

Katy Times



MOTHER-DAUGHTER DUO TAKE ON WINERY
PAGE 2

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THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ katytimes.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020



SBA HERO IMAGE

The SBA's Paycheck Protection Program's deadline to apply for assistance is set for June 30, but administrators at the SBA are recommending business owners have their applications in no later than June 20 to allow for processing time.

PPP deadline set for June 30

By R. HANS MILLER
TIMES SENIOR REPORTER

Those business owners wishing to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program should make sure they apply by June 30 according to a statement released by Valerie Maher, lead economic development specialist for the Houston office of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The PPP is a loan program offered by the SBA that allows small businesses to obtain loans to maintain staffing as well as pay rent, mortgage interest and utility expenses, according to the SBA's website.

"Time is quickly running out for small business owners to apply for the (PPP) with local SBA Lenders," Maher said. "We want to be sure you take advantage of the remaining \$125 (billion) available to support small businesses, and I recommend your application be submitted to the lender of your choice by June 20 to allow plenty of time for approval by June 30."

June 30 is the firm deadline for the program and loan applications take some time, Maher said in her statement. While regular changes have occurred to the application process for the PPP, Maher said new rules and guidance have been released that make the application process more flexible and more manageable for business owners.

See PPP, page 5

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PRAYTEST

Movement comes to Brookshire unity center

By R. HANS MILLER
TIMES SENIOR REPORTER

More than 60 Brookshire-area residents assembled at Brookshire's The Hangar Unity Center Saturday evening for a "praytest" that included people of all races and Brookshire Police Department officers. The group prayed for healing and an end to institutionalized racism with the hopes that a prayer-based movement would heal rifts between police and African Americans.

"The goal here is to cover the black community in prayer, cover the police department in prayer, stand with the black community and unify people with different ethnicities," said organizer Bobby "Tre9" Herring, an evangelical R&B artist and founder of Eyes on Me Incorporated, a nonprofit organization that ministers to youth in underserved communities.

Herring said he had started the praytest movement in Houston's Fifth Ward where George Floyd had lived. Floyd is the man whose death at the hands of Minneapolis, Minn. police inspired a wave of protests and calls for justice across the nation. The protests include events in downtown Houston and a June 4 protest at Katy Park at the intersection of Morton Road and Katy Hockley Cut Off Road. After a video of the first praytest went viral, Herring said he started organizing more so that Christians had a healthy way to contribute to the conversation. Herring said he feels that Christians should not be a part of those protests because of the manner that some protesters behave by committing acts of violence and using expletives directed at law enforcement officers.

"That's why we don't show at protests. We can't stand behind the 'F the police' but with a praytest we can stand in unity with our black brothers and sisters," Herring said.

So far, the Eyes on Me team has supported or held praytests in cities throughout Texas and in Florida with more to come, Herring said. The group was also in Waco on June 16 and will be

See PRAYTEST, page 5

PHOTOS BY R. HANS MILLER

Brookshire Police Department officers joined in prayers asking for healing between law enforcement and black communities.



Praytest organizers Bobby "Tre9" Herring (left in green shirt) and Ryan Orbin (center in black shirt and cap) give opening remarks at Saturday's praytest event held at The Hangar Unity Center in Brookshire.



Orbin and Herring lead a march around the community that included prayers for healing the relationship between minority communities and law enforcement.



A Brookshire area resident gives a prayer at the praytest event. People of several racial and cultural backgrounds joined in the event.

Virus cases resurge: leaders urge caution

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

The reopening of the Texas economy has sparked a second wave of COVID-19 across the state, prompting county officials to respond.

According to the Texas Department of Health Services, 89,108 cases have been diagnosed statewide and about 28,000 of those remain active. As of 3:30 p.m. on June 16 the DSHS reports 1,983 fatalities. Harris County currently has the most cases in the state, with a reported number of 16,778 cases. Waller County currently reports 90 cases. The Fort Bend County reports 2,385 current confirmed cases in the county, with 49 deaths.

In a press conference on June 16, Gov. Greg Abbott reassured the public that the state has enough beds available to deal with the increased number of cases and that the public shouldn't worry.

Statewide, the total number of beds available is 14,993, with only 27% of those beds currently available, Abbott said. The total

CATEGORIES OF MEDICAL SURGE FACILITIES				
LEVEL 5	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 1
MAINTAIN STAFFED BEDS	SURGE TO PHYSICAL BEDS	SURGE INSIDE FACILITY	SURGE TO ADJACENT BLDG	SURGE TO BUILDING OF OP
Support Hospital System to maintain current capacity.	Support Hospital System to open all physical beds and double occupancy waiver.	Transition non-traditional care areas such as OR or PACU to care for COVID-19.	Open additional capacity in adjacent medical office or convalescent centers supported by hospital.	Stand up alternate care sites in remote areas that are operated by local gov and/or supported by hospital.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The State of Texas has established the threat levels below for risk of exposure to the new coronavirus which causes the COVID-19 disease. The state is currently at the highest risk level of five and Tex. Gov. Greg Abbott said the state has resources prepared to aid if cases continue to rise rapidly.

See CASES, page 5





CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Most of the ErmaRose staff are related to Jennifer Prothow (far left), with her brother and his friends lending a hand.

Mother-daughter duo take on winery

By JOSELYN HOFER
EDITORIAL INTERN

Jennifer Prothow and her mother, Andrea Prothow, are the owners of ErmaRose Winery located at 3130 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road on the edge of downtown Katy that first opened in May 2019. With innovative takes on wine, they work to stand out amongst other fruit wineries with unique flavors created from frozen fruits aside from grapes. The business started as a hobby, Jennifer said, but grew with the love and support of her father.

"I tried cake making and I was really, really bad at that. I tried photography... everything was on (digital single-lens reflex cameras) and it wasn't the same (as film). So, then I started making wine at home and with the encouragement of my dad," Jennifer said.

Jennifer first began by giving neighbors samples of her new wines. "My mom's friends, my neighbors - people started asking me for my wine because I would give it out (and say) 'Hey, let me know what you think. I tried a new one,'" Jennifer said.

Of course, the creation of the business didn't come without its challenges. Especially when Jennifer's father passed away.

"The biggest challenge was to keep pushing on after I lost my dad," Jennifer said. "He was supposed to be a big part of this."

They would go to business classes together, she said, and he would try her new wines or call her to talk about plans for the winery. They even brainstormed the name for the business together.

"He just kept saying, 'Let's make it Prothow Wines,'" Jennifer said.

They eventually came to the name ErmaRose by combining Jennifer's grandmothers' names: Erma and Rosa. They had always played an essential role in her life, she said.

"My grandmas mean a lot to me. So, I thought it would be a really cool way to honor them by naming my business after them," Jennifer said.

The winery began to suffer though with the emergence of COVID-19, Jennifer said. She wasn't even sure if ErmaRose would make it.

"I mean for a while we were doing drive thru only, and for two weeks ... it was really scary. I didn't know if I was gonna be able to have a winery," Jennifer said.

They managed to keep the business going and worked to implement hygiene guidelines to protect customers' health, Jennifer said.

"We check temperatures with all our employees. Our tables are six foot apart and we've closed down the inside of the winery. We sanitize each table and

ERMAROSE WINERY

ADDRESS
3130 Katy Hockley
Cut Off Road, Katy,
TX 77493

WEBSITE
ermarosewinery.com

PHONE
281-371-0588



ErmaRose Winery makes an assortment of wines that have won awards.



ErmaRose Winery is located just off Katy Hockley Cut Off Road next to a ranch and hosts two other family-owned businesses: Texas Sno and Daddy Duncan's BBQ. See the Texas Sno sidebar for more information on a place to cool off locally.

chair after use. All my employees are wearing masks. We've gone above and beyond," Jennifer said.

The winery is continuing to run with new wines coming out and Jennifer's hopes for the future of ErmaRose Winery.

"I think my wine is more of a festive, enjoyable wine like something you can drink while watching an Astros game," Jennifer said. "I want to see us in stores and in other restaurants."

Expansion is not the only thing on Jennifer's mind for ErmaRose's future. She also hopes, as a black owned business, she can inspire other black entrepreneurs as her winery grows.

"I pride myself in being a black owned business," she said. "The only way we can change things is putting money into black neighborhoods and creating black role models. And I hate to say that I'm a role model ... but if I can inspire the generation behind me, I'm fine with it."

Despite the challenges the winery has faced, Jennifer still believes it's growing and hopes to make a difference in the world.

"I just want to be successful so I can inspire those behind me," she said.



JOSELYN HOFER

Texas Sno is a family-owned business that offers a variety of flavors in their sno cones, including some dye-free flavors. The dessert food trailer offers treats from its location at ErmaRose Winery. Pictured from left to right are owners Giles Debenport, Kristen Debenport, Kelsie Dartayet and Travis Debenport. Texas Sno can be reached at 346-377-9436 or visit them online at www.texas sno.com.

Texas Sno doing well despite coronavirus

By JOSELYN HOFER
EDITORIAL INTERN

Texas Sno, a New Orleans style snowball truck stationed outside ErmaRose Winery, is booming with business despite COVID-19. The Texas Sno trailer, nicknamed Big Red, is owned by a family of four: Kelsie Dartayet, Travis Debenport, Kristen Debenport and Giles Debenport. The four purchased the business around October of 2019 from the previous owners, Heather Cook and Nathan Cook.

"To be honest, it started as a joke, purchasing the business," said Dartayet.

But they stuck with it, Travis said, because they were ready for a change.

"I just got tired of what I was doing. So, I wanted to change it up and it was a good opportunity," said Travis.

Big Red is the only trailer in the Katy area that serves New Orleans style snowballs, Dartayet said, making it stand out from other businesses that sell snow cones. "There's a big difference between snow cones and snowballs and it comes down to the consistency of the ice," said Dartayet. "It's different than snow cones because snow cones you actually have to bite in the ice and it's crunchy. Ours will just melt on your tongue."

Another contributing factor to the increase in business for Texas Sno is the location. Being in a spacious area, surrounded by a variety of other businesses, such as ErmaRose Winery and Daddy Duncan's BBQ, makes it a great family-oriented place to go to, Dartayet said.

Currently, Texas Sno is operating on all days of the week and practicing safe social distancing with tables six feet apart, employees wearing gloves and frequent sanitization. Dartayet is hoping for expansion sometime in the future but is still waiting on another trailer to join Big Red in serving a cold break from the worries of the day.

"It's a fun place to get away from the world," Kristen said.

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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.



Plant nursery Newton Nursery opens

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

Plant nursery Newton Nurseries opened a new 153,000-square-foot wholesale operation in Katy on June 9 to serve professional landscapers in the area.

"For a landscape professional, time is money," said Philippe Joubert, CEO of Newton Nurseries. "Our new Katy nursery is laid out to help our customers pick out the items they need and check out quickly and efficiently."

Located at 322 Buc-ee's Boulevard, the location offers a selection of trees, shrubs, flowers, bedding plants, hard-to-find plants and associated landscape items. The operation houses a 7,000-square-foot greenhouse and a 20,000-square-foot shade area. The site is gated and equipped with a water-efficient irrigation system.

The site is expected to bring 12 to 14 new jobs to the Katy area.

The new nursery caters to the communities of Copperfield, Pecan Grove, Cinco Ranch, Seven Meadows, Cypress, Richmond, Sugar Land, west Memorial and future developments between Katy and Brookshire. The company also operates in Houston and Austin.



SANDRA SADEK

Newton Nursery opened for business June 9 near the Buc-ee's in Katy. The new gardening spot is set up to help people find what they need quickly, the nursery's management said.



COURTESY

The new nursery is expected to bring a dozen or more jobs to the Katy area and provide services to the growing Katy area.

KATYTIMES.COM

Waller discusses flood, COVID-19 funding

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

The Waller County Commissioners Court opened proposals for engineering help ahead of applications for state flood funding, discussed road and bridge equipment needs for the 2020 and 2021 budgets, and heard a private citizen's concern to rename a local road during their June 10 meeting.

The state legislature is opening applications for the Texas Flood Infrastructure Fund Program which provides assistance in the form of loans and grants for flood control, flood mitigation and drainage projects. County Judge Trey Duhon opened six proposals from engineering companies offering their services to help quantify projects to submit to the fund. Those proposals will be reviewed and applications for the fund are due next week.

The court also discussed road



FILE PHOTO BY R. HANS MILLER

The Waller County Commissioners Court is working with county staff to identify funding opportunities through the Texas Flood Infrastructure Fund Program which provides loans and grants for flood control.

and bridge equipment needs to be included in the 2020 and 2021 budgets. Equipment needs could total between \$615,000 and \$1 million, which would be financed over seven years. There was no final vote.

A Coronavirus Relief Fund grant award amounting to \$321,871, provided to the county

via the CARES Act, was accepted by the court and will be used to reimburse PPE and implement testing sites. Money not used for COVID-19 response will be returned to the state.

The Waller County Criminal Justice Center was renamed to Waller County Justice Center. Duhon said that the name was

unofficial given to the complex at the time of construction.

Siddarth Rajmohan was nominated for the June 2020-May 2023 term to the Houston Galveston Area Council Advisory Committee for the Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization to represent Waller County. John Kremmer and Harold Barthe were re-nominated for the June 2020-May 2022 term to the HGAC Advisory Committee for the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee to represent Waller County.

Dwayne Charleston, a Waller County resident, addressed the judge and commissioners during the public comment section to urge the court to rename Liendo Parkway to Sandra Bland Parkway or return the name to University Drive.

The parkway is currently named after Jose Justo Liendo, owner of a plantation in Waller County which also served as a camp of instruction for Confed-

erate infantry recruits during the U.S. Civil War.

"None of you in your right mind can justify the maintaining of Liendo Parkway, named after a slave owner. I know that you are men of good conscience and goodwill," Charleston said. "I would not be surprised if Waller County is not the last one to say you know what, we're going to remove the names honoring Confederate soldiers. I would not be surprised if Waller county is the last but I want to encourage you today; why not be the first one out the gate."

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.



CONTRIBUTED BY HCESD 48

This new van will be used by Harris County Emergency Services District 48 to conduct community outreach programs to improve health and safety outcomes for Katy area residents.

County ESD obtains van for program

By R. HANS MILLER
TIMES SENIOR REPORTER

Harris County Emergency Services District 48 has put a new van into service to support its Community Risk Reduction Program. The van supports community events such as CPR classes, home safety surveys and other events for the fire and EMS agency.

The vehicle has a new look with a donated custom wrap from On

Site Decals out of Stafford, said CRR Chief Jason Tharp in a June 15 press release. The van's sticker price was about \$28,000, Tharp said, but the department was able to save money through rebate programs and ended up paying about \$23,000.

"It's because of partnership like this that allows us to further our CRR efforts. It also allows us to invest in new and creative ideas and technology to keep our Katy

Area community and beyond safe," Tharp said.

Steven Burke, CEO of On Site Decals, said the company was happy to help out and support community building the ESD participates in.

"I hear nothing but good things from the many programs (HCESD 48) offer to the community," Burke said. "(The department's) mission matches ours here at On Site Decals by putting the community first."

Local participating in virtual ride to raise cancer awareness

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

The 70-day Texas 4000 for Cancer bike ride has gone virtual this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Local athlete and University of Texas at Austin student Clara Souza is participating in the virtual event which began May 29 and ends June 26.

"Throughout my life, I have seen many people who I love to be affected by cancer in some way. I have seen whole families come together to fight alongside their loved ones. However, I have also seen the immense emotional and physical toll it takes on individuals and their families," Souza said.

The event is broadcast daily online through the Texas 4000 for Cancer website. The broadcasts include information on cancer prevention and awareness and stories of riders, individuals, families and organizations engaged in fighting cancer.

The ride, which ordinarily cycles from Texas to Alaska, has raised more than \$11.6 million to fight cancer and participating athletes have pedaled more



CONTRIBUTED

than 5.2 million miles since the founding of the event 17 years ago.

"The global pandemic has brought our communities, our country and our world to a standstill, but cancer hasn't stopped," said Texas 4000 Executive Director Scott Crews. "That is why the ride must go on. The global pandemic may have taken the 2020 team off the road to Anchorage, but it has not diminished our passion for sharing hope, knowledge and charity in the fight against cancer. The fight continues."

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times

SUDOKU

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

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Japanese classical theater
- Chess pieces
- Pieces of writing
- Doctors' group
- Capital of Guam
- Type of turtle
- Swiss river
- MLB Hall of Famer
- Places to sit
- Fancy rides
- One of Washington's Tri-Cities
- Without class
- Male child
- Keeps you cool
- Biblical place
- Italian city
- District in central Turkey
- Job for a grad student
- Central nervous system
- Arrange in steps
- Witch
- Promotional material
- Having certain appendages
- Approaches
- One who did it (slang)
- Of I
- Blood relation
- Works out
- Female given name
- Isaac's mother (Bib.)
- Makes someone happy
- Creative
- Small, faint constellation
- S. American trees
- Makes simpler
- Neither
- We all need it
- Unique plastic utensil
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- Civil Rights group
- Metropolis
- Badgers

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								69				70	

- Regular business given to a store
- Gets older
- A bundle of banknotes
- Midway between north and northwest
- Takes to the sea
- Prestigious film prize: __ d'or
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Removed
- Term of respect
- Genus containing pigs
- Illumined
- One who symbolizes something
- Member of a Turkic people
- The academic world
- "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- Hang-ups
- Long, leafless flower stalk
- Categorize
- Loads
- Indicates position
- Unreasonable
- Dorm worker
- Dweller
- Welsh female name meaning "snow"
- Offering again
- National capital
- Firm, dry and brittle
- 007's creator
- Allied H.Q.
- Mackerels
- Month of the Hindu year
- Not odd
- Belonging to a thing
- "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- Religion
- Equal, prefix

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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End 'world's greatest dad'

Speaking as a father ("What - am I made of money? Go ask your mother! When you have your own roof, you can make your own rules! No, my abs aren't flabby, they're just meditating...")

No, this could go on forever. Start over. Speaking as a COLUMNIST, with a strict word limit, I agree good fathers should be loved and respected. But no dad should take for granted that they will receive obligatory World's Greatest Dad merchandise.

Seriously, they should actively DREAD such a last-minute, no-brainer gift. I mean, if the little rascals are just blowing smoke up your butt, they will become trapped in a stressful pattern of topping themselves. ("Dad, I just paid to have a whole newly discovered galaxy named after you. Yeah... Dad's Galaxy. Now, could you please co-sign for a new Prius and for ... um...what I still owe the observatory?")

Conversely, if the kid-dos sincerely harbor such a lofty opinion of you, they may wind up setting the bar embarrassingly low in other areas of life. ("Pop! I'm so excited! I just drove my generic car to my dorm at Generic University - home of the Fightin' Indeterminate Species or Historical Figure - and fell in love with your generic future daughter-in-law!")

Let's face it: most of us don't DESERVE World's Greatest Dad paraphernalia, either because we're unmotivated, emotionally distant, stereotypically dopey or painfully struggling to seem cooler than we are.

For example, you may not be getting a World's Greatest Dad gift if the "swear jar" threatens to wreck the currencies of the European Union, Dubai and Chuck E. Cheese.

You may not be getting a World's Greatest Dad gift if you drive the car over the family pet... WHILE the poor little goldfish is being given a "burial at sea" in the toilet.

You may not be getting a World's Greatest Dad gift if you lazily teach the art of self-defense by



DANNY TYREE

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

leaving around a cassette of Carl Douglas singing "Everybody was kung fu fighting..."

You'll receive even LESS martial arts credit if you accidentally taped over Carl Douglas with Minnie Riperton. ("Lovin' you is easy 'cause you're beautiful...La la la la la...")

You may not be getting a World's Greatest Dad gift if you slapped the "I'm spending my children's inheritance" sticker on the stroller instead of a Winnebago.

You may not be getting a World's Greatest Dad gift if you cover your forgetfulness of major milestones by lying, "The Tooth Fairy exceeded his budget while buying teeth from meth addicts."

You may not be getting a World's Greatest Dad gift if you ramble too long with your maxims: "A penny saved is a penny earned," "There is no 'I' in team," "If at first you don't succeed, the next vasectomy surgeon may be more competent..."

You may not be getting a World's Greatest Dad gift if you keep praying for an early entrance by John Wilkes Booth as little Johnny (portraying Abe Lincoln) explains how to split rails in his school pageant.

Even "woke" fathers face an uphill battle. You may not be getting a World's Greatest Dad gift if you interrupt your child's halftime cheer-leading routine to protest the cultural appropriation inherent in the "pyramid."

Speaking as a father again, always set reasonable expectations, appreciate Father's Day and ... oh, just WALK IT OFF with the REMAINING leg, for Pete's sake!

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



What can we do about USPS?

The future of the United States Postal Service isn't really in President Donald Trump's hands, despite what his critics are saying.

The service is hemorrhaging money. The COVID crisis has imposed demands on it that may be unprecedented. And Congress may eventually need to provide some emergency assistance for it to survive. The one person who really counts is Louis Dejoy, the North Carolina businessman Trump recently named (and whom the postal Board of Governors unanimously approved) to be the next Postmaster General.

Critics have derided Dejoy as nothing but an influential GOP fundraiser and Trump supporter named to the job to carry the president's water. That's unfair. He's a successful entrepreneur who in 1983 started a company, New Breed Logistics, which brought him into collaboration with the Postal Service as well as Boeing, Disney, and other well-known U.S. companies needing supply chain logistics, program management, and transportation support.

After New Breed was acquired by Connecticut-based XPO Logistics for more than \$600 million, Dejoy became CEO of its supply chain business and, after he retired in 2015, a member of the board of the parent company. Clearly, he knows a thing or two about shipping, packaging, and the other functions that are the core business of the Postal Service.

He's only the fifth person from outside the Postal Service chosen to lead it since 1971 when it was spun off as a quasi-private corporation. His experience in private business should be a tremendous asset in helping right a ship afloat on a sea of red ink.

Hopefully, he will be of independent mind and push back against Trump's instant call to triple, qua-



PETER ROFF

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

druple, or quintuple the price the post office charges to ship packages. It's one of few parts of the USPS that makes any money - according to some estimates it now accounts for over \$8 billion in net annual revenue - because it competes effectively with private shippers.

Trump's plan to charge more to get more would work if the package service functioned like first-class mail, over which the Postal Service has a monopoly. It doesn't, so raising package delivery prices will not work as he hopes. The environment is highly competitive, meaning one vendor's price increases will generally drive customers to other vendors who do the same thing, but cheaper.

What the President wants will add to the post office's operating debt, not pay it down. As an experienced, successful businessman, Dejoy should be able to easily comprehend this. The question is whether he can resist the political pressure coming from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue once he takes over on June 15.

None of this is an argument against postal reform. The USPS is in bad trouble, has been for years, and can't make up its debt just by raising the price of stamps. Serious changes are needed, the kind which postmasters general coming from inside the service probably reject instinctively. If Congress is to give the Postal Service the money House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others say is needed to see

it through the end of the year, reform is in order. Handing over a blank check without insisting things be done differently would just be putting off the inevitable.

Postal reform legislation is unlikely in the middle of the COVID crisis, but there are steps Dejoy can take that Congress, the Board of Governors, and the American taxpayers would probably endorse enthusiastically. The first would be to announce a hiring freeze - a tactic common in private business when annual revenue looks to be less than expenses. The second would be to order a thorough audit of USPS owned and leased real estate in preparation for selling, subdividing, and surrendering space that is no longer needed. The third would be to embark on a program to expand third-party relationships in midstream logistics and processing which, remember, is the industry in which the future Postmaster General proved himself to be quite adept.

The USPS doesn't need to keep doing everything it does. It doesn't need to keep losing money. It doesn't need to be a living synonym for waste, sloth, and mismanagement. And it doesn't need to keep getting bigger while its assets and potential pool of clients get smaller.

What it does need to do is find a pathway to profitability. That will only come from focusing on core functions growing out of its universal service obligation. The sooner Louis Dejoy starts down that road, the better things will be.

Peter Roff is a senior fellow at Frontiers of Freedom and a former U.S. News and World Report contributing editor who appears regularly as a commentator on the One America News network. Email him at RoffColumns@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @ Peter Roff.

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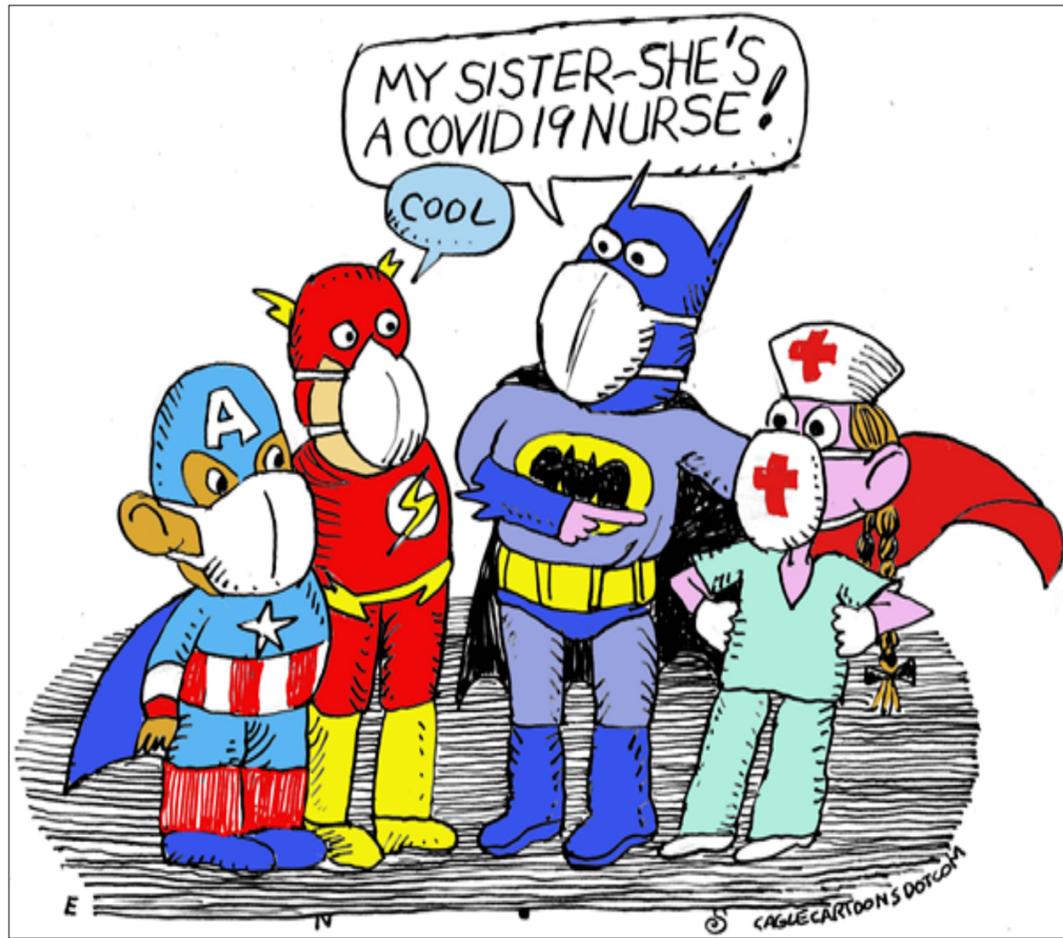
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EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Houston office will be offering webinars to help business owners understand the Paycheck Protection Program's requirements. Participants can join in from June 15-19. The links for these webinars can be found in the "Webinar schedule and presentations" section of the SBA website at this link: <https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/tx/houston>

PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS

- 11:00 a.m., Friday June, 19

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM/EIDL OVERVIEW

- PPP funds are still available, but program ends June 30th. EIDL is open to agricultural businesses only. Learn how to apply for a PPP loan and the basics of the program.
- 11 a.m., Thursday 06/18:

Q&A WITH SBA LEADERSHIP (LIMITED TO 1ST 30 PARTICIPANTS)

- SBA Leadership will answer your PPP and disaster recovery questions in this 30 min. daily interactive session.
- 10 a.m. daily through Friday June 19 via Zoom
- ID: 731 6366 9195
- Password: 9u37JG

PPP

from page 1

According to the SBA statement, changes to the PPP include:

- Borrowers may now apply for five-year loans rather than two-year loans.
- The timeframe for PPP protection has been extended from and end date of June 30 to an end date of Dec. 31.
- PPP funding has been increased from a maximum of eight weeks to a maximum of 24 weeks.
- Rehire requirements for staffing is less stringent, providing the business owners can show they have not been able to return to the same level of business activity because of federal COVID-19 requirements pertaining to social distancing, sanitation and worker safety.
- A guideline with a sixty-forty split has been established which allows employers to use 60% of funding for payroll with the remaining 40% going toward debt obligations.
- Extends the deferment period for loans retroactively until the amount of forgiveness is remitted to the borrower by the lender (the deferment period ends for all borrowers 10 months after the end of the covered period).
- The PPP delays the payment of payroll taxes for PPP borrowers until Jan. 1, 2021.

According to the SBA website, borrowers must apply for a loan through existing SBA 7(a) lenders or through a federally insured depository institution or credit union or a Farm Credit System institution that is participating in the program. A list of participating lenders is available at www.sba.gov/ppp.

The SBA's most recent report from May 30 on the PPP indicates that nearly 5,500 SBA-approved lenders have loaned about \$186.3 billion to American companies since the PPP first began as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts on the nation's economy. Of that, about \$40.2 billion has gone to Texas companies, placing the state second nationwide. California is at the top of the list with about \$66.4 billion approved.



PHOTOS BY R. HANIS MILLER

Marchers circle the block while discussing race relations in the United States and praying for improvements to the racial tensions being seen across the country.

PRAYTEST

from page 1

in Houston's Fifth and Second Wards June 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Finnigan Park.

The Hangar Unity Center's Director Ryan Orbin said he was glad the center was able to host the event which focused on prayer and had a diverse turnout.

"I have seen white evangelicals come out like I've never seen before in my lifetime," Orbin said.

Herring said that, despite his background growing up in a multiracial environment, he realized that he sometimes still had prejudices that he needed to address and consciously overcome. He said those biases are within him despite his background growing up in a minority community, playing basketball with a mostly-black team, working in ministries in minority communities and celebrating black music and culture.

"There's a lot of research and studying that I'm doing and (there's still) some contamination showing that I've got biases and stereotypes in me that I don't really recognize (without personal reflection)," Herring said in his opening remarks at the event.

In his introductory speech at the event, Herring emphasized that those in attendance should follow their faith rather than pundits or



Praytest participants surround the law enforcement officers that came to provide security and join the community in prayer for the praytest event. Prayers asked for safety and good judgment for police officers.

politicians to decide what is right to do.

"I don't need to listen to political pundits that are pro-Trump. I don't need to listen to political pundits that are anti-Trump. I need to leave it up to Jesus. I need to follow the holy spirit," Herring said.

After short introductory speeches by Herring and Orbin, protesters who were gathered in a circle prayed over a variety of topics that focused on building up the relationships between the black and law enforcement communities. Some read verses from the Bible while others relayed anecdotes of the experiences they've had with people from other races. Prayers included a request that

people remember that African Americans and police are made in God's image under the Christian faith, that people will seek out education and turn away from racism, that racism would be ended in Brookshire and around the world and that churches would mobilize to help black communities.

After all of the prayers were said, the group gathered in a prayer circle around the Brookshire officers that were present and prayed for them, with one officer leading the prayer. The prayer circle was then followed by a march that was about a mile long and included prayers for an end to institutional racism and community unity.

CASES

from page 1

number of ICU beds and classic ventilators available is 1,675 and 5,869 respectively.

The Office of the Governor also released a five-level response plan for medical surge facilities to aid with the number of beds available for hospitals. Level 5 is considered a safe level and Level 1 is considered an emergency. According to Abbott, the state of Texas is still at Level 5.

For the Katy area, which includes Harris, Fort Bend and Waller counties, there are a total number of 12,458 reported beds, 21% of which are available. There are 247 ICU beds available and 795 lab-confirmed, hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

Fort Bend County Judge KP George shared multiple news articles over the weekend about the importance of wearing face coverings as COVID-19 cases resurge in Texas.

REDUCE COVID-19 RISK

As cases continue to rise, the CDC's recommended guidelines to prevent exposure to the virus include:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoiding close contact, especially with people who are sick. It is recommended that a distance of 6 feet is maintained between each individual.
- Covering your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others. The CDC reminds you that the face covering is not a substitute for social distancing.
- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces daily

"The US Surgeon General on Sunday urged people to wear face coverings, saying they will promote freedom during the coronavirus pandemic," George wrote. "Dr. Jerome Adams pushed back on the idea that face coverings infringe on freedoms, saying they're important to slow the spread of coronavirus

and reopen the economy."

George also launched a new \$22 million Small Business Grant Program on June 15 to address financial hardships for small businesses due to COVID-19. The allocated money comes from the CARES Act.

The grants will be available to

small businesses that incurred eligible expenses under the CARES Act, up to \$10,000 per business. This includes the purchase of personal protective equipment, reopening supplies, renovations, equipment, inventory, and remote working expenses as well as lease and mortgage assistance and utilities. Businesses must have incurred these expenses as of April 3, 2020, the date the county issued the Stay-at-Home order.

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon reminded residents to continue following CDC guidelines and that testing sites are available throughout the county in a Facebook post.

"Waller County, unfortunately, is consistent with other jurisdictions with the rise in COVID-19 cases. Just another reminder we all need to do our part to mitigate the spread," Duhon wrote.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo shared an alert on her Facebook that the county is now at a Level 2, meaning there is a significant and uncontrolled transmis-

sion of COVID-19 in Harris County and residents should minimize all contacts.

Celebrities have also been speaking up about wearing masks in public, such as Dallas Cowboys Linebacker Jaylon Smith who, in collaboration with the Office of the Governor, released a new public service announcement entitled "Wear A Mask On And Off The Field."

"I wear a face mask every single day on the football field to protect myself. Now I'm switching it up to a different mask to protect myself and others around me," Smith said in the video. "As we open up Texas, it's crucial that we all do our part in this fight against COVID-19. So, when you leave the house, make sure you wash your hands, make sure you practice social distancing, and last but not least, wear a mask."

An interactive map of current cases in the state of Texas and each county can be found on the Texas DSHS website.

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JAMIE HARMS VIA USA TODAY SPORTS

The University of Texas Longhorns play at Darrell K Royal Memorial Stadium in Austin.

Players demand school rename buildings

By RAGA JUSTIN
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Several athletes at the University of Texas at Austin are refusing to participate in recruiting incoming players or show up at donor-related events if university and athletics officials fail to respond to a list of demands geared toward supporting black students, according to a statement posted June 12 by dozens of the student athletes on Twitter.

Brennan Eagles, the school's sophomore wide receiver, and Brandon Jones, a senior defensive back, were among the students who posted the statement, detailing a list of actions Longhorn athletes want the university's athletics department to take. These include donating 0.5% of the department's annual earnings to the Black Lives Matter movement and black organizations, establishing a permanent black athletic history exhibit in the Athletics Hall of Fame and renaming parts of the football stadium after Julius Whittier, the first black football letterman at UT-Austin.

In addition to demands specific to the athletics department, athletes also want UT officials to rename campus buildings named after Texans who were proponents of segregation or held other racist

views, remove a statue of prominent segregationist James Hogg and discontinue the school song, "The Eyes of Texas," which has ties to minstrel shows and was created during segregation. Other calls to action include requiring a module on the history of racism at UT and increasing outreach efforts to inner-city schools in Austin, Dallas and Houston.

"We, as student athletes, and collectively as the University of Texas Longhorn football team, are aware that we are an athletic department made up of many black athletes, and believe that it is time we become active on our campus," the statement reads.

Athletes will continue to practice and participate in workouts and team activities this summer but are asking for a "plan for implementation" before the fall semester begins.

UT Athletics declined to comment, but Athletics Director Chris Del Conte responded to the statement on Twitter.

"I am always willing to have meaningful conversations regarding any concerns our student-athletes have," Del Conte wrote. "We will do the same in this situation and look forward to having those discussions."

Athletics officials did not say whether they have spoken to players about

their demands or whether the requested changes would be implemented.

The statement was widely shared among notable student athletes, including defensive backs Caden Sterns and Josh Thompson and men's basketball guard Jase Febres. More than a dozen football players shared the statement June 12, along with UT's slogan, "What starts here changes the world." Other athletes, including soccer, volleyball and basketball players, also shared the letter.

These demands come as George Floyd's death and the resulting protests have spurred calls for racial equality across the country. Two weeks ago, football players marched to the Capitol in Austin from the Darrell K. Royal Stadium in a show of support for Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes.

This is only the latest widespread call for administrative action from UT officials.

Nearly three years ago, after violent protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, and discussions on the value of historical monuments rooted in racist ideals, UT removed three statues of Confederate figures: Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston and John Reagan. Then-President Greg Fenves denounced the presence

of these monuments at UT. A statue of Jefferson Davis, the former Confederate president, was removed in 2015.

But taking down the statues has not satisfied UT students, who are now seizing an opportunity for more sweeping reform.

After a widely circulated petition and statements from more than 100 student organizations, the larger UT student body sent a letter detailing student demands to interim President Jay Hartzell earlier in the week last week. Their requests mirror those of the athletes — students want UT to "acknowledge its racist history" by renaming seven campus buildings and structures, removing the Hogg statue and discontinuing the school song.

Additionally, they are asking UT to cut ties with the Austin Police Department and campus police and adopt inclusive practices in recruiting and selecting UT faculty. UT leadership said it would respond to those demands in the coming weeks.

"We are aware of three petitions created by students and look forward to working with them and the UT community to create the best possible experience on our campus for Black students," UT spokesperson J.B. Bird said in an email.

— Shannon Najmabadi contributed to this report.

Eleven honored by HAVCA with preseason team bids

By COLE McNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy ISD had 11 representatives honored by the Houston Area Volleyball Coaches Association with preseason team selections as announced on June 15. Cinco Ranch High School had a pair while Katy, Seven Lakes and Tompkins each had three make the Class 6A preseason team.

The Cinco Ranch Cougars extended a playoff streak to nine

years in 2019 as a co-district champion although they ultimately fell to Ridge Point in the regional quarterfinal at Wheeler Fieldhouse. Two contributors to last year's team return this year in Eva Fitzgerald (second-team all-district) and Kayla Griebel (first-team all-district), both of whom cracked the HAVCA preseason team.

For the Katy Tigers' trio making the preseason team, Hannah Hoover enters her final high school season with a commitment to the

U.S. Naval Academy in place while juniors Jordan Gamble (first-team all-district) and Maddie Waak (2019 District 19-6A Setter of the Year) will have another season after this one. Katy similarly fell in the regional quarterfinals after securing the co-district championship and have made the playoffs every year since 2013.

A pair of sisters and another rising senior with a commitment to Harvard made up the Seven Lakes Spartans' representatives on the

preseason team. Ally Batenhorst collected Hitter of the Year honors for District 19-6A as a junior last year after finishing with the most kills in all of Class 6A with 849. Her sister Casey is a rising junior and earned first-team all-district honors last year. Mayo Olibale will begin her final season with a commitment to Harvard and comes off a second-team all-district season last year.

The Tompkins Falcons will be led by a pair of returning first-team

all-district athletes as well as last year's district rookie of the year, all of whom were also honored with the preseason team honor. Eliana Posada, a University of Pittsburg commit, will suit up for her last season alongside rising junior Paris Herrman, who joined her on the first-team all-district last year. Cindy Tchouangwa finished her freshman campaign with 218 kills and 40 blocks and earned District 19-6A's Newcomer of the Year honor.

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Ritchey Lacie Faulk, of Katy, TX — born September 26, 1959 in Paris, Texas. He was the eldest of three children to parents Billie Janet Faulk and Randall Lacie Faulk. His family was transferred frequently during his dad's career, finally settling in Katy in 1975. He attended Katy High School and was an avid Tiger football player, playing defensive end and offensive tackle. His love for football and being a Tiger never wavered.

Ritchey worked for Dresser Industries Drilling Fluids Division as a Drilling Fluids Engineer until he returned to college. He graduated from Southwest Texas State University earning his BBA in Business with a concentration in Accounting and Economics. He later attended South Texas College of Law, while working in the tax department at Arthur Anderson. Ritchey was employed by Chemical Waste Management before returning to public accounting as director of Coopers & Lybrand Personal Financial Services and later started a private practice becoming a branch manager and Financial Advisor for the Investment Center. He earned his law degree, was a Certified Public Accountant, and a Certified Financial Planner which lead him to build a successful business over the past 25 years. Ritchey enjoyed his career so much that he never considered it work. His clients became part of his family and these lifelong friendships are still cherished to this day.

Ritchey's pride and joy were his family. He and his precious wife Stephanie were together for 38 years and during this time he was a devoted husband and father to two amazing young men - family was the center of his world. Ritchey's life

revolved around his family and friends where his character was always positive, encouraging and determined to live life to the fullest, while continuing to place others before himself. Ritchey made those around him feel loved, comfortable, welcomed, and cherished. He had an incredible work ethic and displayed determination that is evident in both of his sons, leaving a legacy that can be witnessed through his children and family life. He enjoyed his Bible study class, snow skiing, hunting and fishing.

Ritchey stepped into heaven on Monday, June 1, 2020. He is survived by his loving wife, Stephanie, his sons, Randall and his daughter in law Katherine, Andrew and his fiancé Alexis Eliff, his brother Christopher and sister in law, Rebecca of Austin, Texas,

Janet Prevato, his sister, and her husband Marcio of Denver, Colorado, and their two children and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to all friends and family who have supported us with an abundance of thoughts and prayers during Ritchey's journey the last two and half years. We are truly blessed with all of you in our lives. A Celebration of Life will be held at St. Peters United Methodist Church 20775 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, Texas 77450 on June 19th at 2:00pm. In lieu of usual remembrances, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the "TX Gulf Coast & Louisiana Make-a-Wish Foundation" 12625 SW Freeway, Stafford, TX 77477. In memo add "In memory of Ritchey Faulk." Help make someone's dream come true just as he did for other's during his lifetime.



RITCHEY LACIE FAULK
1959-2020

Leonard V. Moore charged into life March 23, 1949 and took the hand of Jesus on June 8, 2020. He was a long time resident of Sealy, Texas where he retired with his wife of 49 years, Gail A. Moore. Leonard was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana to Maurice and Betty Moore, the second of five children. He is survived by his siblings, Michael Moore, Ronald Moore, DiAnna Billard, and Margaret Perusse.



LEONARD V. MOORE
1949-2020

Leonard spent his early years in Fort Wayne and moved with his family to Windham, Connecticut when he was 17 years old. He went to the University of Connecticut for his undergraduate degree in geology and met his wife, Gail Gerdes at a joint-university field camp in DuBois, Wyoming. They married August 21, 1971 and moved to Dallas for Leonard to complete his Master's degree at Southern Methodist University in 1974. They welcomed their first child in 1976 while Leonard was working for Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. After their second son was born, Leonard

took several overseas assignments, and the family continued to grow as they made new homes wherever they went. Later in his life, Leonard enjoyed orchid cultivation, art, collecting memorabilia, coins and stamps. After he retired from a 30 year career at ExxonMobil, he took up cattle ranching full time.

Leonard is survived by his wife, Gail Moore and his four children and

their spouses: Alexander Moore, Benjamin Moore and Al Pelayo, Andrew and Amanda Moore, Luke and Kate Patrick. He is also survived by his six grandchildren: Sarah Moore, Anderson Moore, Vivienne Patrick, Nathaniel Moore, Oliver Patrick, and Asher Moore.

A Celebration of Life Ceremony for Leonard Moore is scheduled at Second Baptist West Campus for Friday, July, 10, 2020 and 10am. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Leonard's name to the Disabled American Veterans or another charity of your choosing.

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Psalms 94:19

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Psalms 94:19

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

KATY ISD Invites Private Non-Profit Schools to Participate in CARES Act Funding

Private non-profit schools located within Katy ISD boundaries have the option to participate in the CARES Act ESSER federal formula grant program. If the private non-profit school wishes to participate, a consultation meeting can be scheduled to provide an overview of the CARES Act ESSER federal program. Non-profit schools interested in participating in this federal grant program for the 2020-2021 school year should contact Dotty Winski at 281-396-2243 by July 3, 2020 to schedule a consultation meeting to discuss program eligibility requirements and grant guidelines.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT
JULY 8, 2020, 9:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM,
WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the authority of Chapter 251.152, Transportation Code, to consider the establishment of speed limits and the installation of speed limit signs on the following road:

ZADELSKY ROAD – Entire length – 35 mph.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in the Public Hearing.

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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June 11

Puzzle Answers

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AUCTION

Estate & Real Estate, Thurs., June 25, starts at 9:19 a.m. 16841 South Memorial Dr., Bixby, OK. Real estate will sell at 12:01 p.m. 300' Frontage on Memorial Dr., 2.25 Acres includes 3/2/2 home. Dozers, pay loader, classic cars, trucks, midget racer, Harley, trailers, dump trucks, car parts, shop tools, scrap metal, furniture, antiques and collectibles. Online & onsite bidding: lots 1-59 will be offered on simulcast at 12:51 p.m., www.chuppsauction.com, 918-630-0495.

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Dennis Scott Dees, 56, died on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 after being involved in an automobile accident.

Dennis was born January 8, 1964 in Daytona Beach, Florida,

where he spent his early years enjoying the beach and NA-SCAR. As a cub scout, he would watch the races then the troop would clean the stands. He truly enjoyed that and thus began his life-long love of racing. At the age of 14, he moved to Katy, Texas and attended Katy High School, graduating in 1982. Dennis enjoyed shop class and working on vehicles and upon graduation, attended Wyoming Technical Institute to study automotive technology. After graduating in 1983, Dennis began his 37-year career working for Mac Haik Chevrolet.



DENNIS SCOTT DEES
1964-2020

Holy Covenant United Methodist in Katy was Dennis's church home for many years and he was very involved from teaching 4th and 5th Sunday School to helping anywhere else he was needed.

Dennis leaves behind his son, Donovan Joseph Dees; daughter, Hannah Nicole Dees; the mother of his children, Linda Marie Dees; mother, Judy Green; brother and sister-in-law, David and Jodi Dees, niece Jessica; her mom, Rebecca Dees; sister and brother-in law, Stacy and Blaine Dykes; niece and nephew, Caitlynn Dykes and Jeremiah Dykes; great-niece Raynee Lynn; aunt, Amy Ruland; cousin, Josh and Ashlynn Ruland and daughter Marcieline; step-son Justin Meikle and wife Angela and Aubrey; his best friend Paul Garrett; his girlfriend Ellen Barton and many friends.

Dennis was preceded in death by his father, Archie William Dees, Jr. on May 14, 2019, and stepfather Robert Green.

Dennis was loved by all and will be greatly missed but we can take comfort in knowing that he is with our Lord in Heaven and is watching over us.

In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting: American Diabetes Association; Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, Katy; or Citizens for Animal Protection, Katy.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2020 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway, where funeral services will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 with Rev. Fred Willis officiating.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1344 W. Grand Parkway South in Katy, Texas 77494. They can be reached at 281-391-2424.

Harris FD training facility certified

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

Harris County Emergency Services District Number 48's Fire Department was designated by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection as a certified training facility for structure firefighters. The certification is the result of the department establishing a training facility at one of its new stations, according to a press release.

The facility will be housed at the future Fire Station 6 property, located at 3506 Porter Rd. The training allows individuals to take a state certification course usually found at colleges or larger fire departments. HCESD 48 is the only state certification academy found in the Katy area.

"The District thanks the Command Staff, ESD Board Commissioners, and the citizens and taxpayers of the area for making this new facility possible," the press release read. "It will increase safety for our members, it will bring our members and neighboring departments more opportunities to train together and become more efficient and effective in our responses to emergencies, and it will provide for greater opportunities for growth and development of those who utilize it here on a local level."

According to Jason Tharp, HCESD 48 Fire Department division chief of community risk reduction, the construction of the new facility has currently cost "just



CONTRIBUTED BY HCESD 48

This new facility allows Harris County Emergency Services District 48 to improve skills locally and has helped the department earn recognition from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection for having a certified training facility for structure firefighters.

under \$12,500." The facility is currently made up of five Conex boxes, two of which were donated and the other three bought used. The structure is simple enough to meet requirements set by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection until plans for Fire Station 6 and a fixed state-of-the-art training center is built, said Tharp.

Those projects are expected to last three to five years out. All state testing certifications are currently being held at the district's administration building every month. Once a permanent facility is built, those certifications will be moved there, Tharp said.

Completing Phase 1 of the train-

ing facility buildout allows HCESD 48 members and neighboring departments to conduct various types of hands-on trainings including but not limited to search and rescue, ladder training, roof ventilation and hand tool use.

In addition to state structure certification, the District offers other certification courses such as Basic Wildland Firefighting; Driver Operator Pumper and/or Aerial, Fire and Life Safety Educator 1 and 2; Fire Instructor 1, 2 and 3; Incident Safety Officer; and Fire Officer 1, 2, 3 and 4. The District also offers online certification courses for Fire Inspector or Plan Examiner 1 in addition to Driver, Instructor and Fire Officer certifications.

A&M approves diversity scholarship fund

By RAGA JUSTIN
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents unanimously approved the creation of a \$100 million scholarship fund Monday to help the system's 11 universities address "diversity issues," as well as bolster aid meant for students who are economically disadvantaged or in the first generation of their families to attend college.

The aid comes in the middle of the economic crisis spurred by COVID-19,

which has left many families out of work. It also comes as protests continue in Texas and nationwide over police brutality and systemic racism. At the A&M System's flagship campus in College Station, protests in particular have sprouted over the presence of a statue honoring Sul Ross, a former Texas governor and president of A&M who served as a general in the Confederate army.

A&M System Chancellor John Sharp said Monday that the fund had been "in the works for some time."

"The goal ... is to make

A&M system's 11 universities look like Texas," Sharp said. "Though system-wide the universities are within a few percentage points of reflecting the state's demographics, the student population on some individual campuses is not where we want it to be."

Sharp emphasized the need for A&M's student population to reflect that of the state. Currently, white students comprise more than half of the student population at A&M's College Station campus, while black students make up less than 4%, according to 2019 data.

Hispanic and Asian students make up 21% and 8% of the student population, respectively. Meanwhile, the state's population is 41% white, 39% Hispanic and 12% black, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

The program will disburse \$10 million annually over 10 years, with priority given to students who are low income, first generation and from geographically underrepresented regions of the state. Each campus will be engaged in fundraising to help support this effort, according to a press release.

42 Katy area students graduate

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

Sam Houston State University will be awarding bachelor's and master's degrees to 42 students from the Katy area on July 30 and 31 during their rescheduled Spring commencement ceremonies in Huntsville, Texas. Those scheduled to graduate in May will have their degree conferred with May's date.

This year's 2020 graduating class from Sam Houston State University includes the following Katy area students who will receive the degrees and honors listed:

- Jeffrey Abili, Bachelor of Business Admin, Finance
- Bailey Adams, Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Studies
- Diana Alcaraz, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre, Magna Cum Laude, Highest Honors/Honors College
- Daisy Brooks, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science
- Jessica Campos, Bachelor of Science, Political Science, Magna Cum Laude
- Sydney Da Costa, Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice
- Juliana Dean, Bachelor of Music, Music
- Cayla Dodd, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Animation, Magna Cum Laude
- Haley Dominguez, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science
- Jerri Ellis, Bachelor of Arts, English
- Rebekah Ethridge, Master of Education, Curriculum & Instruction
- Mahnoor Fatima, Bachelor of Business Admin, Finance
- Rosa Garcia, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice, Summa Cum Laude, Honors/Honors College
- Gabriel Gonzalez, Bachelor of Arts, History
- Isabel Gonzalez, Bachelor of Arts, History
- Samantha Haar, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre
- Leah Henson, Bachelor of Science, Health Care Administration
- Nathan Hill, Bachelor of Business Admin, General Business
- Abigail Hulen, Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Studies, Magna Cum Laude
- David Jones, Bachelor of Science, Political Science
- Wajahat Khan, Master of Science, Homeland Security Studies
- Marisa Madison, Bachelor of Arts, Mass Communication, Magna Cum Laude
- Timothy McCurdy, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice
- Danyra Montoya, Bachelor of Science, Psychology
- Hannah Morris, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nursing, Cum Laude, Honors/Honors College
- Marguerite Murray, Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Studies
- Valeria Ordonez Mosquera, Bachelor of Science, Athletic Training
- Jayla Perry, Bachelor of Science, Biology, Honors/Honors College
- Ragsul Piper, Bachelor of Business Admin, MGT Information Systems
- Jashera Richard, Bachelor of Science, Health Care Administration
- Kyle Richard, Bachelor of Business Admin, Finance
- Andrea Rico Salazar, Master of Business Admin, Business Administration
- Giselle Rios, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice
- Maranda Ripperger, Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies
- Alondra Saldua, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Animation
- Kaycee Stockton, Master of Education, Curriculum & Instruction
- Megan Tafallo, Bachelor of Business Admin, MGT Information Systems
- Kenny Torres, Bachelor of Business Admin, Management
- Abigail Velez Rodriguez, Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice, Summa Cum Laude
- Yu Wen Wang, Master of Arts, Counseling
- Nathan Yost, Bachelor of Science, Psychology
- Carolina Zamora, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences



\$100,000

Local Stimulus Grant

Matching grants available to local small businesses

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

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

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

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

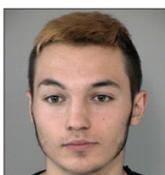
Katy Times

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Suspect charged for racist graffiti

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office arrested Dominic Reale, 18, on June 3 in relation to more than a dozen calls regarding 16 vehicles spray painted with racial slurs and graphic drawings in the 6900-7000 blocks of Pembrough Lane. Reale has been charged with felony graffiti for spray painting racial slurs, graphic drawings and the phrase "Be Gone" on vehicles near Pembrough's intersection with Glen Rosa Drive in the Katy area.



DOMINIC REALE

"If this individual thought he would get away with spreading hate in Fort Bend County, he was wrong," Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy Nehls said. "I am proud of the diverse community we serve and will never tolerate this kind of behavior."

Reale could face additional hate crime charges, according to a FBCSO press release. His bond

has been set at \$5,000.

Reale was already in the Fort Bend County Jail in connection with a family violence investigation from June 6, a spokesperson for the FBCSO said.

Mexico border arrests up 36% in May

By NICK MIROFF
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The number of migrants detained by U.S. authorities at the Mexico border rose 36% in May, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection figures released Friday, a sign that the deterrent effects of President Donald Trump's emergency pandemic measures might be wearing off.

CBP took 23,118 migrants into custody last month, up from 16,966 in April, the figures show. Border arrests typically rise in late spring as U.S. seasonal labor demands increase, but last month's totals were still far below the figures recorded in May 2019, when 144,116 were detained at the peak of last year's border crisis.

The uptick at the border last month occurred despite the administration's continued application of emergency restrictions that have suspended normal immigration proceedings and allowed for the rapid "expulsion" of nearly every migrant who crosses into the United States illegally.

Those emergency health orders, which CBP refers to as Title 42, allowed the agency to expel 19,707 border crossers last month, including minors and asylum seekers who are no longer afforded additional legal protections. The Trump administration argues the emergency measures have aided in preventing a wider coronavirus outbreak by limiting the number of detainees held in cramped border cells.

"Implementation of COVID-19 policies allowed CBP to process and return, in under two hours, 96% of those subject to [Title 42], dramatically reducing human contact, the risk of spread, and the strain on U.S. healthcare facilities, helping the United States avert a public health disaster," the agency said in a statement Friday.

Since the implementation of the emergency orders in late March, nearly 43,000 migrants have been subjected to the rapid-expulsion proceedings, according to CBP figures. Once in U.S. custody, the migrants' fingerprints and



PHOTO CREDIT: IVAN PIERRE AGUIRRE FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

According to new U.S. Customs and Border Protection figures, the number of migrants detained by U.S. authorities at the Mexico border rose 36% in May.

documents are quickly recorded, and they are driven to the nearest border crossing for delivery to Mexican authorities.

Mexican single adults now account for the largest share of those taken into custody in recent months, in contrast with last year's historic border surge, which was driven primarily by Central American families.

According to CBP data, 82% of migrants encountered by the agency last month were Mexican nationals, while just 13% were from Central America's Northern Triangle nations of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. A year earlier, those numbers were almost the reverse: 72% of detainees were from the Northern Triangle and 16% from Mexico.

Mexican nationals typically make up the largest share of U.S. deportees, and some of those arrested by border agents each month are longtime U.S. residents attempting to return to jobs and families on the U.S. side.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration this week in the District of Columbia on behalf of a 16-year-old Honduran asylum seeker attempting to reunite with his father in the United States.

The lawsuit contends that the Trump administration has exceeded its authority under Title 42 and cannot disregard protections granted to minors, asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups under U.S. law.

"The Administration's use of

Title 42 is a transparent end-run around Congress's considered decision to provide protection to children and others fleeing danger even where communicable disease is a concern — and to address that concern through the use of testing and quarantines, not deportations," the ACLU argued in its complaint.

Trump has extended the emergency restrictions at the border indefinitely, in addition to issuing an executive order blocking several categories of visa applicants from seeking green cards overseas. White House officials are debating a second executive order that could freeze nonimmigrant work visas for up to six months, according to two administration officials who were not authorized to com-

ment publicly, but a final decision on the scope of that decree has not been made.

Trump's emergency restrictions have all but closed the United States to border crossers fleeing persecution, records show. The Justice and Homeland Security departments proposed regulations this week that would make it even more difficult for applicants to qualify for protection, with a new series of legal and administrative hurdles, while giving the government more latitude to dismiss their claims and order deportations.

The Texas Tribune is a nonpartisan, nonprofit media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues.

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Governor promises action to family of George Floyd

By ED STERLING
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Gov. Greg Abbott pledged to institute police reforms when he met with the Houston family of George Floyd, who was handcuffed and killed by police in front of a Minneapolis convenience store on May 25.

Video footage showed the 46-year-old Floyd subdued by four uniformed officers and pinned down on the pavement, one of them pressing his knee into Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes. Floyd lost consciousness and was later pronounced dead. Outrage over Floyd's death and other police-involved deaths of African Americans inspired protest marches in cities across Texas, the United States and around the world over the last three weeks.

Abbott told reporters he met with the Floyd family in their home June 9 to assure them that George Floyd did not die in vain and that his life "would be the stimulant for reforms that will make Texas and the country a better place."

Abbott said there was no reason for a police officer to have his knee on Floyd's neck, that there must be better strategies for police to use, and that reforms would be a priority in the 87th Texas Legislature.

Reform work is ahead

Texas House County Affairs Committee Chair Garnet Coleman and Senate Criminal Justice Committee Chair John Whitmire, both D-Houston, on June 9 announced they would continue to work together on criminal justice reform in the upcoming legislative session scheduled to convene in January.

Whitmire, the most-senior member of the Texas Senate, and Coleman, who is the fifth-most-senior member of the Texas House, released a joint statement, saying: "The recent murder of longtime Houston resident George Floyd by a law enforcement officer in Minneapolis is a painful reminder to us that though we have traveled so far, there is still a long way to go. The passion shown by the millions of people who have made their voices heard against racism have helped fuel our commitment to continue to work towards justice."

Whitmire and Coleman said their goal is to "ensure equal treatment for people of color, increase transparency and accountability and keep both law enforcement and the public safer."

COVID measures increase

Texas is increasing efforts to identify and expand COVID-19 testing operations

in underserved and minority communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the virus.

Gov. Abbott on June 8 said the Texas Division of Emergency Management is coordinating with local governments, public health officials and emergency management entities to speed up testing and identification of COVID-19 cases.

Abbott said walk-up and drive-thru testing sites are in place and expanding in Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, El Paso, Abilene, the Rio Grande Valley, the Coastal Bend, Laredo, Midland-Odessa and particularly in urban areas where large-scale protests have taken place. "As many Texans continue to gather for protests," Abbott said, "the state is also taking steps to address potential surges in COVID-19 cases. We are ensuring that Texans can continue to safely exercise their First Amendment Rights while putting protocols in place to identify and mitigate any spread of COVID-19."

Cumulative figures posted June 14 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed some 87,854 people in Texas diagnosed with COVID-19 and 1,976 deaths confirmed from the virus pandemic.

Ryan: Follow protocols

With plans to reopen Texas while COVID-19 testing, cases and deaths continue to increase, the governor's office on June 10 posted a public service announcement delivered by Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan.

In the short video titled "Don't Be A Knucklehead" Ryan encourages Texans to follow established COVID-19 protocols: "Wash your hands, socially distance yourself from others and wear a mask. Do the right thing. Look out for your fellow Texans and together we'll make it through this," Ryan says.

Revenue to be distributed

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on June 10 announced his office would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$690.4 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of June.

The revenue to be distributed is 11.7% less than the amount distributed in June 2019, a decline Hegar attributed to social distancing statewide in April. The June 2020 allocation percentages, based on sales made in April by businesses that report tax monthly, break down as follows: cities, down 11.1%; counties, down 7.2%; transit systems, down 17.4%; and special purpose districts, down 4.4%.