at the Law Office of Scott Link P.L.L.C in Houston and said she has had administrative experience in the past. Pattison Mayor Joe Garcia said the new position's salary will be worked into the current budget.

City council members also reviewed and approved the 2019 Financial Audit done by Seidel Schroeder, a public accounting and business advising company. They approved a stop sign ordinance that designates street intersections as stop intersections, with a penalty amount not exceeding \$200 for violation of this provision.

The city park is also expected to reopen. A reopening date has not been announced yet.

The city of Pattison is also in the running for two \$22,500 grants from the Houston-Galveston Area Council to address tire collection and household hazardous waste and electronic management. The final vote will take place on June 16.

City council meetings for the city of Pattison are held every Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. Meetings are currently being held by videoconference. Members of the public wishing to participate and attend can contact the city secretary via email at [CitySecretary@pattison.texas.gov](mailto:CitySecretary@pattison.texas.gov) or call 281-934-3715.

## Hale, Stone promoted to principals

By SANDRA SADEK  
EDITORIAL INTERN

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski has promoted two internal administrators to new principal roles for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Jessica Hale was appointed as the new principal at Golbow Elementary. She began working for the district in 2008 as a social studies teacher at Cariff Junior High. In 2013, she became the assistant principal at Mayde Creek Junior High. She became the Student Support Administrator in 2015.

Hale has a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Houston as well as a Masters in Educational Administration from Lamar University.

Melinda Stone was appointed as the new principal of Taylor High School after having worked for 22 years in Katy ISD as a teacher, coach, instructional technologist, and administrator. She has taught Spanish at Mayde Creek High School and was promoted to an instructional technology facilitator in 2004. Stone also served as the sixth-grade assistant principal and student support at Mayde Creek Junior High, assistant



Jessica Hale (left) and Melinda Stone (right) have both been appointed as principals within Katy ISD by Superintendent Ken Gregorski.

principal at Tompkins High School from 2013-2016, and as associate principal at Katy High School. Before being appointed as Taylor High School's principal, she worked as the principal at WoodCreek Junior High for the last four years.

Stone has a Bachelor of Arts in both

Communications and Spanish from the University of Arkansas, a Master of Science in Educational Management and Instructional Technology as well as a Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a specialization in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston in Clear Lake.

## Food distributed in Fort Bend County

By SANDRA SADEK  
EDITORIAL INTERN

The Houston Food Bank gave out boxes of food through its new neighborhood supersite in Fort Bend County during a June 2 distribution event.

The new location, located at 7227 W Grand Pkwy S, recently opened in partnership with Fort Bend County and Gallery Furniture. This free distribution event will be hosted every Tuesday and Friday from 2 to 7 p.m. until middle to late June. The only exception to these dates is June 5, during which the Food Bank will not hold a neighborhood site.

Houston Food Bank Strategic Capacity Senior Manager Madison Ziegenbein said they hope to serve 2500 vehicles every time distribution is held.

"You have your dry box, a produce box, frozen meat, and then milk," Ziegenbein said. "And so, on average, that could be about 50 to high 60s in poundage with the intention that it would be for a household, not just a person."

The neighborhood site is managed by Houston Food Bank employees, volunteers, and members of the National Guard, who are helping out with community distribution. To contain the spread of COVID19, the Houston Food Bank has all employees wearing masks and is providing personal protection equipment to volunteers and guardsmen as needed. The food distribution is contactless as well.

"We have cars pull up, pop their trunks, windows up, and we put the items into their vehicle so if someone's worried about being a high-risk population, they don't have to worry about (catching COVID19)," Ziegenbein said.

An estimated 30 volunteers were present at the site, according to Volunteer Service Kitchen Lead Dominique Clark.

The next date for the distribution is June 9. For more information on where to find the neighborhood site nearest to you and dates, visit <https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/covid19/>.



Cars visit the Houston Food Bank's most recent Fort Bend County location on June 2 to pick up boxes of food.



A volunteer places a food box inside the trunk of a car to limit contact and stop the spread of COVID19 at a Houston Food Bank distribution site on June 2.



A group of Houston Food Bank employees and volunteers wear protective gear as they wait for cars to drive by a Houston Food Bank distribution site on June 2.



A National Guard signs for a car to stop as a volunteer loads half gallons of milk in its trunk at a Houston Food Bank distribution site on June 2.

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## Primary runoff elections coming soon

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

After being postponed from their originally scheduled date of May 26, several Katy-area runoff elections are coming up July 14. Residents should remember these important election dates and keep an eye out for upcoming election coverage in the paper and online at [www.katytimes.com](http://www.katytimes.com).

- **JUNE 15:** Last day to register to vote
- **JUNE 29:** First day of early voting
- **JULY 2:** Last day to apply for a ballot by mail
- **JULY 10:** Last day of early voting
- **JULY 14:** Election Day!

Note that all ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day if not postmarked or by July 15 at 5 p.m. if postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Some exceptions apply to those overseas or serving in the military.

## HOSPITALIZATIONS

from page 1

5,900 ventilators available. The number of available beds is seen as a key gauge for the state's ability to handle a potential surge in coronavirus cases and Abbott has said the hospitalization rate — the proportion of infected Texans who are requiring hospitalization — is a benchmark he's closely monitoring. He cited it as an encouraging metric as the state's stay-at-home order expired at the end of April.

In Houston, Dallas and other areas that have seen increased hospitalizations, "we need to drill down and find out exactly why that is," Abbott said.

Hot spots like state prisons and meatpacking plants — which have been recently targeted for mass testing — are responsible for some of the increase in numbers, the state health department said earlier this week. When The Texas Tribune asked a health department spokesman Tuesday what has spurred the increased infections in counties

that don't have state prisons or meatpacking plants, he said he would have to "work more" on that question.

David Lahey, the state's former top public health official, said it's not surprising that the numbers are going up.

"There are a lot of people that are traveling around, and a lot of people aren't doing those basic precautions of wearing a mask while they're near other individuals or washing their hands," he said. "There's ample capacity in the state to handle those cases, but we need to be ready for it."

He expects the numbers to continue rising in part because of Memorial Day, an increased amount of Texans leaving their homes and the police brutality protests.

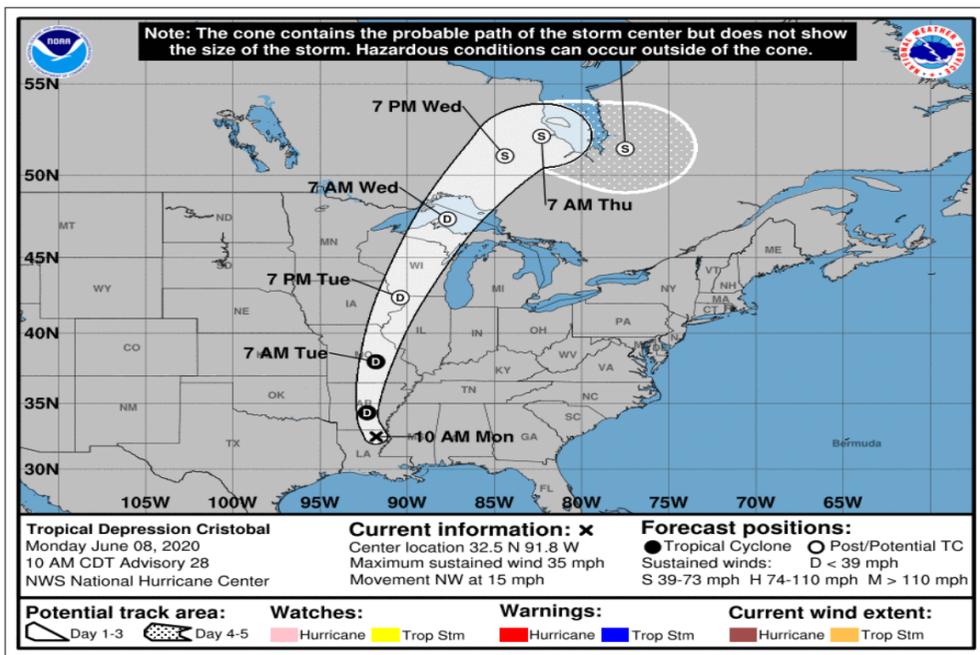
"It's a combination of several factors," he said.

In Texas, among the vanguard of states that loosened coronavirus restrictions, most businesses are allowed to operate at 50% capacity, and restaurants can seat parties of 10 together. On Friday, restaurants can increase their capacity to 75%.



EDDIE GASPAR | THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

For the second day in a row, data released on Tuesday by the Texas Department of State Health Services shows a record number of hospitalizations due to the new coronavirus. The figures come a little more than a month since Gov. Greg Abbott's stay at home order expired, and about two weeks after Memorial Day.



The graphic above shows the projected route for the center of Tropical Depression Cristobal as of June 8. However, Texas authorities warn that rains may increase far to the east and west of the projected route which may also shift to the west, causing more rain in eastern Texas.

## RAIN

from page 1

response teams to be even more careful when reassessing their strategies as the state is still dealing with COVID-19.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management has assigned precautionary resources ahead of this weekend in case Cristobal's trajectory moves to the west. Included

in these resources are Texas A&M Forest Service Saw Crews, Texas Parks and Wildlife water rescue boats, Texas A&M Engineering and Extension Service Urban Search and Rescue and swift water rescue boat squads and DSHS ambulance strike teams. The Texas State Operations Center remains activated at Level II in support of the state's ongoing response to COVID-19.

State agencies involved in the response effort include TDEM,

Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Military Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas A&M Engineering and Extension Service, Texas A&M Task Force One and State Mass Care Team, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

## REVIEW

from page 1

for drainage and other city projects approved by voters.

### Drainage

The city also received an update from Costello Engineering regarding drainage projects on Patna and Fortuna drives in the Riceland Terrace subdivision. Ralph Sadana, a senior partner with Costello, said the projects were out for bid or being engineered and are expected to be completed around May 2022 with a cost of about \$4.25 million.

City Administrator Byron Hebert said funding was in place for the projects on the two drives after city council unanimously approved an agreement with Harris County to use METRO funds to fund a portion of the work. Hebert previously told the Katy Times the city is working to secure funds for drainage projects through partnerships with Harris County and the General Land Office.

The GLO is managing Hurricane Harvey relief funds in Texas.

Saldana said Costello is expecting to finish the bid process in June and will likely have a recommendation to award the drainage improvement contract to a vendor by July 13.

### Fireworks

Mayor Bill Hastings

announced that, despite an announcement on the city's Facebook page earlier in the day, Katy would be having its annual fireworks show near Katy Mills. Hastings said the fireworks show would be smaller than previous years because only the city's deposit and some of the donations received for the event would be used. He explained that the reason it had initially been cancelled was due to a lack of guidance on the issue from the state level.

"Please understand that at the time the decision to cancel was made there was no option to even conduct a public gathering like the fireworks show," Hastings said in a written statement dated June 8. "After reviewing the Governor's Order and speaking with the Katy City Council I've overturned the plan to cancel the event entirely."

The city's Freedom Celebration festival and Katy Summer Nights events remain cancelled out of concern for the increased spread of COVID-19.

According to the city's website, Katy has seen 70 cases of COVID-19 within its limits with 40 of those recovered as of June 8.

Katy City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each week at 6:30 p.m. at Katy City Hall; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings have been held virtually in recent weeks. Visit [cityofkaty.com/about/calendar](http://cityofkaty.com/about/calendar) for details regarding how to log into meetings if you wish to attend.

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

# Katy Times

## SUDOKU

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

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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This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

# Katy Times

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### CLUES ACROSS

- American composer
- Very fast aircraft
- Workplaces
- A mount on a surface
- Small freshwater fish
- Double-reed instrument
- Canadian flyers
- Famed astronomer
- Smooth, shiny fabric
- Profited
- Conspiracy
- Infections
- Chum
- Secondary school (abbr.)
- Resistance unit
- Sound unit
- Ancient city of Egypt
- Crease
- Polished
- For goodness \_!
- College basketball tournament
- Scorches
- Describe precisely
- Thick piece of something
- Frocks
- Indicates near
- Senior enlisted US Army member
- A note added to a letter
- A nose or snout
- Clumsy
- Satisfied to the fullest
- Display of strong feeling
- Popular awards show
- Cuisine style
- Expresses pleasure
- Monetary unit of the Maldives
- Utah city
- Fight
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Body part
- Suspiciously reluctant

### CLUES DOWN

- Fruit of the service tree
- At some prior time

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15			
16				17					18			
19				20				21				
			22				23			24		
25	26	27		28			29			30		
31		32		33		34				35		
36			37		38			39			40	
	41				42			43		44		
			45				46		47		48	
49	50		51			52			53			
54		55				56				57	58	59
60					61				62			
63					64				65			
66					67				68			

- Mongolian city \_\_ Bator
- Strongboxes
- Russian river
- Gurus
- Horse mackerel
- Pearl Jam's debut album
- Confines
- First month of Jewish ecclesiastical year
- Famed Idaho politician
- Prevents from seeing
- Indicate time
- Male parents
- Tab on a key ring
- The Great Dog constellation: \_\_ Major
- Frying necessity
- Former CIA
- The leader
- Produces
- London soccer club
- Closes
- Region in the western Pacific Ocean
- Not present
- Small drink of whiskey
- Begat
- Helps little firms
- Pointed end of a pen
- Fencing swords
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Hymn
- Philippine island
- Flemish names of Ypres
- A way to inform
- Small lake
- Linear unit
- Central Japanese city
- Partially burn
- Sports award
- Part of your foot
- Atomic #21

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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## You won't see that in the media

Each day I get up and follow a pretty straightforward routine. I glance at my email, complain about the aches and pains of middle age to my patient wife and then check social media for news tips.

Inevitably, the first news tip I get seems to be a meme that says, "A VERY IMPORTANT THING HAPPENED - you won't see that in the media!"

That's all well and good - except it's almost universally untrue and seems to be a viewpoint held across the political spectrum.

I'll give two examples.

Example one: Presidential Spending.

"Instead of taking his salary, Trump donated all \$400,000 to the Department of the Interior where it will be used for construction and repair needs at military cemeteries! Media gave this no coverage."

Two things. First, national media has covered the president's donations of his salary. Second, he never donated a year's salary to military cemeteries, and certainly not \$400,000 in one payment. And that's not a knock on the president, it's just how his pay schedule works. The president is paid \$100,000 quarterly and his most recent donation of \$100,000 went toward efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a White House press release. But the more important thing is that the press has reported it - millions of times according to a simple Google search of "president donates salary."

Example 2: Adventures in TikTok.

My wife may poke fun at me for watching TikTok videos, but I've found them to give good insight into things lately. Aside from my weakness for bad "Dungeons and Dragons" jokes and military homecoming videos (I'm not crying! You're crying!) - I find that I can see citizens' views of the items that regularly grace this opinion page on that platform. Lately, it's been filled with videos of police and protesters kneeling in prayer together or protesters stopping looting and violence. Those videos usually come with a disclaimer, "But you won't see this in the media!"

Except, again, you do. A simple search for "police take a knee" churns out 380 million-plus results on Google, while "protesters stop looters" slings out more than 56 million results.

My colleagues and I have conversation after conversation about the apparent lack of support for the press lately. I don't know many in the national outlets, but at local outlets we usually end up at: Well, if both sides are mad, we must be doing something right.



ROB MILLER

SENIOR REPORTER

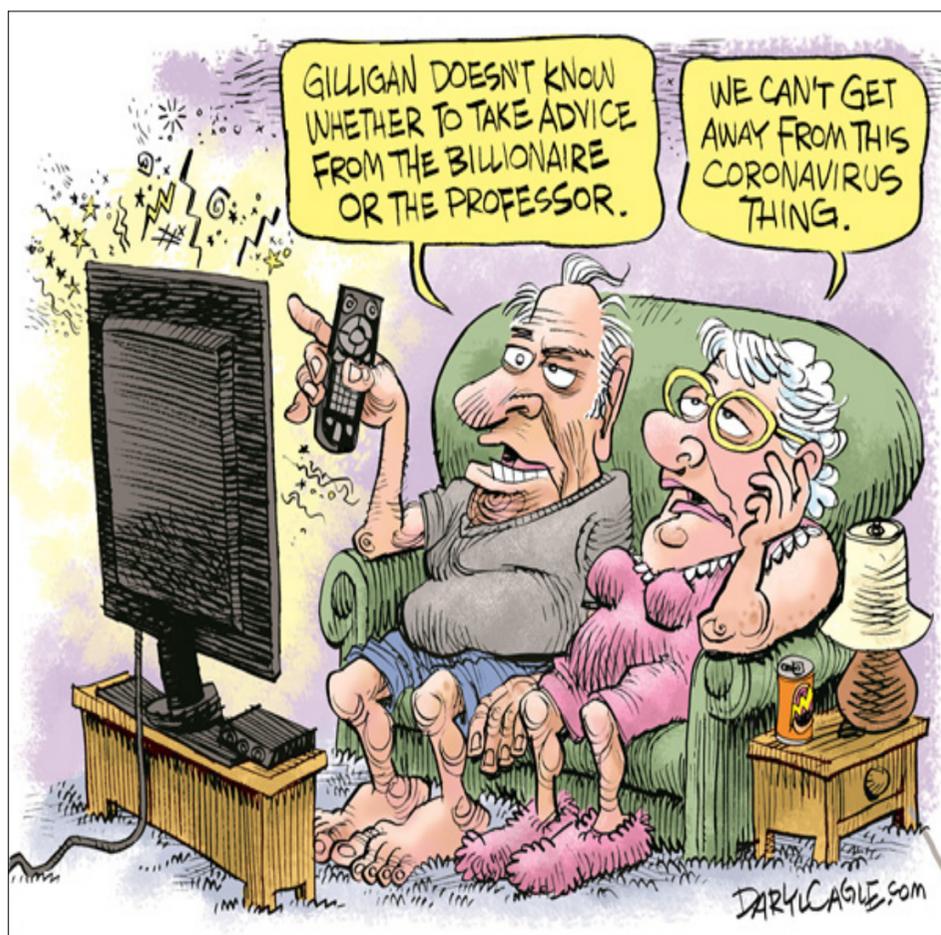
Facetiousness aside, we apparently are angering both sides. So much so that if we show up to cover a rally for either political party, we're jeered at and made fun of. For the conservatives, we're "those damned liberal journalists" and for the liberals we're "the stupid lying media." Add to that the fact that the U.S. - despite our First Amendment - is ranked 45 out of 180 countries worldwide for press freedom and you can see that the false information about journalists in the media has serious repercussions and consequences not just for journalists, but for our nation.

On May 29 police arrested a CNN crew on live television in Minneapolis, Minn. because law enforcement didn't think they were covering it the right way. On the other side of that coin, I have seen videos of protesters attacking journalists. Some didn't want to be filmed looting while others were angry the press hadn't reported on the protests the right way.

Well, ok. But the "right way" according to both sides seems to be to only write articles that support their respective viewpoints. That sentiment goes for coverage of our president, protests, the price of gasoline or whether City Hall is doing enough about drainage.

The thing is - journalists don't write to please our audience. Our outlets may have a certain leaning with their commentary, but when Fox's Tucker Carlson calls out the president for a well-documented lie, he's attacked by conservatives, despite reporting the facts. Or when MSNBC reports poll results favoring Joe Biden's chances to win the presidency by seven percentage points, liberal voices attack MSNBC for numbers that already favor their candidate - but somehow, not quite enough. Trump said what he said. Carlson reported it. The poll showed what it showed. MSNBC reported it. It doesn't matter if the audience likes it. We're here to inform, not blow smoke ... well, you know where.

The press is the watchdog on government. George Floyd's death went viral in large part because of media outlets covering it. Trump has donated millions of his salary to causes conservatives support - and you know the truth of it because of the media, not in spite of it - whether that antimedia meme says otherwise or not.



## America, it's time to listen

Ever gotten the wind knocked out of you? Or been unable to breathe for even a few seconds?

There's pain. There's panic. There's the desperation of trying to restore the vital equilibrium that keeps your heart beating, your brain functioning, and the rhythms of life intact and in sync with each other.

Now imagine that you can't breathe for eight minutes.

Try to wrap your head around what is surely nothing less than the blind, uncomprehending terror and agony of being deprived of oxygen for 480 seconds, even as your pleas for mercy and those of bystanders are being ignored. And then imagine that the person inflicting this torture on you isn't some cartoon villain, but someone sworn to protect and serve the community. And then imagine that his colleagues are just standing there, watching a tragedy unfold before them.

Pile it on top of the little indignities. Being stopped while they're walking for no reason at all. Getting trailed through department stores simply because they're wearing a hoodie. Having a white woman call the cops on you when you reasonably ask her to leash her dog. These aren't urban myths. They're stories and experiences of real people, told again and again, in identical detail.

As a middle-aged, pretty solidly middle class, white man, it's something utterly outside my experience. I'll never know what it's like to go through any of that.

But I've come to know someone who does.

Rob Woodfork and his family moved in next door to mine about a decade ago. Like me, he's a



JOHN L. MICEK

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

journalist. And we bonded immediately over work. Our kids went to school together. We'd debate sports, chew over the news, and talk about our shared love for comic books and the Marvel movies. And there was a fierce competition to make sure that if one of us was mowing our lawn, that the other was out there immediately to keep the pace.

The years went by, and our friendship grew. We'd lose hours standing out in the yard, or sitting on one of our back porches, just talking.

He moved to Washington, D.C. a few years back to work in his home market. And while we don't see each other in person as much anymore, we keep in close touch. I don't have a brother, but Rob's as close as it comes. We've both seen each other through tough times. And I know he feels the same. In that rare instance of men showing actual emotion, we've both said it out loud.

And right now, I'm going to get out of the way, cede the floor to my brother, Rob, and let him tell you what it's like to be Black in America in 2020, and what it'll take to balance the scales of justice:

"People of color are exhausted. Before we can finish mourning one tragedy, another comes seemingly minutes later. Breonna Taylor's murder happened before

I could wipe the tears shed for Ahmaud Arbery, leaving me numb and weak seeing George Floyd killed on video.

"There is legitimate trauma from constantly watching people like us senselessly killed and then seeing lesser consequences - if any - for those responsible.

"Whether in deed or word, we've been told for over 300 years we don't matter here, and we need people within the establishment to shout down those still reinforcing that unjust message."

When I asked him for a way to reconciliation, he continued:

"It starts with listening. White folks who seek to be allies need to put aside personal biases and preconceived notions and listen, with an empathetic ear, to what minorities are telling them about racism. We're not imagining it. Racism is not some card we play to excuse a lack of achievement.

"Trust me when I say: We'd much rather have equality than hand outs or set-asides. What we're asking for is reasonable - life, love and the pursuit of happiness on the same level as white people, and a better understanding from law enforcement that our skin color doesn't make us a threat.

"Frankly, we're tired of asking - and in George Floyd's case, begging - to live. We are American citizens, same as white people. We shouldn't have to ask for American privileges like freedom and equality but we do - and usually pretty damn politely. Please listen."

That's what stays with me: George Floyd begging, "please sir," to let him up, to let him breathe.

We all need to listen. Harder than we ever have before.

## Katy Times

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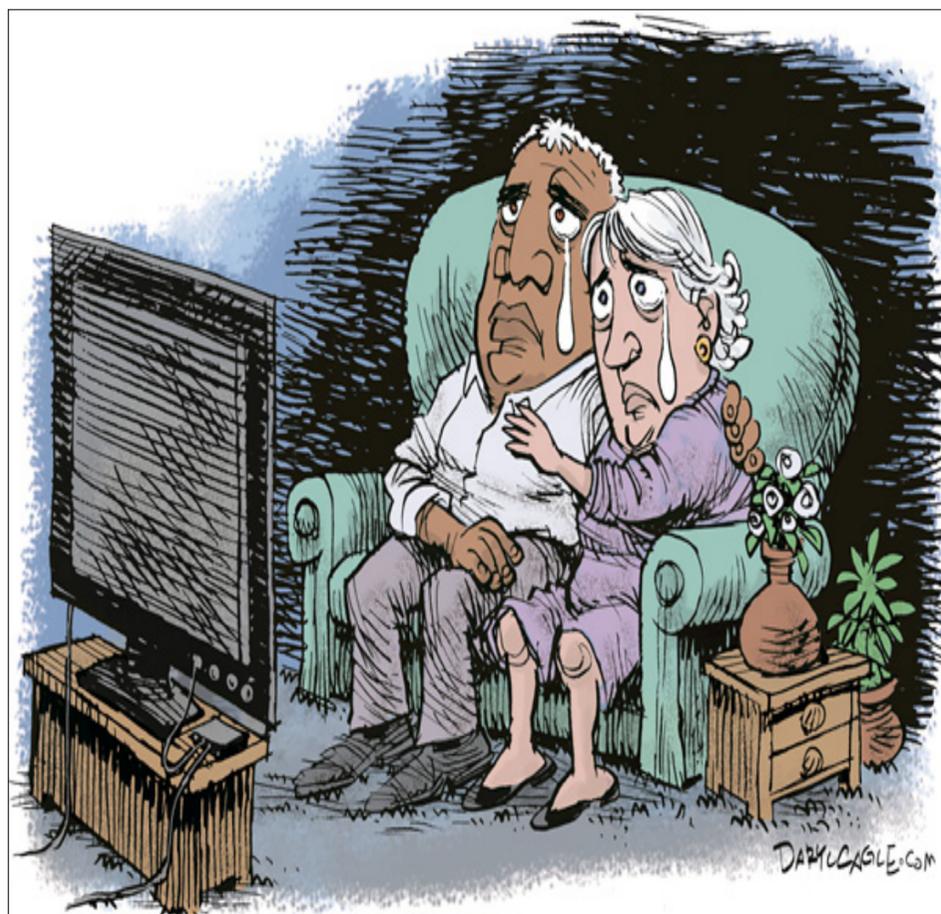
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COLE McNANNA

Many protesters became emotional at the protest and turned to one another for support.



COLE McNANNA

Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins speaks to protesters about their need to participate in the process to make a better America by exercising their right to vote and entering policing and other portions of law enforcement to improve the system for minorities from within.



COLE McNANNA

Organizer Foyin Vosunmu (left with blue mask) addresses protesters at the beginning of the protest.



R. HANS MILLER

The protest, held in one of the most diverse communities in the country, included people of every race and a variety of religious garb could be seen in the crowd. Here a protester displays a sign asking for allies of minorities to say something if they see something wrong.



SANDRA SADEK

A protester displays artwork honoring George Floyd who was put to rest June 9. Like this protester, most who attended the protest wore face masks to protect themselves from the new coronavirus. Organizers stressed the importance of social distancing as much as possible at the event.



SANDRA SADEK

A protester wears a face mask emblazoned with "I can't breathe" which are among the last words of George Floyd and other black victims of police brutality. The use of holds that restrict air and blood flow have been the topic of review in the national conversation surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement and police reform.



COLE McNANNA

Texas Representative for House District 132 Gina Calanni (right) speaks to organizer Erika Alvarez (left in ball cap) at the beginning of the protest. Fort Bend County District Attorney Brian Middleton is pictured as well (in gray suit).



R. HANS MILLER

A family participates in the protest with one child echoing the thoughts of one of the speakers, "When do I go from cute to a threat?"



SANDRA SADEK

High school students participate in the protest march at Katy Park on June 4.

## PROTEST

from page 1

Martin was killed Feb. 26, 2012 by George Zimmerman in what Zimmerman claimed was self-defense. Zimmerman was acquitted in trial and civil rights groups continue to decry the acquittal as unjust. The local police chief was fired for mishandling the case.

Black students from Katy ISD expressed frustration at the lack of coverage of the civil rights movement on an in-depth level along with other African American History issues during their time speaking at the protest.

"Prior to my junior year, the only things Katy ISD covered about black people and our rights were surface levels of slavery, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman," said Korinne Barrau, a Taylor High School senior.

KISD spokesperson Maria DiPetta said the school district does offer African American History in its social studies program, however there is no specific course for black

history. DiPetta also said the curriculum for the school is generally handed down by the Texas Education Agency through the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills program, commonly referred to as TEKS. The district does include black history in its curriculum, but it is dispersed among courses rather than in an African American History course.

KISD's online course catalog includes a course on civil rights for high school students, including a section on African American civil rights movements that cover black activists "expanding the right to participate in the democratic process, including lobbying, non-violent protesting, litigation, and amendments to the U.S. Constitution."

Guest speakers such as Fort Bend County District Attorney Brian Middleton, who is black, said that despite his successful career, he still has to face racism in everyday life.

"No longer are we denying or doubting that there's police brutality. No longer are we denying that there's a disparity in criminal jus-

tice, a racial disparity in America," Middleton said. "Although I don't have any physical scars, I've got a lot of emotional scars from the racism that I've had to face."

Middleton encouraged minority students at the event to become police officers in order to make the police force one that serves minority communities better.

Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins, who was just sworn in as an appointee June 1, shared personal stories he had with his father when discussing being black. His father, George Hollins, is a police officer that attended Jack Yates High School where Floyd went to school.

"As a police officer and as a black man, it pained (my father) to have to tell me how to act when I interacted with police. Because in his job, in his role, he had seen the realities," Hollins said. "That was ingrained in me and I didn't even know that was a bad thing as a young child."

According to Mapping Police Violence, police killed 1,099 people in 2019. Of those killed, African Americans made up 24% despite

being only 13% of the U.S. population. The same data shows black people are three times more likely to be killed by police than white people.

Efforts under both former President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump have seen an effort to increase diversity in the nation's police force under Obama and the establishment of a Commission on Law Enforcement to improve trust between police and communities under Trump.

In a brief statement, Harris County Constable for Precinct 5 Ted Heap said he was pleased with the collaboration and peaceful results of the protest.

"This was a great example of how the expression of free speech, the right to assemble etc was done to perfection with local law enforcement," Heap said. "The collaborative effort between the organizers and law enforcement was fantastic."

A representative from Heap's office said the students had expressed their gratitude directly to Diaz for his assistance in planning the event.

Katy Times was also advised of a business across from Katy High School that was vandalized that evening. Diaz said the vandalism was an attempted burglary that was unrelated to the protest and is possibly related to similar crimes in the area.

Katy PD did not respond to requests for information regarding the two incidences in time for publication.

Other attendees included Katy Mayor Bill Hastings and Texas House Representative for District 132 Gina Calanni.

"Some parents say that the 'I Can't Breathe' commercial is scaring their kids. Well, guess what? I'm scared too," Ethan Hart said regarding a commercial on Nickelodeon. "I haven't been able to sleep because I'm scared I'm going to get killed while at home like Breonna Taylor. I'm scared that if I get pulled over, I might not see my family again like Philando Castile. I'm scared that the last minutes of my life will be painful and replayed for the whole world to see over and over and over again."

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The Katy Times will keep you informed about news in the Katy area including the latest on Katy ISD; the cities of Katy, Brookshire, Fulshear and Pattison; as well as Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties. From coverage of your children's sports teams to what happens at city hall, we'll keep you in the know.



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# BACK IN ACTION



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seven Lakes student-athletes were among those returning to limited, socially distanced strength and conditioning and sport-specific instruction across schools in the UIL on June 8.

## UIL resumes activity, updated guidelines to start June 22

By COLE McNANNA  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Monday morning saw the return of limited, socially distanced strength and conditioning and sport-specific exercises across schools in the University Interscholastic League. It was the first UIL-sanctioned event since the abrupt end to the basketball state championships in March due to the new coronavirus pandemic.

Each student-athlete was questioned for symptoms and had their temperature taken upon entry before joining the group they were assigned to for the entirety of the strength and conditioning session from June 8 to July 31. Within the groups, the student-athletes are to practice social distancing and use the hand sanitization stations strewn about the workout site.

Katy ISD student-athletes from seventh grade up to incoming seniors in high school punched their timecard the first day they were allowed to come back following

the UIL's cancellation of remaining activities on April 17.

On June 9, the UIL came out with guidelines that will start on June 22 which will increase the group sizes in sport-specific instruction as well as increases the allowable capacity for indoor workouts. Outdoor sport-specific training will be able to go from 15-player groups to 25 players in a group.

"Indoor workout activities can be conducted up to a maximum of 50% capacity beginning June 22," the June 9 UIL update said. "Beginning June 22, students may be placed in groups no larger than 15 total students. Each working group should maintain appropriate distance from other working groups."

The UIL prefaced the workout requirements by advising schools to adhere to local guidelines put in place first when contemplating holding non-mandatory workouts.

"Schools should take their local context

into account when deciding whether to offer summer strength and conditioning on campus by monitoring the situation on the Texas Department of State Health Services dashboard," the UIL said. "Schools should follow all local and state requirements when considering strength and conditioning activities."

The previous guidelines remained in place with attendance records being kept although the workouts are voluntary. The update outlined the course of action if a case of COVID-19 is identified in a student-athlete.

"If a positive case is identified among a participant in these summer activities, either staff or student, the group to which that staff or student was assigned and in contact with must be removed from the sessions while all members of the group self-isolate," the UIL said. "If the confirmed individual regularly had close contact outside a single group, then all of the students and staff with whom the confirmed indi-

vidual had close contact shall be removed from workouts for two weeks."

The UIL set a timeframe for when activities can take place but also said the dates were subject to change base on COVID-19 related information.

Junior high programs can run up until the day before the first day of school while high school programs will finish either at the beginning of the fall season or the day before the first day of school, whichever comes first, the update said.

"For athletes that participate in a sport that may start prior to the first day of school (football, volleyball, tennis, & cross country), those athletes may not attend a summer strength/conditioning program or sport specific skill session in any sport once their sport season has begun," the UIL said.

July 3, 7, 8, 20 and 21 were all listed as a "period of no activity" where no schools will be allowed to host student-athletes, the update closed.

## Five Katy ISD cagers named to HABCA all-star teams

By COLE McNANNA  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Five basketball players from Katy ISD were honored on all greater Houston all-star teams as chosen by the Houston Area Basketball Coaches Association. A pair each made the first and second teams in addition to a third-team nod.

Earning first-team distinction were two of the top offensive producers in District 19-6A. Morton Ranch's LJ Cryer collected his second consecutive district MVP honor after averaging 38.9 points per game in his final season. Cryer will represent the Mavericks at Baylor University

next year after finishing his high school career with the fifth-highest point total in Texas high school basketball history.

Mayde Creek's Rommell Williams also represented Katy ISD on the first team after being named District 19-6A's offensive MVP with a point-per-game average of 22.8. In the second half of the district slate, the Midwestern State signee poured in 28.1 points per game to help the Rams clinch a second consecutive playoff berth following a 1-5 start.

A pair of Cinco Ranch teammates closed their careers by earning a spot on the second team all greater Houston in

Jayden Collymore and Derek Dickenscheidt. The former junior high rivals turned three-year lettermen and senior captains for the Cougars also garnered all-district distinction with Collymore making the first-team all-district and Dickenscheidt earning a second-team roster spot.

Another member of the first-team all-District 19-6A made the third team all greater Houston in Tompkins' Hank Sanders. Also a three-year letterman, Sanders guided the Falcons to the regional quarterfinals although they could not get passed the Bellaire Cardinals who fell just short of the state championships which were never completed.



FILE PHOTO BY MARK GOODMAN

Morton Ranch High School's LJ Cryer averaged 38.9 points per game in his final high school basketball season in Katy ISD. He will move on to play for Baylor University in the fall. Here, Cryer goes for the shot in a January game against Seven Lakes High School.

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A. Janice Stewart, 96, of Weston Lakes, passed away peacefully June 1, 2020 in Katy, Texas.

Janice was born on February 11, 1924 to Earl and Aletha Davis Snyder in Edmond, Oklahoma, where she was raised with her older brother E.B. and her younger sister, Ellie, her father running Snyder Grocery Stores and her mother a schoolteacher.

On December 25, 1945, she married Bob Stewart in Edmond and there began her years of travel from state to state (Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Illinois, Wyoming and finally back to Texas) during Bob's career with Ohio Oil Company, which later became Marathon Oil.

In 1946, Janice received a Bachelor's Degree in Interior Design from Oklahoma State University, followed by a Home Economics Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1957. She taught high school in Brooklyn, Mississippi, followed by teaching 12 years of first grade in Orange, Van Vleck and Sweeney, Texas.

When Janice and Bob moved back to Texas the second time in 1960, they became members of the Bay City Country Club where she found another love... GOLF! With the transfer to Lawrenceville, Illinois, she retired from education and played golf all the time. She also enjoyed sewing, ceramics, painting, family birthdays and everything football. With her husband Bob graduating from Oklahoma University and supporting Sooner football and Janice being a true orange OSU Cowboy fan, needless to say the Bedlam game was watched on two televisions in



**A. JANICE STEWART**  
1924-2020

two different rooms. Should OSU be victorious, Bob would not speak to Janice for a week.

Janice is preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Robert W. Stewart; her parents, Earl and Aletha Snyder; sister, Eleanor R. Lane; and brother, Earl B. Snyder.

Janice is survived by her sons, R. Michael Stewart of Kurten, Texas and Joseph E. Stewart and his wife Renee, of Bay City, Texas; five grandchildren whom she loved deeply, Alison Young and her husband Craig of Ojai, California, Ashley Kirk and her husband Andy of Santa Barbara, California, Brandon Stewart of Tomball, Rachael Johnson and her husband David of Richmond and Travis Stewart of College Station. She is also survived by six great grandchildren.

The family wishes to send a heartfelt thank you to Kelli for all her help in Janice's transition to assisted living.

A private family service was held Thursday, June 4, 2020 at Schmidt Funeral Home, in Katy, with Rev. John F. Davis, Jr. officiating. Janice will join Bob in eternal rest at Memorial Park Cemetery, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to Memorial Lutheran Church, 5810 Third Street, Katy, Texas 77493, www.mlckaty.com.

To express condolences, please visit www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1508 East Avenue in Katy, Texas. They can be reached at 281-391-2424.

Mary Lucille Weadock Waldrop, 87, of Pattison, TX passed away at her daughter's home in Fredericks-

burg, TX, on April 10, 2020. Mary was born an identical twin on January 25, 1933. To the parents of, Bernard L. Weadock and Mary Moore in Hondo, Texas. She was raised in Houston and attended Paschall High School in Ft. Worth, TX. She met and married J. Carter Waldrop while working as a Bank Teller in Houston. They married February 15, 1957. They were blessed with two children, Richard (Rick) and Karen.

Anyone who knew Mary, knew she loved knitting. She was always working on a project for someone or something she could sell at a craft show or donate to an auction. She wouldn't have the internet installed but loved playing games on one of her many tablets. She was an excellent cook and happiest when she was serving up a meal for the whole family; always trying to fix our favorites. She loved her home and property smiling when the deer came to graze out her window.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen Waldrop Porter and husband Rick of Fredericksburg, TX;

two grandchildren Melissa Porter Appleberry and husband Andrew of Missouri City, TX and Michael Porter

of Spring, TX; her daughter-in-law, Kim Waldrop of San Felipe, TX; one grandson, Jon Carter Keaton Waldrop and wife, Erica of Marshall, TX; two great grandchildren Harloe and Slade; two sisters Nancy Breander of Conroe, TX and her identical twin, Shirley Manke of Katy, TX; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Bernard L. and Mary Moore Weadock; her husband, J. Carter Waldrop; her sister Gerry Grubbs; her brother, Bernard "Buddy" Weadock; and her son Richard "Rick" Waldrop.

A Service of Remembrance will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2020, at San Felipe United Methodist Church. (Visitation prior to service from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.) Luncheon will follow at the home of Kim Waldrop.

In Lieu of flowers, suggested memorial donations are:

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**MARY LUCILLE WEADOCK WALDRUP**  
1933-2020

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Psalms 94:19

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2 Corinthians 1:3-4

*Sharing the Gospel*

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Psalms 94:19

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

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](http://www.CivCastUSA.com)). Reproduction charges will apply according to CivCastUSA rates.

**WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 19 NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULES AND PENALTIES**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 19 (the "District"), at a meeting held on June 5, 2020, adopted:

1. Regulations Governing Water and Sanitary Sewer Lines and Connections, which provides rules and regulations for connection to the District's sewer system; and
2. a Rate Order providing rules and regulations for connection to the District's water, sewer and drainage system as well as charges for these services.

Violation of any of the rules contained in the District's Rate Order and Regulations Governing Water and Sanitary Sewer Lines and Connections will subject the violator to penalties, which includes a fine of up to \$5,000 per breach and/or day, disconnection of water and sewer service, payment of any costs or damages resulting from the violation, and civil and criminal legal action.

Copies of the Rate Order and Regulations Governing Water and Sanitary Sewer Lines and Connections are on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where they may be read in full.

/s/ Adam Hollingsworth  
President, Board of Directors

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**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](http://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**.

## June 4 Puzzle Answers

9	8	5	3	4	2	7	1	6
6	2	4	9	7	1	8	3	5
7	1	3	8	6	5	9	4	2
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Bernice "Blondie" passed away peacefully on May 13, 2020. She was preceded in death by her parents, Vince and Tracy Gallia of Wallis, Texas. She is survived by her sister, Joan Gallia Rhemann of Rosenberg, and her brother, Larry Gallia and his partner Carol Smith of Friendswood, Texas.

Bernice had a very beautiful green eyed, White Siberian Husky called Lexie. Lexie had been her loving pet for four years. Bernice has lived at her home in Katy for 51 years. She is well-known for selling cars, trucks, and lots of yard sales for people who cleared out their storage units and garages.

Blondie enjoyed the outdoors, working in her yard and keeping the waterfall in her yard pretty. Her brother, Larry, built the waterfall over 40 years ago and she loved the sound of the relaxing waterfall. Blondie has always been very friendly and has an excellent reputation in the City of Katy. Her friends include her hairdresser of 20 years, Barbara, who kept her a blonde!

Thanks to the friends who have been on this journey including Mrs. Sharon, Linda, Earl, Elvis, Tina Harris, and Mrs. Tasia.

Bernice was of the Catholic Faith and was raised in Wallis, Texas. She attended Guardian Angel Elementary School.

Thanks to all who offered prayers during her illness including, Natalie and Erik, Michael and Joyce Peters, Georgia Strong and her friends from Powerhouse Church. May God Bless you all!

Thanks to Nurse Kathy and Amazing Grace Hospice for their wonderful care.



**BERNICE "BLONDIE" GALLIA CHRISTY**

Earl Dee Theodore Hering of Sealy, Texas, went to be with Jesus on Monday, June 1, 2020 at the age of 86.

Earl was born on September 15, 1933 to Gustav Alfred Hering and Julia Ida Bischoff Hering Kollatschny. The youngest of 4 children, he grew up in Frydek, Texas in the Rexville Community.

Earl was a dedicated worker at General Welding Works for over 35 years, but still found time to take care of the farm that he shared with his wife Augusta Rose Zapalac Hering. He would name all of his livestock and his kind nature was obvious in how the animals all responded only to him. You could find him out on the farm, bottle feeding his calves and always wearing his beloved cowboy hat like a halo on his head.

Earl loved to be on the deer lease and was the first one in the deer stand each morning. When he wasn't out at the deer lease, you could find him singing along to polka music with his family and

celebrating every Friday as "Catfish Friday" without fail. Earl was the Grand Ole Opry's biggest fan and he could beat you in dominoes without even trying. He had a surprising knack for yodeling and would gladly play the harmonica ("French harp") to entertain his grandkids whenever asked. Earl could often be found swinging on the porch at coffee time, holding hands with the love of his life, his sweetheart of 61 years. Momma Rose.

Earl had a wonderful passion for life and storytelling. He could spend hours telling you about all his crazy adventures from his younger days, always adding in a little extra spice to keep it interesting. Earl had a kind, gentle spirit that left an impression on everyone he met. He was a strong, faith-filled man that loved his family fiercely. He had left behind cowboy boots that are too big to fill.

Earl is preceded in death by his beloved wife Rose, his sons Earl Dee Jr. and Roger Dale Hering,



**EARL DEE THEODORE HERING 1934-2020**

William "Buddy" Mullens was born on October 13, 1961 in Robstown, Texas to Hyman Mullens and Billie Ruth Wiley Mullens.

He grew up in Corpus Christi, where he first developed a lifetime love of saltwater fishing and hanging out on the beach. In 1980, Buddy graduated from Carroll High School, in Corpus Christi, where he was voted Most Popular Guy of his senior class. He quickly moved to Houston to live with his sister, Peggy, and start a summer job. He worked at several places, including working for awhile in the electronics department at Joske's, a department store which later became a Dillard's Store. In 1985, at a Joske's employee get-together, Buddy met and fell in love with Sharon Bush, a friend of a fellow Joske's employee. He married Sharon Faye Bush on April 11, 1987 in the First Baptist Church, in Sharon's hometown of Devine, Texas. They lived in Houston for a couple of years before moving to Katy in 1989.

In 1990, Buddy and Sharon's lives were forever changed with the loss of their first-born child, Steven Tyler Mullens. It was through this painful loss, they met two men who would have a tremendous impact on their life's journey. They joined First Baptist Church, in Katy, where they met Senior Pastor Dr. Charles Wisdom, whom they would quickly come to love and respect. They also met M.H. "Hank" Schmidt, Jr., owner of Schmidt Funeral Home, in Katy, who cared for their son. It was because of the manner in which Hank cared for their family that Buddy returned months later to inquire about becoming a funeral director. Buddy wanted to care for others who were hurting from the loss of a loved one. He began his career at Schmidt Funeral Home that same year. He graduated from Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service, in Houston. He obtained his Funeral Director license and Embalmer license in 1992. Buddy had tremendous respect for Hank, who mentored him throughout Buddy's career and became a lifelong friend. Buddy was very compassionate and caring to the thousands of Katy families he served over his 30-year career at Schmidt Funeral Home. He was hard working and committed to providing the utmost professional care. He got to know many pastors and all the different funeral preferences of each of the churches in our community, how they wanted to process in and out of the church, where exactly to place the casket, which pews to seat the family and so much more. To Buddy, the details mattered. He had an incredible memory and could remember funeral details and the families he served from years ago. He would also become the mentor for many coming into the profession, including the one he was most proud to mentor, his son Jordan. Early on Buddy tried to persuade Jordan away from the funeral business, mostly because of the long hours and being torn between his own passion to serving a grieving family, which always came above spending time with his own family such as missed birthdays, holidays or his kids' sporting events and activities. However, just as his father, Jordan felt called to serve families. Buddy was most proud of the Funeral Director and Embalmer Jordan has become.

While those who worked with Buddy may at times have seen him as a bit hard-headed or his old school thinking of "my way or the highway" mentality, they all had great respect for him. Now, it was not all work, all the time. Buddy was quick witted, had a dry sense of humor, could easily make you laugh, and was quite the master prankster often to his co-worke victims. It was all in fun and there were many laughs when working with Buddy. He had a unique and memorable laugh. He was good at giving well earned praise, as well as a glaring eye and crooked brow if you messed up. He was always there if you needed a little encouragement or advice.

Over the last 30 years, he could often be

seen tending to a grave or setting a monument at Katy Magnolia Cemetery. He knew that cemetery well and would help the Katy

V.F.W. Post 9182 volunteers with the placing of the flags for Memorial Day and more recently with the placement of wreaths at Christmas time. The Katy V.F.W. Post 9182 honored Buddy with the Commanders' Medal in 2016 for his dedication, patriotism and selfless service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He loved watching football and baseball. He listened faithfully to all the latest sports news on AM sports talk radio. He was an avid fan of the Houston Texans and the Houston Astros. He always recorded Texan games while he worked to enjoy later. His co-workers quickly learned not to let a score or outcome slip before he got to watch the recording. While Michelle attended the University of Texas San Antonio, he was a fan of UT; but found it quite difficult when she transferred to Texas A&M. He might show "gig em," but he refused to wear maroon, in spite of his tremendous pride in Michelle's accomplishment. For several years, he loved bowling in a local league. He was a huge fan of the TV show Family Feud. He also remained a faithful servant of God at Katy's First Baptist Church.

Buddy was a loving and supportive father. He coached sports for his kids and could often be seen standing along the fence line, courtside or down the sideline watching whatever sport Jordan or Michelle were playing. Buddy had an amazing intuition of things to come. He was generous and big hearted. He was often just plain goofy and fun to be around. He was humble and wasn't one to draw attention to himself though he did many wonderful and caring deeds. Buddy loved spending time with his wife and kids, especially on getaways to Port Aransas or Galveston to fish or just relax on the beach. His newest passion was spending time with Miss P, his granddaughter Parker.

William "Buddy" Mullens passed away surrounded by the love of his family on Saturday, June 6, 2020 in Houston, Texas after a brief illness unrelated to Covid-19. He was 58 years of age.

He is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Sharon Mullens of Katy; son, Jordan Mullens and his fiancé Lizz Calderon of Katy; daughter, Michelle Mullens of Katy; his beloved granddaughter, Parker Mullens; his sisters, Mary Ann Huffman and her husband Richard of San Antonio, Gail McCrary and her husband Bruce of Houston and Peggy Beene and her husband Andy of San Antonio; sister-in-law, Debbie Beadle and her husband Zack of Devine, Texas; and many nieces and nephews; as well as many other loving family member and many friends.

He was preceded in death by a son, Steven Tyler Mullens; his parents, Hyman Mullens and Billie Ruth Wiley Mullens; and a brother-in-law, Jimmie Jeansonne.

The family received friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel, in Katy. Funeral services held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at Katy's First Baptist Church, with Dr. Charles Wisdom, Rev. Coleman Philley, and Rev. Steve Littlefield officiating. Interment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jordan Mullens, Brandon Beadle, Keith Beadle, Kevin Beadle, Ben McCrary, Chris McCrary, Milton H. "Trey" Schmidt, III, and Chris Henderson.

Honorary pallbearers will be M.H. "Hank" Schmidt, Jr., Tommy Dixon, Jim Foster, and Mike Kelly.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to Katy's First Baptist Church, 600 Pin Oak Road, Katy, Texas 77494, www.KatysFirst.org.

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.



**WILLIAM "BUDDY" MULLENS 1961-2020**



President Donald Trump arrived at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in October for a rally in Houston. MARIORIE KAMYS COTERA FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

## Republicans consider Dallas for nomination acceptance speech

By PATRICK SVITEK  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The Republican National Committee is eyeing Dallas as a potential new site for part of its 2020 convention this summer.

The city is among several that RNC officials are considering as they look to replace Charlotte, North Carolina, as the location where President Donald Trump will accept his party's nomination for reelection. Trump has been at loggerheads with North Carolina over holding the convention there amid coronavirus restrictions, and he announced Tuesday that Republicans have been "forced to seek another State" for the convention.

The RNC is still aiming to conduct the official business of its convention in Charlotte. If selected, Dallas would host Trump's acceptance speech — the biggest night of the convention — and related festivities.

A number of national media outlets reported Wednesday night that Dallas and five other cities are under consideration and that RNC officials would tour

them in the coming days. A committee spokesperson confirmed to The Texas Tribune on Thursday morning that Dallas was among the cities.

It remains to be seen what coronavirus-related constraints the RNC could be subject to later this summer in Dallas. Gov. Greg Abbott has not yet laid out reopening standards specifically for conventions, though he has agreed with the Texas GOP that the state could be prepared to host the national convention if necessary.

A spokesman for Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson said Thursday that Johnson "hasn't heard from anyone" about the national convention.

The Texas GOP has said it would welcome the national convention in Texas if Charlotte does not work out. The state convention is scheduled to occur in person from July 16-18 in Houston.

Trump is heading to Dallas next week as he resumes in-person fundraising for his campaign. He is set to attend a June 11 fundraiser there at a private home.

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

(JBUTOE-WGH) A new book about Science and God. Revised publish date: late 2020

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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 P.W.R. 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.

# Tropical storm preparations begin

By ED STERLING  
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

As Tropical Storm Cristobal moved north in the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan Peninsula toward Louisiana, the weather system's potential impact on East Texas grew and Gov. Greg Abbott on June 5 addressed the situation in a news conference.

Abbott said preparedness is the key in any hurricane season. He added that the Texas Department of Emergency Management and a roster of state agency departments, local responders and FEMA were ready. Meanwhile, he said, the state's ongoing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 also continue and East Texas residents in particular should be extra mindful of both threats.

Cumulative figures posted June 6 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed that some 74,978 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 1,830 deaths resulting from the virus pandemic had been confirmed.

Officially, hurricane season started June 1 and will continue through Nov. 30. While Cristobal is not expected to generate hurricane-force winds, it may bring high winds, heavy rain and flooding.

## State extends SNAP

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will provide approximately \$177 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits for the month of June in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Abbott announced June 4.

More than 900,000 SNAP households will see the additional amount on their Lone Star Card by June 12. The emergency June allotments are in addition to the \$414.7 million in benefits previously provided to Texans in April and May, Abbott added.

## Fomenters are warned

Gov. Abbott and Texas-based U.S. Attorneys John Bash, Erin Nealy Cox, Stephen Cox, and Ryan Patrick warned June 1 that individuals "who come to Texas from out of state to engage in looting, violence or other destructive acts in violation of federal law" would be subject to federal prosecution and transferred to federal custody.

"Today's announcement will ensure there are harsh consequences for those breaking the law and that they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Abbott said.

## Ruling draws comments

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on June 4 commended the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit for unanimously ruling to block a San Antonio federal district court order allowing all qualified voters to vote by mail.

"I applaud the Fifth Circuit for staying the federal court's erroneous decision and preventing widespread mail-in balloting while the case proceeds," Paxton said.

Gilberto Hinojosa, chairman of the Texas Democratic Party, disagreed with the ruling, saying, "We find ourselves in the midst of a once-in-a-century pandemic. Voters who are rightfully worried about the safety of in-person voting should have the option to vote by mail. The Constitution prohibits divvying



Tex. Gov. Greg Abbott has warned that anyone coming from out of state to cause violence amid peaceful protests will be prosecuted at the federal level. Abbott is dealing with the dual crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and statewide protests against police brutality.

up our rights by our age, gender or race and the Fifth Circuit decision of today would allow voters of a certain age different voting rights than the rest of us."

## Party holds convention

The Texas Democratic Party conducted its first digital, online convention June 1 to June 6.

Over those days, the party took up a slate of issues such as vote-by-mail, education, textbook censorship, racism, religious freedom, LGBTQ rights and reproductive rights.

Virtual attendees participated in live panels, training and regular party business.

A virtual debate was held June 6 between state Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, and former Air Force helicopter pilot M.J. Hegar. The two are in a runoff to decide who will face Republican U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the November general election.

## Cenotaph move opposed

State Rep. Kyle Biedermann, R-Fredericksburg, last week asked Gov. Abbott to halt the relocation of the Alamo cenotaph, a 60-foot-tall stone sculpture erected in 1939 to honor the defenders of the Alamo in the historic 1836 battle.

Under a \$450 million plan to redevelop the historic zone approved by the state and the City of San Antonio, the

**"Abbott said preparedness is the key in any hurricane season. He added that the Texas Department of Emergency Management and a roster of state agency departments, local responders and FEMA were ready. Meanwhile, he said, the state's ongoing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 also continue and East Texas residents in particular should be extra mindful of both threats."**

cenotaph would be moved from Alamo Plaza to a spot by the Menger Hotel, a short distance away.

Biedermann, in a June 4 letter to Abbott, complained that the proposed site to relocate the cenotaph is outside of the Alamo battlefield footprint. Biedermann asked the governor to insist that the cenotaph remain in place. The governor's office did not respond to a request for comment before the press deadline.

## Revenue total droops

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on June 1 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.61 billion in May, an amount 13.2% lower than the total reported for the month of May 2019, marking the steepest year-over-year decline since January 2010.

Declines in sales tax receipts hit all major economic sectors except telecommunications services, Hegar said. The steepest decline was in collections from oil and gas mining as energy companies cut spending on well drilling and completion following the recent crash in oil prices, he added.

Also, Hegar said, business closures and restrictions and stay-at-home orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic spurred deep drops in collections from restaurants, amusement and recreation services, and physical retail stores.

Those declines were offset in part by increases from big box retailers and grocery stores that remained open as essential businesses, online retailers and restaurants that could readily pivot to takeout and delivery service.



# \$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](http://katytimes.com/stimulusgrant.html) or look for the ad on our website.

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