

# Katy Times



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THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ [katytimes.com](http://katytimes.com)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

## Benton joins district race

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Local nonprofit-head Titus Benton announced Monday that he will be putting his name in the hat for the Texas House District 132 race as a write-in independent. Benton will face incumbent Democratic Representative Gina Calanni and Republican and former HD 132 Representative Mike Schofield in the race.

"The partisan temperature in this country and in our state has risen to dangerous levels. The fever has to break eventually. I believe independent candidates can help pave a more united path forward," Benton said in a press release announcing his run for the Texas congressional seat.

Both the Calanni and Schofield campaigns declined to comment on the announcement.

Texas House District 132 is situated in northwestern Harris County and has a population of about 173,000. Its area includes the northwestern portion of the city of Katy and parts of the Cinco Ranch area just west of Houston. Highway 290 serves as its northern border while Fort Bend County's northern and Waller County's eastern border count as its boundaries.

Benton is a philanthropist and

See **RACE**, page 5



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House District 132 covers the Katy area portion of Harris County and extends into the Cypress area.

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## Interim sheriff appointed



WALLER COUNTY

Fire Marshal Brian Cantrell recommended that commissioners reinstate a burn ban due to expected high temperatures. The court has had a tendency to examine the need for a burn ban each of the last few weeks and readers may want to view the county's website prior to burning debris.

## Burn ban instituted, OK COVID-19 testing

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Waller County Commissioners Court appointed Joe Hester as interim sheriff for the county during the court's regular meeting this morning. Hester has been late Sheriff R. Glenn Smith's second in command for quite some time. Commissioners also reinstated a burn ban countywide.

"I will just say this, Joe Hester has a very long career in law enforcement, I think 46 years. ... I think Joe is an excellent choice to serve out the

remainder of Sheriff Smith's term - obviously Sheriff Smith had confidence in (Hester, who) was his deputy chief," County Judge Trey Duhon said.



JOE HESTER

Hester will serve as Waller County sheriff through the end of the year - the remainder of Smith's elected term. An election between Republican candidate Troy Guidry and Democratic candidate Cedric Watson this Nov. 3 will determine who is sworn in to take over permanently in January, Duhon said.

Hester began his career in law enforcement in 1973 with the Terry County Sheriffs

Office and has worked at a variety of agencies since then, including as police chief for the cities of Denver City, Navasota and Hempstead, according to the WCSO website. He has served as WCSO's patrol captain from 2007 to 2013 when he was promoted to chief deputy, overseeing the criminal investigation and patrol groups for WCSO.

Hester holds a bachelor's degree from Wayland Baptist College. He also holds a master peace officer certification and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

The court also reinstated a burn ban at the recommendation of Fire Marshal Brian Cantrell.

See **SHERIFF**, page 5



Katy ISD's new safety videos highlight steps the district is taking to ensure campuses remain sanitary for students during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this screen capture, a KISD employee sanitizes a cafeteria table after use to demonstrate the additional sanitation steps the district will be taking once campuses reopen.

## Safety videos issued for return to school

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

To help families prepare for in-person instruction set to begin Sept. 8, Katy ISD has released seven safety demonstration videos for families to review prior to a return to campus. The new videos highlight practices the district has put in place to ensure Texas Education Agency and health officials' guidelines are followed on campus.

"Following established classroom safety practices is essential to protecting the health and well-being of our Katy ISD learners, staff and families," said KISD Emergency Management Coordinator Ruben Martinez. "The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages and backgrounds."

The videos highlight basic practices put in place for district students in classrooms and on buses. Children in Pre-K

See **SCHOOL**, page 2

## TX COVID-19 deaths top 10K, data shows some improvements

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The COVID-19 pandemic and government response to it in the three counties that comprise the Katy area continue to move forward as deaths in Texas from the virus exceeded 10,000 earlier this week. However, data from the Texas Medical Center and Texas Department of State Health Services is showing that measures to combat the virus may be working.

Cases continue to mount, though the number of new hospitalizations is on the decline according to data from the Texas Medical Center. Data shows that in early July, TMC saw more than 300 cases per day on several days in the month. In August, that trend has dropped to 200 or fewer

See **COVID**, page 5



R. HANS MILLER

Data from the Texas Medical Center, which Texas Children's Hospital is a part of, indicates that COVID-19 hospitalizations are declining.

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# Unemployment claims still significant

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

New unemployment claims appear to be on a steady decrease over the last several weeks with all three Katy area counties seeing reductions in claims, which tracks with a statewide trend.

According to a report from the Texas Workforce Commission, all three counties have seen improvements in the number of new unemployment assistance claims received in the last several weeks. July 4 numbers show Fort Bend County with 2,206 new claims

compared to a reported 1,144 this Aug. 8. Harris County saw a similar decline with 21,223 claims July 4 and 9,197 claims Aug. 8. Waller County saw improvements as well with 178 new claims July 4, but only 85 new claims Aug. 8. Highs for the year for Fort Bend,

Harris and Waller counties came in at 8,824 claims, 52,468 claims and 414 claims respectively on April 4 when the state hit its highest number of new claims in a single week at 277,714. Statewide, that number has crept slowly down to 44,706. According to the TWC, the most

impacted type of businesses in the Gulf Coast region which includes Katy, Fulshear, Brookshire, Pattison and Houston are restaurants, travel services, temp agencies and schools. About 57.5% of claimants are men with the remainder being women or an unstated gender.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CRIMESTOPPERS

Investigators are trying to identify this man who is a suspect in a bank robbery that took place in East Houston, near Katy, Aug. 12. He was wearing a gray baseball cap with a Superman logo on it at the time of the robbery.

## FBI seeks aid in finding man who robbed bank in Superman ball cap

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Crimestoppers is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the capture of a man who robbed a JPMorgan Chase Bank located at 10420 Westheimer Road - about a block west of the Sam Houston Tollway at about 1 p.m. on Aug. 12. The FBI is investigating the robbery.

The man, who investigators have dubbed the "Justice League Dropout" due to the Superman logo

on his ball cap entered the bank and presented a note demanding cash. The cashier provided the cash as requested because she feared for her safety and the man left. He was last seen running northbound on Rogerdale Road.

Witnesses describe the suspect as a Black male in his early 40s, about 6 feet 1 inch in height with a stocky build. In addition to wearing the hat he wore a surgical mask, gloves, light gray T-shirt and black shorts.

Crime Stoppers of Houston is offering the \$5,000

reward for information leading to the identification and arrest of the suspect. Anyone with information can call the Crime Stoppers tip line at 713-222-TIPS (8477) or the FBI Houston Field Office at (713) 693-5000. Text TIP610 plus your tip to CRIMES (274637) or visit www.crime-stoppers.org. Tips may also be submitted to Crime Stoppers through the Crime Stoppers of Houston app, which can be downloaded at the app store for both iPhone and Android devices. All tipsters remain anonymous.

## Brookshire Municipal Water District a no show for its own teleconference

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Board of Directors for the Brookshire Municipal Water District experienced failure to launch for a public meeting scheduled for 5 p.m. Thursday evening. An announcement on the water district's website had instructed residents to call into a telephone conference at that time.

The meeting was canceled at about 4:45 p.m. according to Brookshire Alderperson Kim Branch who had contacted one member of the water board to inquire about the meeting.

No members of the Brookshire Municipal Water District's board nor its representatives logged into the call to advise teleconference attendees that the meeting had been canceled and as of 5:40 p.m. no notice of cancellation had been posted to the water district's website.

Several callers waited on the line for about 45 minutes and expressed interest in discussing unexplained jumps in their water bills over the last month. Increases in meter readings ranged from about 1,400 gallon increases to about 20,000 gallons, teleconference attendees said as they spoke among themselves while waiting for BMWD representatives to log into the meeting.

Phone lines at the water district's office were not answered when "Katy Times" attempted to reach them and contact information for district management is not published on the district's website.



R. HANS MILLER

Residents in Brookshire have recently raised concerns about higher-than-normal water bills. Water in the city is provided by the Brookshire Municipal Water District.

Elliot Barner, an attorney with Radcliffe, Bobbitt Adams and Polley - the district's contracted attorney - reached out to the Times after seeing this article posted online and said the district has taken measures to ensure a similar situation does not happen again.

Regular meetings for the board occur the first and third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. and information regarding those meetings can be found at www.brookshiremwd1.org.

## 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 PWR. He has worked at Texas Uranium Operations as Chief Chemist, at South Texas Nuclear Project as Nuclear Chemist during pre-startup, and retired from City of Houston where he was in charge of Technical Services Section of Bureau of Air Quality Control. Owner of BAKER'S BOOKS is also the author of God's Amazing Answer To Prayer, in 2012.

## USPS slated to increase commercial postage rates

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Businesses shipping parcels will be paying a bit more to do so through the U.S. Postal Service starting Oct. 18, according to a press release from USPS. The rates, which are slated to return to normal on Dec. 27, were set by the Postal Regulatory Commission in response to strain from the coronavirus pandemic and expected holiday shipping increases.

"The governors believe these temporary rates will keep the Postal Service competitive while providing the agency with much needed revenue. The forecasted additional revenue from the time-limited increase will depend on the volume of packages shipped between Oct. 18 and Dec. 27 at commercial rates," the press release said.

Priority mail express, priority mail, first-class package service, parcel select and parcel return service will all increase in cost.

Cost increase projections range from 24 cents to \$1.50 depending upon the shipping product selected.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELEMENT 5 DIGITAL

Commercial shippers should expect to pay more for shipping this winter with price increases for parcels going into effect Oct. 18.

The announcement comes as the USPS has gotten national attention for controversial decisions made by newly-appointed Postmaster General Louis DeJoy that include

removing or deactivating mail sorting machines in some post offices across the country and concerns about the accessibility and reliability of mail in ballots.

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## My foray into domestic retail

Due to my flexible work schedule, I often run errands that are traditionally associated with the matriarch of the family - in other words, the mother/wife/supervisor/figure of maturity and common sense. Whether I'm shopping for bras or perusing the feminine hygiene aisles at Walmart wearing sunglasses, a full-coverage mask, and a hoodie, I'm frequently complimented by female shoppers and cashiers on what a "good dad" I am, and how lucky my wife and daughters are to have a sucker... I mean, a man like me around.

My most recent foray into the world of domestic retail took place at our local and recently re-opened Bed Bath & Beyond store, where I was deployed to purchase new bath linens for our three daughters. Although I thought their previous towels and washcloths were just getting "broke in good," my wife assured me that the girls could no longer bathe and dry themselves without risk of strangulation from the holes, snags, and dangling hems - besides the fact that you could see through the material. Who knew girls could be so picky about something used to wipe down their armpits?

I actually enjoy shopping in Bed Bath & Beyond because the store smells so clean and makes me feel like I'm in a giant bathroom - the one place in my house where I can get some privacy from everyone except my daughters' two doglets, who think that I require their assistance with any activity involving the commode.

Speaking of the commode, after a brief detour through an elaborate display of Poo-Pourri toilet sprays, the fun ended when I finally reached the towel section. The variety of colors, thread counts and bun coverage was staggering, and I didn't see anything that resembled the once light-bluish towel-like things the girls had been using and that presumably matched their bathroom décor.

I first had to choose from among ambiguously blue colors like Glacier, Cornflower, Fog, Seafoam, and Cloud. It was like looking at some newfangled box of crayons invented by a sadistic environmentalist.

Then I had to decide on an appropriate size of towel that would allow my daughters to envelop themselves like giant burritos (while shrieking) on the off-chance



**JASE GRAVES**  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

that I need to enter my own guest bathroom to fetch my nail clippers that someone had probably been using recently on a dog. The towels ranged in size from large enough to clean industrial mining equipment to roughly the dimensions of a Cheez-It.

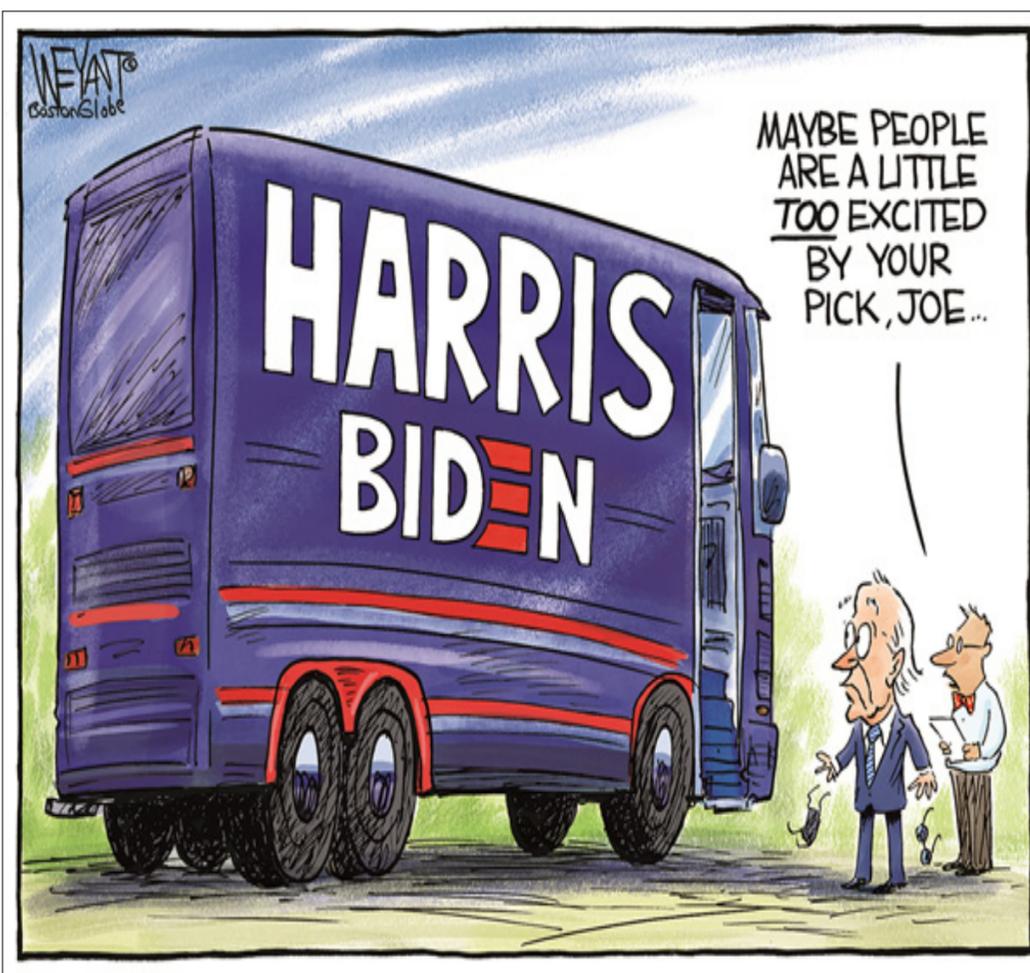
I finally settled on acceptably soft, medium-sized towels in an almost-recognizable color called Denim Blue, which I was confident would be exactly the wrong thing.

One consolation of this shopping trip was that I came armed with an arsenal of coupons. My daughters always roll their eyes and say, "Ok, Boomer!" when I reach into the glove compartment and pull out my trusty gallon-sized Ziploc baggie bulging with mostly expired coupons. What they fail to realize is that these coupons allow me to imagine that I'm getting a great deal on boring, ancillary stuff like food and toiletries so that I can justify purchasing their life essentials like EarPods and UGG slippers. And Bed Bath & Beyond happily accepts multiple coupons for each transaction, expired or not, per company policy - or maybe they just feel sorry for me.

When I arrived home, I was surprised that my wife and daughters approved of my purchases. The only problem was that I was short about a dozen towels and washcloths - since apparently three teenage girls use enough bath linens on a daily basis to run their own limo-detailing service. This meant I had to make another trip to Bed Bath & Beyond, which was actually fine with me.

I still had enough expired coupons for the additional towels and washcloths, and while I was at it, I could grab the dogs and me a six-pack of Poo-Pourri.

*Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susan-jase@sbeglobal.net.*



## Sports have been hard to watch

American sports are in trouble. At least if I am, in any way, a representation of a typical fan.

I grew up in Philadelphia where following all four major teams is part of one's DNA. As I sit here, I can name, without prompting, every member of the 1980 Phillies starting lineup. And the 1977 team - 1976 too. I once won a Philly sports trivia contest where my savant-like recall stupefied the quizmaster to the point where he assumed I had to be cheating.

I once paid a guy to cut down a tree that was blocking my southern exposure so I could pay another guy to put up a satellite dish so I could watch the Eagles on Sunday.

I've bought every sports package available so I could follow Philadelphia teams wherever I happened to be living, and I've moved around quite a bit.

I listen to sports radio incessantly. My friend, an Eagles' season ticket holder since 1972, calls me before and after every game for predictions and postgame analysis.

I'm that guy. And I'm not just a spectator. I coach high school lacrosse. I do the play-by-play for my university's basketball games.

Given my history, you would think after a five-month, COVID-19 sports hiatus I would have rushed back and embraced my teams and their sports as if they were a shipwrecked friend I presumed dead long ago.

And yet, there I was the other day, watching a basketball game for the first time since March and I couldn't summon the energy to care. I tried baseball. Same thing. I'm not sure why.

Maybe there's a certain fakeness



**RICH MANIERI**  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

in watching spectator sports being played in empty stadiums and arenas. Sports, at least for fans, is a shared experience. Those of us watching on TV are living vicariously through the people in the seats. Remove them and the whole thing - from the cardboard cutouts to the pumped-in crowd noise - seems fraudulent.

Maybe it's the infiltration of politics and virtue signaling into what has always been a pleasant diversion from both. There is something spectacularly ironic about an NBA player who makes tens of millions of dollars per annum and feels compelled to wear "EQUALITY" instead of his name on the back of his jersey. Clearly, based on the tenor of the coverage, ESPN, the NBA and its surrogates are wagging their collective finger at me. They don't know anything about me but they continue to tap my credit card to renew my subscription.

Maybe I've simply learned to live without sports.

Maybe, given everything unfolding in the country, it's just not that important anymore.

I've been a sports fan since I was 6 years old, when my father took me to my first Eagles game at Franklin Field in Philadelphia. I've hung in there through strikes, lockouts, decades of

losing, colossal disappointments and epoch-shattering collapses.

Everyone once in a while, after an especially difficult Eagles loss, I would say to my friend - the season ticket holder - "I don't know if I can do this anymore."

"Oh, you'll be back," he would say. And he was right. The next Sunday, there I was for another three hours of hand wringing.

In Philadelphia, we always come back for more. We always get back up. That's part of our character, our charm. That's why there's a Rocky statue in front of the art museum.

But now? I might be down for the count.

In a recent commentary about the state of the NFL, columnist and historian Victor Davis Hanson writes that the league is in trouble like never before.

"If the multibillion-dollar NFL decides that multimillionaire players have no obligation to stand to honor a collective national anthem, and that there will be separate anthems and politicized uniforms, then millions of Americans will quietly shrug and change the channel," Hanson writes.

The NFL and, to a lesser extent, the other leagues, have always been able to count on the resilience of their fans. But at what point do fans run out of patience or worse, just lose interest? I never thought it was possible.

Of course, these days, many things have come to pass that I never thought possible.

*Rich Manieri is a Philadelphia-born journalist and author. He is currently a professor of journalism at Asbury University in Kentucky. You can reach him at manieri2@gmail.com.*

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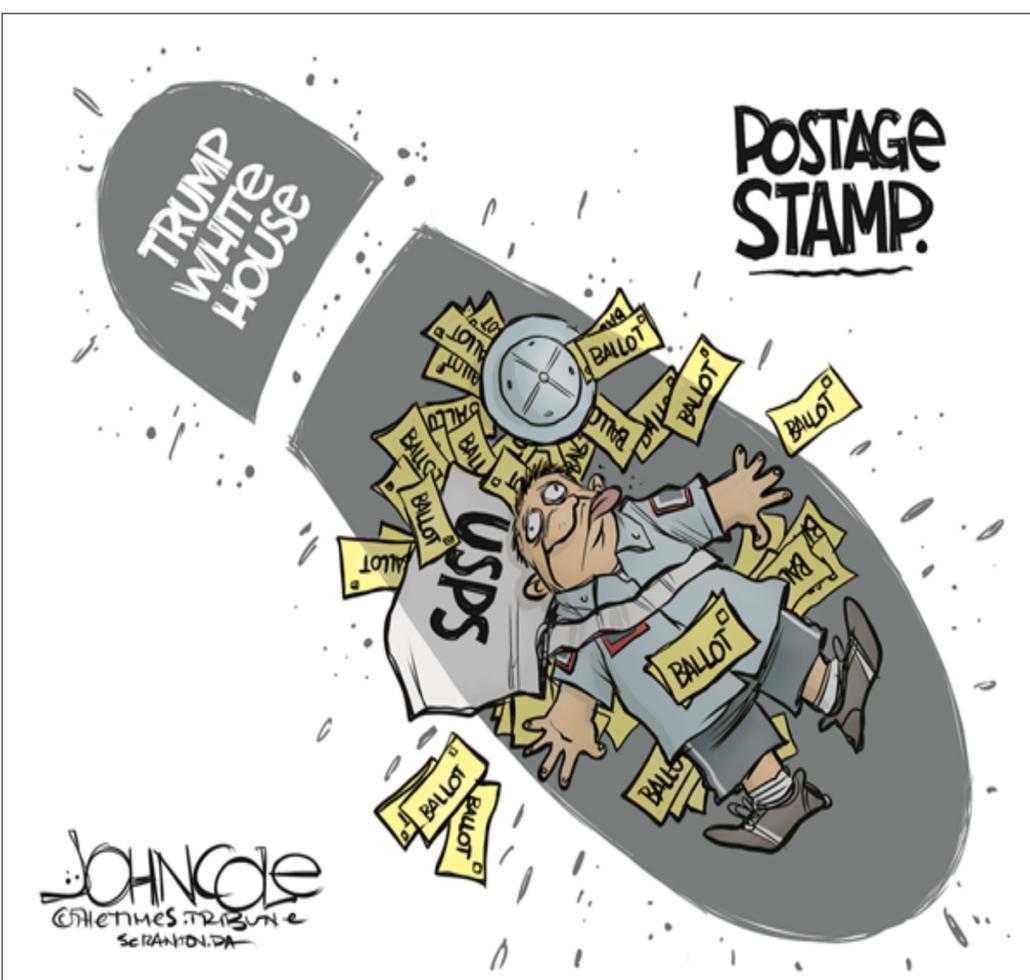
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## COVID

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cases for the month to date. Hospitalization reductions began to be apparent about two weeks after Tex. Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order requiring the use of face masks in public spaces throughout most of Texas.

"Wearing a face covering in public is proven to be one of the most effective ways we have to slow the spread of COVID-19," Abbott said at the time. "We have the ability to keep businesses open and move our economy forward so that Texans can continue to earn a paycheck, but it requires each of us to do our part to protect one another — and that means wearing a face covering in public spaces."

In an Aug. 11 press conference, Harris County officials announced the county's plan to reopen schools. County Judge Lina Hidalgo said the decision to reopen schools would be tied to the county's threat level for the virus which utilizes case data to inform the public of how much risk of contracting the virus they face if they venture into public. Hidalgo said the decision to use the threat level as a guide "takes out the politics" from the decision to reopen schools, which are currently virtual through Sept. 8.

"Over the past few weeks we've heard from school officials, from parents — superintendents — about their concerns with reopening too soon," Hidalgo said. "With reopening schools and what they're supposed to do. They tell me they're not physicians, they're educators, they need guidance."

The Harris County COVID-19 threat level system looks at five data points to determine the level of threat the virus poses to the general public. The indicators are related to the number of new COVID-19 cases county-wide, the positivity rate of coronavirus tests, ICU bed utilization at area hospitals, ICU populations and the availability of medical resources to treat COVID-19.

Testing for COVID-19 continues to be available in all three counties. Harris County residents can seek testing by visiting [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org) or calling 832-927-7575. Fort Bend residents can visit [www.fbchealth.org](http://www.fbchealth.org) or call 281-238-2363 for testing information. Waller County is in the process of setting up regular testing sites (See "Katy Times" coverage of the Waller County Commissioners Court) with sites in Pattison and Brookshire. Additional testing information is available on the DSHS website.

With the impact of the virus on the economy, all three counties are examining measures or have taken them to assist residents.

### Harris County COVID-19 Threat Level System\*

Indicator**	Red-Level 1: Severe Uncontrolled Community	Orange-Level 2: Significant Uncontrolled Community Transmission***	Yellow-Level 3: Moderate, Controlled	Green-Level 4: Minimal, Controlled Transmission
New COVID-19 Cases Per Day in Harris County (including Houston) - 14 Day Average	>400 new cases/day	201-400 new cases/day	101-200 new cases/day	<100 new cases/day
% Positivity Rate of COVID-19 Tests (14 day average)	>5%	<=5%	<=5%	<=5%
% ICU Beds in Use for COVID-19	>15%	10-15%	5-9%	<5%
% General Beds in Use for COVID-19				
Trend in ICU population		14-day statistically significant flat or decreasing trend after level change	14-day statistically significant flat or decreasing trend after level change	14-day statistically significant flat or decreasing trend after level change
Trends in General Bed population				
Trends in cases				
Widely Available COVID-19 Medical Countermeasures	No/Partial	No/Partial	No/Partial	Yes

\*\* 14 day trends are reset after any change in threat level.

—Local public health and healthcare experts will use the latest information on local disease activity based on these specific indicators to advise county officials on the risk level that applies.—

HARRIS COUNTY

Harris and Fort Bend Counties have adopted systems to identify the threat the novel coronavirus poses to the public. Both counties were at their highest threat level as of Aug. 18.

## COUNTING CASES

Data from the state and three counties that make up the Katy area show increasing case counts, though the spread of the virus seems to be slowing as Texans develop habits to keep themselves safe from the novel coronavirus that causes the COVID-19 disease. Data shown below is as of Aug. 18 at 5 p.m. and counts are based on data reported to the respective agencies.

### TEXAS

550,232 total cases  
124,079 active cases  
415,903 recoveries  
10,250 fatalities

### HARRIS COUNTY

93,872 total cases  
28,074 active cases  
64,723 recoveries  
1,073 fatalities

### FORT BEND COUNTY

13,034 total cases  
7,868 active cases  
5,034 recoveries  
132 fatalities

### WALLER COUNTY

531 total cases  
62 active cases  
(as of Aug. 10)

Waller County is examining using CARES Act funding to support school districts' efforts across the county to help ensure low income students have access to virtual schooling.

Harris County has established a \$45 million fund to assist county residents with rent if they have been financially impacted by the virus. The program, in partnership with the city of Houston, which is contributing \$20 million to the program, is managed by Baker Ripley Community Developers and requires landlords to enroll their properties in the

program. All Harris County rental properties are eligible to apply. Tenants whose landlords agree to the program terms may apply for rental assistance for past due rent.

Fort Bend County is providing personal protective equipment — or PPE — kits to residents each Friday at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Pinnacle Senior Center, Cinco Ranch Library and Four Corners Center. The kits will include surgical masks, wipes, hand soap and hand sanitizer according to an announcement from County Judge KP George.

Despite the pandemic, Katy area students are returning to classes. Katy ISD schools began virtual instruction Aug. 19 and Royal ISD is scheduled to start classes remotely Aug. 26.

"As the sun rises on a new academic year, let us remember to be cautious, be caring and, be considerate," George said. "Happy first day of school to all the students, teachers, parents, school staff, and everyone involved in the ecosystem it takes to ensure a successful education, whether virtual or in person."

## SHERIFF

from page 1

At the end of July, the court has instituted a burn ban because the Keetch-Byram Drought Index — or KBDI — had reached a countywide average of 517. Last week's meeting saw the court lifting the ban because the KBDI had dropped to 427 with a general guideline for a ban being a KBDI score of 500, Duhon said at the time. This week, the court reinstated the ban after Cantrell informed the court the KBDI had again exceeded 500 and was expected to remain high considering the hot weather expected for the week.

The court also discussed allotting some of the County's CARES Act funding to the school districts operating in the county. No action was taken, but commissioners did ask county staff to obtain data from school districts including Royal and Katy ISDs to determine the need for devices and connectivity tools for students to be able to connect. Discussion among the commissioners indicated the county would provide the money to the districts for computing devices and hotspots that would allow students, especially low-income students, to complete their online classwork.

Waller County Construction Manager Danny Rothe updated the court on the county's new justice complex and said the Sheriff's Office

and courtroom would be able to open this month, but the jail would need to wait for state approval in September. The court authorized payment of about \$505,000 to Sedalco, Inc. for the construction project which is near completion.

### Other items

- A tax rebate payment to Amazon for its facility between Brookshire and Katy was authorized for about \$513,000. Court members said the payment was part of the development agreement and that overall the county has increased revenues, even with the rebate, which has led to additional staffing for the county without a need to raise taxes.

- An agreement supporting Meals on Wheels was approved.

- The court discussed a new clinic that will be opened by Access Health in Brookshire in the next few weeks. Duhon said the county may consider any physician hired at the new clinic to serve as its health authority rather than depending on the Department of State Health Services for that purpose.

- The court authorized county staff to advertise the hearings for the county's property tax rate in the "Katy Times" and other publications throughout the county. Publication of proposed tax rates in newspapers and subsequent public hearings are standard protocol for setting tax rates in Texas.



Titus Benton (center) has joined the race for Texas House District 132 and will face two-term former Republican Representative Mike Schofield (left) and incumbent Democratic Representative Gina Calanni (right). No polling has occurred as of the time of this article, however, it is possible that Benton's entry into the race could lead to a runoff election. When Calanni and Schofield faced one another in 2018, Calanni by fewer than 150 votes of more than 66,000 cast. A runoff election is triggered when no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote.

## RACE

from page 1

runs The 25 Group, a nonprofit that serves vulnerable populations around the world and is active in the Katy area's nonprofit community. He was pastor at Current — A Christian Church from 2011 to 2017 and has been involved in non-

profit work since leaving that congregation.

Like most campaigns during the pandemic, the race for HD 132 has been somewhat quiet with both Calanni and Schofield making limited public appearances due to social distancing requirements currently in place. However, with both of his opponents having been on the election trail for quite some time, Ben-

ton understands it will take a lot of work in order to win the seat all three candidates are vying for.

"I'm looking forward to the sprint to the finish here this fall. An Independent hasn't won in a general election to the State House since the 1930s. But if ever there was a year to expect the unexpected, I think 2020 might be it," Benton said.

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# 'Control what you can control'

## Katy football putting in preseason work before Sept. 25 opener

By COLE McNANNA  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

With all the questions swirling around the football season amid the coronavirus pandemic, Katy head football coach Gary Joseph has been telling his players to control what they can control to not only start the delayed schedule on time but also to finish it.

"There are things that are not in your control and that's the hard thing," Joseph said in an Aug. 13 phone interview. "The things we can control are the protocols and making sure that they give everybody the opportunity to play football."

After the University Interscholastic League announced July 21 that Classes 6A and 5A would start official fall sports practices a month later than Classes 4A and below, the bigger schools have been able to dig into strength and conditioning and sport-specific instruction and Joseph said the players have been taking advantage of the workouts.

"We're making sure they're working to make up for a little time lost during their spring training," Joseph said. "It's a process, day by day but I'm proud of the kids that have showed up. I tell them all the time I'm not worried about the ones that aren't here, I'm going to coach the ones that are here."

One player that now finds

himself out of the Tigers' workouts is Brandon Campbell, who transferred to Katy High School March 26 but announced Aug. 12 that he was opting out of his senior high school season to enroll early at the University of Southern California and join football practices there.

Campbell grew up in Katy ISD, eventually starting his varsity career with the Taylor Mustangs as a sophomore before suiting up for the Pearland Oilers as a junior.

"I did consider it a loss because he's a good kid but he hasn't done anything at Katy High School so it's just about pushing forward with our kids," Joseph said.

The next steps include following the protocols during workouts so that a season can be played for all of those in their final years.

"I hope our kids are given the opportunity, especially those in the senior stage because kids growing up want to be a part of the program so you just hope they'll have an opportunity to (play instead of) walking by the fieldhouse every day thinking, 'I never got the chance to play my senior year.' That's hard," Joseph said.

The Tigers' regular season will kick off Sept. 25 at Clear Springs and their home opener will be Oct. 9 against the Seven Lakes Spartans.



MARK GOODMAN

Katy Tiger senior running back Jalen Davis will likely shoulder the load in the backfield again this year after stepping up in the first round of the playoffs last year. Pictured is Davis (28) carrying the ball up the middle and picking up the first down during a bi-district playoff game between Katy Tigers and Ridge Point Panthers at Legacy Stadium on Nov. 15, 2019.

# Football community mourns death of head coach Yeoman

By COLE McNANNA  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Last week, the football community mourned the loss of Bill Yeoman, the winningest head football coach in University of Houston history and innovator of the Veer offense. He was 92 years old.

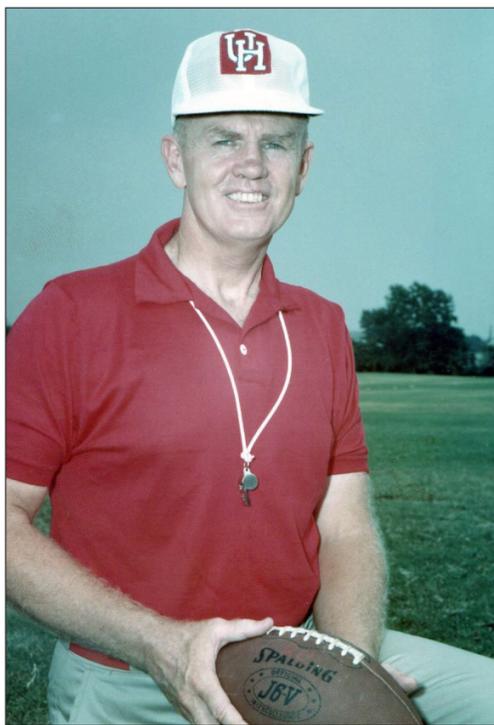
Yeoman became the first Cougar inducted into the college football hall of fame in 2001 for his 160 wins over 25 seasons at the helm of Houston's program. He led 17 winning seasons where the Cougars finished nationally ranked 11 times and won four Southwest Conference championships.

Katy High School head football coach and athletic coordinator Gary Joseph said he developed a close relationship with the Yeoman family growing up and offered his thoughts on the legendary coach's passing.

"It's a tough loss for Houston, he left his legacy there and I think a lot of people really appreciate what he's done for the University of Houston. He's one of those guys that put the University of Houston on the map, he got them in the Southwest Conference, a very competitive Southwest Conference," Joseph said in an Aug. 13 phone interview. "He was a good man and a very innovative guy; he left a great legacy in Houston. It's sad to see him go but I know he's in a better place now."

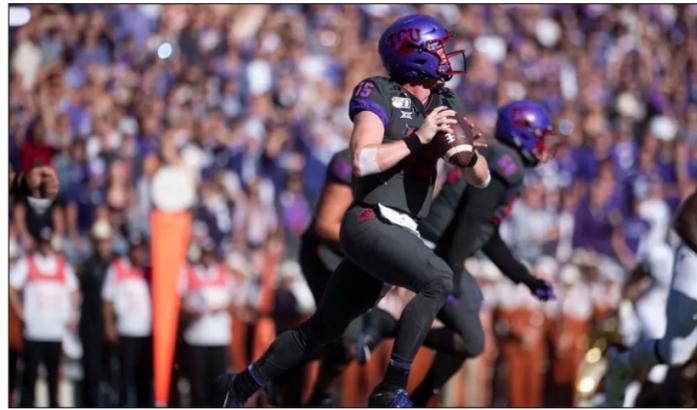
Yeoman also broke ground in becoming the first head football coach of a major Texas college program to offer a scholarship to a Black athlete in the late '60s. Warren McVea earned All-American honors twice at Houston and went on to win both an AFL and NFL championship.

"Coach Yeoman was a leader and visionary in our game. Not only was he a Hall of Fame coach, but also he brought our program to national prominence during his tenure. His legacy will live on in our program and will stand the test of time. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, former players and coaches," said Dana Hologorsen, University of Houston head football coach in an online statement issued by the university.



PHOTOS BY CONTRIBUTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Bill Yeoman served as the University of Houston's football coach from 1962 to 1986. The Cougars had 17 winning seasons under Yeoman, including nine campaigns with at least eight victories. UH finished nationally ranked 11 times, concluding the 1976 season with its highest national ranking at No. 4 by both the Associated Press and United Press International.



EDDIE GASPAR/THE DAILY TEXAN

Officials confirmed the Big 12 Conference will proceed with its season as scheduled, allowing four major Texas football programs — TCU, UT-Austin, Baylor and Texas Tech — to play.

# Big 12 OKs football season

By RAGA JUSTIN  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The start of the Big 12 Conference's college football season will move forward as scheduled, conference officials said on Aug. 12, meaning four major Texas football programs are free to play this fall.

"Ultimately, our student-athletes have indicated their desire to compete in the sports they love this season and it is up to all of us to deliver a safe, medically sound, and structured academic and athletic environment for accomplishing that outcome," said Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby in a statement.

Baylor University, Texas Christian University, Texas Tech University and the University of Texas at Austin are Big 12 members. The conference presidents' decision to allow football during the coronavirus pandemic was made official the morning of Aug. 12, a day after the Big Ten and the Pac-12 announced their seasons would be postponed until the spring semester.

Bowlsby said member schools have committed to enhanced COVID-19 testing, with three tests per week in high contact sports. Non-conference football opponents must also adhere to testing protocols that match conference standards.

All four Texas schools in the Big 12 tweeted in celebration of the decision, posting their slimmed-down schedules in anticipation of the season. The

first conference games will kick off Sept. 26, with the conference championship pegged for Dec. 12.

Texas A&M University is part of the Southeastern Conference, which has also signaled its intent to allow teams to play this fall.

"We will continue to further refine our policies and protocols for a safe return to sports as we monitor developments around COVID-19 in a continued effort to support, educate and care for our student-athletes every day," said SEC commissioner Greg Sankey in an Aug. 11 statement.

The decisions come even as Texas remains a hot spot and the state's COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths remain high. Students are preparing to return to campuses in less than a month, though many have expressed nervousness about the prospect of in-person instruction. Texas universities have been moving large portions of their course loads online to space students out on campus to prevent spread of the coronavirus.

After months of wrangling, Power Five conference officials are firming up decisions as the start of the fall semester looms. Both the Big Ten and Pac-12 cited major concerns for the health and safety of student athletes, questioning if they would be able to compete safely due to the coronavirus. Those cancellations led to speculation earlier this week that the other major football conferences would follow suit.

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Jamee Ellen (Ewing) Bartek, 85, passed away peacefully from this life on Saturday, August 8, 2020 with family by her side. She was born in Alice, Texas on September 29, 1934 to James Bowers and Aimee Ellen (Alexander) Ewing. She was raised in the Rio Grande Valley until the family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska in 1943 to operate an ice plant that her father purchased. Her father renamed the ice plant The Valley Ice Company.



**JAMEE ELLEN BARTEK**  
1934-2020

Jamee attended and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1951. She attended the University of Texas, the University of Hawaii, and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1955, where she was an outstanding member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. On June 11, 1955, she married the love of her life, William (Bill) Andrew Bartek and they were blessed with 64 years together. Jamee was a devoted and loving wife, mother, daughter, niece, grandmother, and great grandmother who cherished her family and friends. She was a cancer survivor. She loved travelling, reading, crossword puzzles, arts and crafts, and enjoyed extensive work on her family's genealogy.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Bartek in 2019; her mother and father; aunts; and cousins. Jamee

is survived by her daughter, Kimberlee (Kim) Bartek Upton and son-in-law, Richard of Katy, Texas; son, James (Jim) Bartek and daughter-in-law, Tina of

Davenport, Iowa; grandson, William Bartek and wife Mary Ellen; granddaughter, Aimee Upton; grandson, Thomas Bartek; and great grandsons, Morris and Walter Bartek.

The family would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to the staff and care managers at Sunrise of Cinco Ranch Assisted Living in Katy, Texas for their exceptional kindness and devotion for the four years Jamee was there, and to A-Med Hospice for their quality and gentle care.

There will be a private family service and interment with her husband at the Houston National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be made to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; or to the Citizens for Animal Protection, 17555 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77094.

Birth is a beginning, death is a destination, and life is a journey - a sacred pilgrimage to life everlasting.

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.

## New medications help with Parkinson's disease

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Parkinson's disease is a progressive nervous system disorder that primarily affects movement. In the earliest stages of Parkinson's, an affected person's face also may show little or no expression and speech may become soft and slurred.

According to Parkinson's News Today, Parkinson's is the second most common age-related neurodegenerative disorder after Alzheimer's disease. In fact, Parkinson's affects more people than multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and ALS combined, and an estimated 10 million people worldwide have Parkinson's disease.

The Parkinson's Foundation estimates that nearly one million people in the United States live with Parkinson's disease in 2020. Age is a risk factor for Parkinson's, but an estimated 4 percent of people with the disease are diagnosed before age 50.

Many people are familiar with the symptoms of Parkinson's, like tremors in the limbs. Slowed movement, or bradykinesia, also occurs over time. Rigid muscles, impaired posture and balance, and loss of automatic movements like blinking and swinging arms while walking also can occur, advises the Mayo Clinic.

Like other neurodegenerative conditions, Parkinson's is linked to changes in cells in the brain, which may gradually break down or

die. Environmental triggers or genetics may also contribute to Parkinson's. Parkinson's also may be caused by shifting levels of the chemical messenger dopamine in the brain. When neurons break down, they produce less dopamine, and this causes abnormal brain activity.

Parkinson's has no cure, and treatment of the disease is designed to slow progression and treat certain symptoms.

Parkinson's patients and their families may be excited to learn that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the use of a new medication known as Nourianz (istradefylline). It is recommended for "off" time, when symptoms return between other medication doses. Nourianz belongs to a class of medications known as adenosine A2A antagonists, which work differently from all currently available Parkinson's drugs. This drug blocks the brain chemical adenosine, which boosts the signaling of dopamine, the brain chemical that decreases in Parkinson's patients. The medication can be added to a regimen consisting of levodopa/carbidopa to decrease off times. Four placebo-controlled clinical trials, which included more than 1,000 participants, demonstrated a significant decrease in "off" time when Nourianz was added to levodopa/carbidopa. Levodopa is converted to dopamine in the brain. Carbidopa helps prevent the breakdown of levodopa before it can reach the brain and take effect.

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**ISAAH 40:31**  
*"But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."*

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3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,  
4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.  
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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your consolations cheer my soul.*  
Psalms 94:19

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2,000 SQ FT, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, fireplace, kitchen island, granite downstairs bar located in quiet neighborhood in Crystal Beach, Tx by School. For more information, call 936-488-1314.

**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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**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED WALLER COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS INCREASES IN SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 152.013 of the Texas Local Government Code, that the Waller County Commissioners Court will set the salary and allowances of elected County or Precinct Officers at 9:00 A.M., on the 26th day of August, 2020 in Commissioners Court, located at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the general public of the following proposed salary and allowance increases for Elected Officials and Precinct Officers.

OFFICE	2020	2021	INCREASE/(DECREASE)
<b>Criminal District Attorney</b>			
Salary Supplement	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 13,200.00	
<b>506th District Judge</b>			
Salary Supplement	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	
<b>County Court at Law</b>			
Salary	\$ 151,000.00	\$ 151,000.00	
CPS Stipend	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
Longevity	\$ 104.00	\$ 156.00	\$ 52.00
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	
<b>Sheriff</b>			
Salary	\$ 79,015.00	\$ 79,015.00	
Longevity	\$ 624.00		\$ (624.00)
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00		\$ (960.00)
<b>County Judge</b>			
Salary	\$ 85,322.00	\$ 85,322.00	
Longevity	\$ 312.00	\$ 364.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 1,440.00		\$(1,440.00)
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	
<b>County Clerk</b>			
Salary	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	
Longevity	\$ 2,828.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 172.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	
<b>District Clerk</b>			
Salary	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	
Longevity	\$ 1,228.00	\$ 1,428.00	\$ 200.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00		\$ (960.00)
<b>Treasurer</b>			
Salary	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	
Longevity	\$ 2,228.00	\$ 2,528.00	\$ 300.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00		\$ (960.00)
<b>Tax Assessor Collector</b>			
Salary	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Travel Allowance	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	
<b>County Commissioner, Pct. 1</b>			
Salary	\$ 66,415.00	\$ 66,415.00	
Longevity	\$ 416.00	\$ 468.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00		\$ (960.00)
<b>County Commissioner, Pct. 2</b>			
Salary	\$ 66,415.00	\$ 66,415.00	
Longevity	\$ 104.00	\$ 156.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00		\$ (960.00)
<b>County Commissioner, Pct. 3</b>			
Salary	\$ 66,415.00	\$ 66,415.00	
Longevity	\$ 416.00	\$ 468.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00		\$ (960.00)
<b>County Commissioner, Pct. 4</b>			
Salary	\$ 66,415.00	\$ 66,415.00	
Longevity	\$ 312.00	\$ 364.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00		\$ (960.00)
<b>County Constable, Pct. 1</b>			
Salary	\$ 52,694.00	\$ 52,694.00	
Longevity	\$ 928.00	\$ 1,028.00	\$ 100.00
Cell Phone Allowance			
<b>County Constable, Pct. 2</b>			
Salary	\$ 52,694.00	\$ 52,694.00	
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00		\$ (960.00)
<b>County Constable, Pct. 3</b>			
Salary	\$ 52,694.00	\$ 52,694.00	
Longevity	\$ 416.00	\$ 468.00	\$ 52.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	
<b>County Constable, Pct. 4</b>			
Salary	\$ 52,694.00	\$ 52,694.00	
Longevity	\$ 2,228.00	\$ 2,528.00	\$ 300.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	
<b>Justice of Peace, Pct. 1</b>			
Salary	\$ 62,057.00	\$ 62,057.00	
Longevity	\$ 1,828.00	\$ 2,028.00	\$ 200.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	
<b>Justice of Peace, Pct. 2</b>			
Salary	\$ 62,057.00	\$ 62,057.00	
Longevity	\$ 104.00	\$ 156.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	
<b>Justice of Peace, Pct. 3</b>			
Salary	\$ 62,057.00	\$ 62,057.00	
Longevity	\$ 520.00	\$ 572.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	
<b>Justice of Peace, Pct. 4</b>			
Salary	\$ 62,057.00	\$ 62,057.00	
Longevity	\$ 1,028.00	\$ 1,128.00	\$ 100.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III  
Waller County Judge

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the authority of Transportation Code Chapter 251, Subchapter E to consider the installation of a Stop Sign at the following location:

Shady Oak Drive at the intersection of Forest Circle

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien.

Sale to be held ONLINE AUCTION [StorageTreasures.com](http://StorageTreasures.com)

The facility is at Langham Creek Mini Storage, 18619 FM 529 Rd, Cypress TX 77433. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on September 1, 2020 and end at 12:00 pm on September 15, 2020. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Cedric Tudmon, Alfred Rucker, Jimmy Turcios, Ray Ortega, Kristian Corallo, Dylan Basham, Ronald Bartlett, Belinda Rojas, Samantha Scott, Keith Caswell.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET FOR WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS**

Notice is hereby given that, on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held on the Proposed 2021 Budget for Waller County, Texas, as prepared by the County Judge, to be considered by the Waller County Commissioners Court. This budget hearing will be held at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445. A copy of the proposed budget for adoption is available for inspection in the Office of Debbie Hollan, County Clerk of Waller County, Texas. The public is invited to attend this Budget Hearing.

This budget will raise more total property tax than last year's budget by \$ 3,880,977 a 12.03 % increase, and all of that amount, \$ 3,464,214 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III  
Waller County Judge

**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN **ORDINANCE NO. 2949** BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON APRIL 13, 2020:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ALTERING THE PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS ESTABLISHED FOR VEHICLES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF §545.356, TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, UPON THE BASIS OF AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION, UPON CERTAIN STREETS AND HIGHWAYS (PIN OAK ROAD OVERPASS AT I-10), OF PARTS THEREOF, WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF KATY AS SET OUT IN THIS ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING A PENALTY OF A FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$200 FOR THE VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE.**

**COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE INVITATION TO BID**

The County of Waller proposes to purchase the following items on competitive bid:

**PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND REFLECTIVE PAVEMENT MARLER AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN WALLER COUNTY**

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., September 8, 2020 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. September 9, 2020, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on September 23, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.

A contract shall not be awarded to a bidder who is not the lowest dollar bidder meeting specifications unless, before the award, each lower bidder is given notice of the proposed award, and is given an opportunity to appear before the Commissioners' Court and present evidence concerning the lower bidder's responsibility.

Bid award shall be based on either unit price or lump sum as indicated on the BID SHEET.

Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County.

Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at [www.co.waller.tx.us](http://www.co.waller.tx.us).

ALAN YOUNTS  
County Auditor  
836 Austin Street, Suite 221  
Hempstead, Texas 77445



EDDIE GASPAR/THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

U.S. Postal Service employee Sweetie Dionne delivers mail on her route in Austin on April 6. The USPS has warned Texas officials that some ballots cast by mail may not arrive in time to be counted for the Nov. 3 election.

## Mail-in ballots may be delayed

By CASSANDRA POLLOCK  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

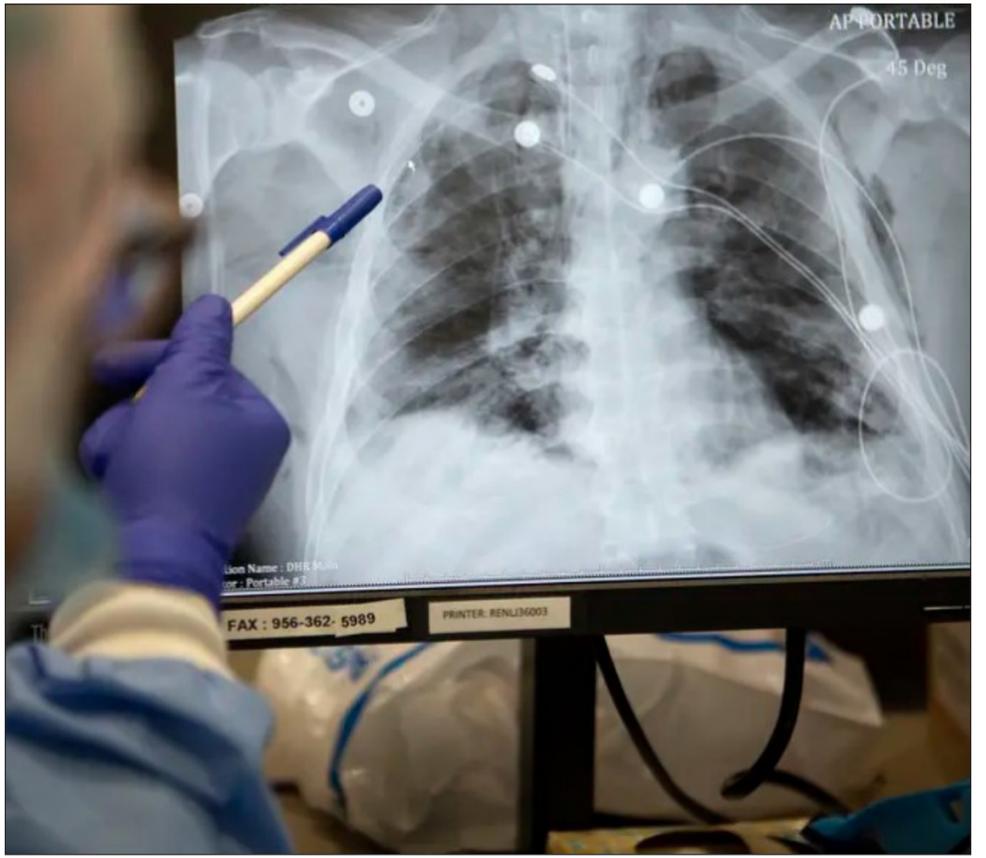
The U.S. Postal Service has warned Texas officials that some ballots cast by mail may not arrive in time to be counted for the November election thanks to certain state deadlines for mail-in ballots being incompatible with its delivery standards.

"This mismatch creates a risk that ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be returned by mail in time to be counted under your laws as we understand them," Thomas Marshall, general counsel and executive vice president of the USPS, wrote to Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs in a letter dated July 30. "As a result, to the extent that the mail is used to transmit ballots to and from voters, there is a significant risk that, at least in certain circumstances, ballots may be requested in a manner that is consistent with your election rules and returned promptly, and yet not be returned in time to be counted."

It is unclear how many Texas voters may be affected should such delays occur. A spokesperson for the secretary of state's office, which provided The Texas Tribune with a copy of the USPS letter, did not immediately answer questions about whether the agency plans to respond to the letter or will issue guidance to voters or local elected officials based on it. State lawmakers create elections deadlines and the secretary of state's office does not have the power to change them, according to state statute.

USPS' warnings come as the agency undergoes overhauls due to

See **BALLOTS**, page 10



MIGUEL GUTIERREZ, JR./THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Nurses look over the X-rays of COVID-19 patients at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance Health System in Edinburg. The virus has been especially deadly in the Rio Grande Valley.

## Texas surpasses 10,000 deaths

By EMMA PLATOFF  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas is mourning more than 10,000 known COVID-19 fatalities, 100 times more people than were killed in Hurricane Harvey, according to new figures released by state officials Monday. It's a somber mark that only three other states have passed since the pandemic hit the United States earlier this year.

Among those who died were 65-year-old Robert Rhodes, a "professor's professor" for decades at Texas Christian University; 40-year-old Jimmy Sanchez, a San Antonio thrift store owner; and 55-year-old Jimmy Miller, a first-term justice of the peace in Jasper County.

New Jersey, New York and California have also exceeded 10,000 known COVID-19 fatalities. Experts say Texas' official death toll is all but certain to be an undercount given insufficient testing, particularly at the beginning of the pandemic.

Hispanic Texans make up 53.4% of the state's 10,034 coronavirus fatalities, far more than their 40% share of the population. In Texas and across the country, COVID-19 has proved deadlier for communities of color.

Meanwhile, the number of hospitalizations in the state has been trending steadily downward since a peak in July. Experts believe that a statewide mask mandate, which

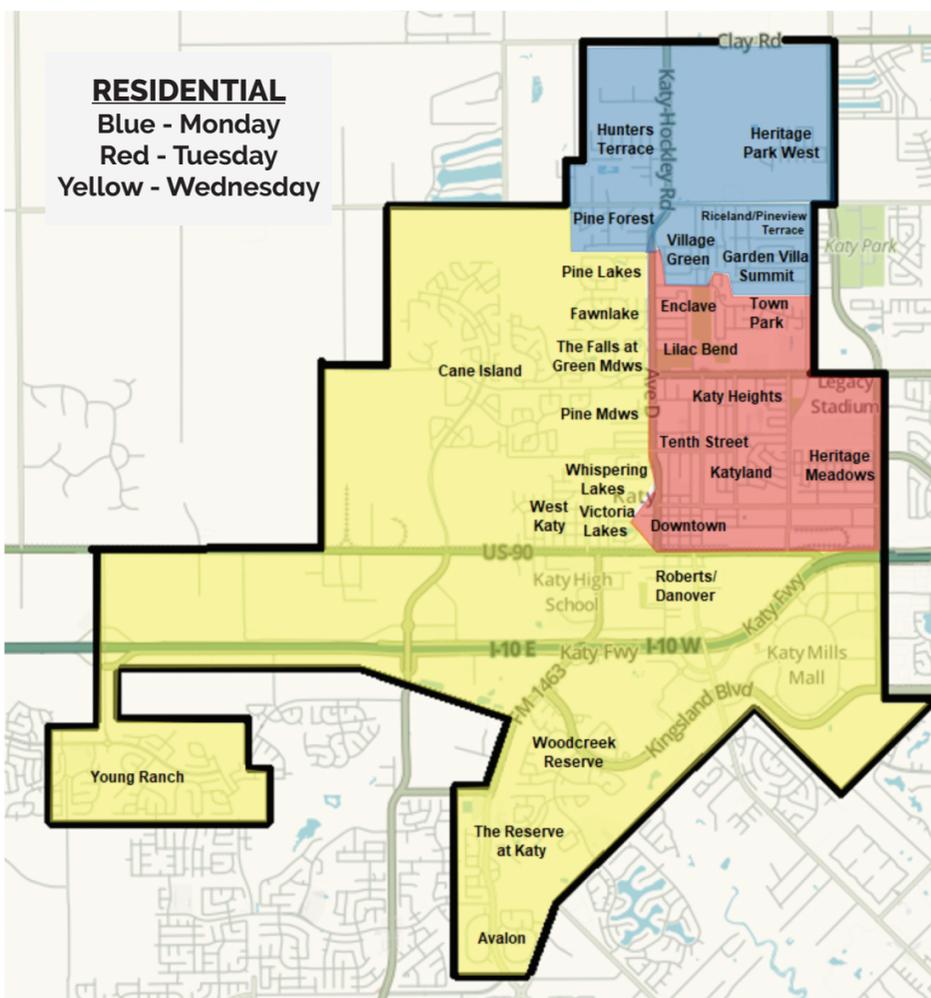
Gov. Greg Abbott issued in early July, has helped slow the spread of the virus.

The positivity rate — a rolling average of how many coronavirus tests revealed positive cases — is still at an alarming level of 11.8%. Abbott has said any level above 10% is a "warning flag."

Still, the positivity rate has dipped considerably since last week, the apparent result of a data dump Friday of some 95,000 tests from a single lab that served many hospitals. The abrupt increase in testing lowered the state's positivity rate from a record-high 24.5%. State health officials blamed the data issues on lab backlogs, coding errors and a system upgrade.

**Beginning September 1, 2020, Texas Pride Disposal will be the new Garbage & Recycling collection company for the City of Katy.**

**FOR MORE DETAILS & TO VIEW THE NEW SERVICE MAPS, VISIT [WWW.TEXASPRIDEDISPOSAL.COM/CITYOFKATY](http://WWW.TEXASPRIDEDISPOSAL.COM/CITYOFKATY)**



**Less confusing schedule, ALL services on the same day!**

**Garbage, recycling, heavy trash & yard debris EVERY WEEK!**

**Weekly recycling includes glass!**

**Yard debris can be in black or clear bags!**

**Better service and lower rates!**

**TEXAS PRIDE'S NEW CARTS WILL BE DELIVERED AUGUST 17-28.**

### NEW SERVICE DAYS

	Garbage, Recycling, Heavy Trash & Yard Debris	Super Heavy Trash
Blue	Monday	1st Wednesday of March, June, September & December
Red	Tuesday	
Yellow	Wednesday	
Small Commercial	Tuesday & Friday	

Please have carts and heavy trash at curbside by 7:00 AM.

Contact Texas Pride Disposal for service, repair or replacement of carts at 281-342-8178 ext. 102 or [katy@texaspridedisposal.com](mailto:katy@texaspridedisposal.com).

Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Saturday from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## BALLOTS

from page 9

financial shortfalls. Efforts to cut costs have delayed standard mail delivery in some places across the country.

In his letter, Marshall said the USPS was not claiming to “definitively interpret” the state’s election law, nor was it “recommending that such laws be changed” to accommodate its delivery standards.

“By the same token, however,” Marshall wrote, “the Postal Service cannot adjust its delivery standards to accommodate the requirements of state election law.”

Texas was among 40 states, including Florida and Michigan, that received a warning from the USPS over their long-standing deadlines, according to The Washington Post. Six other states and Washington, D.C., received more mild warnings from the Postal Service that said some ballots may be delayed for a smaller group of voters.

Under current Texas law, mail-in ballots are available only if voters are 65 or older, cite a disability or illness, will be out of the county during the election period or are confined in jail.

The Texas election code defines disability as a “sickness or physical condition” that prevents a voter from appearing in person without the risk of “injuring the voter’s health.”

The Texas Supreme Court found in May that the lack of a coronavirus immunity alone does not meet the state election code’s definition of disability, but it could be considered a factor as part of a voter’s medical situation. The court reiterated that it is up to voters to assess their own health

and determine if they meet the election code’s definition of disability.

In Texas’ July 14 primary runoff elections, some hopeful voters who submitted their applications for mail-in voting on time indicated they never received their ballots. Other voters received their mail-in ballots and sent them in to be counted, only to have them returned unopened. Some of those reached county elections offices after a second attempt, while others still appeared lost on election night.

In July, Gov. Greg Abbott extended the early voting period for the November election by six days, citing challenges related to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Early voting for the Nov. 3 election will begin Oct. 13 and end, as originally scheduled, on Oct. 30.

Voters can already apply for a mail-in ballot. Election officials must receive such applications by Oct. 23. Election officials generally must receive mail-in ballots by Election Day or the day after, depending on whether there is a postmark. Deadlines may differ for active military voters and other voters, depending on their specific circumstance.

The Texas Secretary of State has been a financial supporter of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune’s journalism. Find a complete list of them here.

“USPS warns Texas that some mail-in ballots may be delayed in November” was first published by The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues.

***“This mismatch creates a risk that ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be returned by mail in time to be counted under your laws as we understand them. As a result, to the extent that the mail is used to transmit ballots to and from voters, there is a significant risk that, at least in certain circumstances, ballots may be requested in a manner that is consistent with your election rules and returned promptly, and yet not be returned in time to be counted.”***

— THOMAS MARSHALL, GENERAL COUNSEL AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE USPS

## Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 35 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Wednesday, September 2, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. via telephone conference call. The telephone conference call phone number is 1-877-304-9269 and the access code is 594747#. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

**FOR** the proposal: S. Ruske, P. Battistini, S. Handal, T. Eynon & S. Olsen

**AGAINST** the proposal: (none)

**PRESENT** and not voting: (none)

**ABSENT:** (none)

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>\$0.425</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$0.425</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>\$0.000</u> /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>0.0000</u> %
Average appraised value	<u>\$390,835</u>	<u>\$392,285</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$390,835</u>	<u>\$392,285</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$1,661.05</u>	<u>\$1,667.21</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		<u>\$6.16</u> <u>0.3709</u> %

### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

**The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.**

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The Fort Bend Municipal Utility District # 58 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. by teleconference at 888-273-3658, Participant PIN: 3018531. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

**FOR** the proposal: Stephen Mount, Gina Cummings, Ryan Vogler, Stephen Atwell

**AGAINST** the proposal: None

**PRESENT** and not voting: None

**ABSENT:** Chris Colihan

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.9500 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.9300 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.0200/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-2.11%
Average appraised value	\$389,334.16	\$407,274.43
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average taxable value	\$389,334.16	\$407,274.43
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,698.67	\$3,787.65
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$88.98 2.41%

**NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE**  
If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

## NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.616662 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Waller County.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.616662 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.599947 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.635881 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2020 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Waller County from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Waller County may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Waller County is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 26, 2020 at 9:00 am at the Waller County Courthouse at 836 Austin Street, Room 201, Hempstead, Texas 77445.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Waller County is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate, however, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of Waller County at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

**YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:**

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax increase as follows:

**FOR** the proposal:  
**AGAINST** the proposal:  
**PRESENT** and not voting:  
**ABSENT:**

The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Waller County last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Waller County this year.

	2019	2020	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	\$ 0.662225	\$0.616662	decrease of -\$0.013465 or -2.14%
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	\$173,580	\$181,921	increase of 4.80%
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	\$1,149	\$1,122	decrease of -\$28 or -2.40%
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	\$33,372,560	\$37,261,768	increase of \$3,889,209 or 17.31%

### Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures

The Waller County spent \$ 512815 from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals, less the amount of state grants received by the county. In the preceding year, the county spent \$491,947 for indigent defense compensation expenditures. The amount of increase above last year’s indigent defense expenditures is \$20868. This increased the voter-approval rate by \$ .00038/\$100 to recoup the increased expenditures.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the Tax Assessor Waller County at 979-826-7620 or e.shelburne@wallercounty.us or visit www.co.waller.tx.us for more information.