Katy Times



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

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020

City delays contract decision

By R. HANS MILLER SENIOR REPORTER

Katy City Council opted to table a decision on who the city's solid waste services provider would be at a special meeting held July 6 at 6 p.m. During the digital meeting held via Zoom, council members grilled representatives of the two companies considered by city staff to be the top contenders for the job.

Finalists Texas Pride Disposal and Republic Services were pulled from a pool of six respondents which included Best Trash, Frontier Waste Solutions, HHW Solutions and WCA Waste Corporation.

City Council Member Frank

See **CONTRACT**, page 5

Abbott mandates masks in public

By ED STERLING
CAPITAL HIGHLIGHT

Gov. Greg Abbott on July 2 issued an executive order to slow the spread of the deadly coronavirus while keeping Texas as open as possible for business.

With few exceptions, the order requires all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public spaces in counties with 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases.

Abbott also issued a proclamation giving mayors and county judges the ability to impose restrictions on some outdoor gatherings of more than 10 people and mandating that with

See **MASKS**, page 5

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Katy area COVID-19 update

By R. HANS MILLER SENIOR REPORTER

Across Greater Houston, including the Katy area, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported a total of 40,903 cases of COVID-19 since March 4, when the department began tracking data. Of those, 6,300 were diagnosed in the first six days of July.

Orders

Executive orders related to public health are in effect in all three counties in the Katy area. Fort Bend and Harris counties have their own orders while Waller County falls under Tex. Gov. Greg Abbott's order due to the county having 20 cases or more.

"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 in a July 2 press release announcing his order. "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

See **UPDATE**, page 5



R. HANS MILLER

Hospitals throughout the Texas Medical Center family have adjusted to the COVID-19 surge being seen throughout Greater Houston, including the Katy area. EMTs are seeing long wait times at hospitals to transfer their patients to the care of an emergency room due to ERs being busy.

NEEDING NOURISHMENT



SANDRA SADEK

A volunteer organizes recently acquired food supplies at the Katy Christian Ministries food bank during the store's mid-afternoon closure, allowing for restocking.

How COVID-19 is shaping local food insecurity

By SANDRA SADEK

irginia Smith, 80, wakes up every morning and goes through the same routine she has had for the last four years. She tends to her husband Fred's daily needs, a necessity after he suffered two strokes. She showers him, helps him shave, dress use the restroom, eat and take his medications. Finally, their in-home caregiver Nicole arrives, freeing Smith up for a bit before she repeats the same routine at night.

It has also been four years since Smith began benefiting from services provided by local nonprofits. The Houston native moved to the Katy area in 2011 to help her son but after her husband's strokes and her own heart attack, Smith stayed longer than anticipated. In 2014, her funds ran out. Further emergency surgeries for her husband prevented them from moving back home.

"Social security only goes so far," Smith said, who currently lives on \$547 a month. "I'm on a budget, especially with several medical monthly bills."

The Smiths face food insecurity like others with limited budgets. Smith said she usually runs out of money by the third week of the month and, like many in the area, has turned to Katy Christian Ministries' food pantry for help.

"I bought beef this week, for the first time in probably three years," Smith said. "Mostly everything (I buy) is for (my husband). I don't even eat the food – I'll take a little chunk and eat and that's it. I'm just trying to save money." 66

Food insecurity is defined as "a lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active and healthy life for all household members as well as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods." However, it is important to note that food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time and often reflect a need to choose between important basic needs such as bills or buying nutritionally adequate food.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

COVID-19's impact on food demands

Smith has faced food insecurity for a long time and remembers when food banks did not exist.

"Back in my younger days, I had all three of (my children) by myself to raise, and believe me, there were no food pantries," Smith said. "I've gone three to four days without eating so I know what it is to be hungry."

Deysi Crespo, executive director at KCM, said the economic downturn and the increased demand for the nonprofit's food pantry's services are reminiscent of how KCM came to be 36 years ago. KCM was formed in 1984 by nine churches answering the call to aid families struggling with food insecurity during the 1980s economic downturn.

See **FOOD**, page 9

5 WAYS TO AID FOOD PANTRIES



to be a volunteer



items in need at the moment









TMC Orchestra finalist for two awards

By SANDRA SADEK **EDITORIAL INTERN**

The Texas Medical Center Orchestra has been chosen as a finalist for two awards, The American Prize in community orchestra division and the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for performance of American music in the community ensemble division for the 2019-2020 season.

The American Prize involves several non-profit national competitions in the performing arts and offers cash awards, professional adjudication and regional, national and international recognition for recorded performances. The prize is awarded to ensembles and individuals annually in the U.S. at the professional, university, church, community and secondary school levels.

The Ernst Bacon Award recognizes and rewards the best performances of American music by ensembles and individual artists worldwide. The award is named after Ernst Bacon, an American composer who won a Pulitzer Scholarship and three Guggenheim Fellowships.

Exact dates for both awards' results have yet to be announced.



The Texas Medical Center Orchestra has been designated as a finalist for both the American Prize and the Ernst Bacon Award.

Houston Rotary Club announces veteran club, international theme

By SANDRA SADEK EDITORIAL INTERN

The Houston Rotary District 5890 has chartered a new club for Greater Houston veterans as well as announced its 2020-2021 Rotary International Theme.

The newly chartered Rotary Club of Greater Houston Veterans will be providing needed services to veterans locally, nationally and worldwide within the framework of Rotary International's 7 Areas of Focus

Membership is open to veterans, active duty service members, patriots and past rotarians. The veteran's club meets twice a month on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., starting July 14. Meetings will alternate via Zoom or hybrid. The first meeting will discuss the club's mission statement, announce the leadership as well as membership dues, obligations and responsibilities. There will also be a Q&A session.

The 2020-2021 Rotary International Theme is "Rotary Opens Opportunities."

For more information and instructions on how to join, email bobg.5890@gmail.

Chamber to host expo this fall

By SANDRA SADEK EDITORIAL INTERN

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding their second annual Business to

Business Expo and luncheon on Sept. 10, 2020. The keynote speakers are Jim McIngvale of Gallery Furniture and Jeff Moseley, president and CEO of the Texas Association of Business. Other speakers include Tim Jeffcoat from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Greg Henry who will cover cybersecurity and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business program.

According to a Katy Area Chamber press release, the goal of the expo is to create opportunities for business to business connections, therefore supporting business development, growth and sustainability in the Katy area. The expo will have three breakout sessions with presentations.

In line with CDC guidelines against the spread of COVID-19, the number of attendees and vendors will be limited to maintain social



JEFF MOSELEY JIM McINGVALE

distancing. Temperature checks and face masks will be available at registration including hand sanitizer throughout the event.

The expo will be located at the Omni Houston Hotel at Westside at 13210 Katy Fwy. and will host 32 companies and organizations as well as more than 125 business leaders and professionals. Admissions fees range from \$50 for a half day to \$250 full day ticket with a vendor booth. Sponsorships are also available.

Those interested can register through the "events" link at www.katychamber.com.

Katy locals named to OBU honor roll

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Four Katy, Texas, residents were named on Oklahoma Baptist University's academic honor roll for the spring 2020 semester.

The President's Honor Roll included Bethany Barham, an elementary education major, and Jamie Turlington, a Pre-Allied health major.

The Dean's Honor Roll included Felipe Alvear, a performance non-clincal major, and Teresita Gonzalez, an elementary education major.

The President's Honor Roll recognizes students who achieved a semester grade point average of 3.7 or higher on a 4.0 scale. The Dean's Honor Roll acknowledges those who achieved a grade point average from 3.4 to 3.69.



By R. HANS MILLER

Fort Bend County Judge KP Goerge appointed Reginald Robinson to the position of Fort Bend County director of community supervision and corrections, otherwise known as CSCD. Robinson was promoted from the position of assistant director for CSCD which he had held since 1999.

"I'm proud to announce

the appointment of Mr. Reginald Robinson as the next Director of Community Supervision and Corrections. Mr. Robison has significant knowledge and expertise to lead this department," George

Robinson holds a bachelor's degree in Communications from Sam Houston State University and is a member of multiple professional associations.

The CSCD director oversees the day to day operations of community supervision - formerly known as adult probation - which is provided as an alternative to incarcer-

"Throughout his career, Mr. Robinson has held great responsibility, and I am confident he will continue to set a high standard for our Community Supervisions and Corrections Department."

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 **BAKER'S BOOKS, Katy, TX** 22237 Katy FRWY (close to Landry's)

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



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

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

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

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



Katy VFW lends a hand to Girl Scouts

By JOSELYN HOFER EDITORIAL INTERN

The Katy Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 received a donation of 363 cases of Girl Scout cookies due to the Girl Scout's limited amount of sales. Katy Cupboard Manager Maribeth Negri with the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, provided the cases to the Katy VFW Post who then distributed the cookies to other posts around Texas.

Most of the cookies were given to the PTSD Foundation of America (Camp Hope) in Houston and a VA clinic in Katy. The rest were given in smaller increments to other veteran-related posts.

The donations were very much appreciated by each location, said a VFW press release. This is why the Katy VFW reminds people not to forget about the Girl Scouts this time next year.



Many people helped with the distribution including (from left to right) Mike Mastrangelo, past post commander, Pat Byrne, Auxiliary President, Don Byrne, Post Commander, and Mr. Negri. All persons worked together to load 3 truckloads and 1 overstuffed SUV of cookies.



A variety of cookies were donated to the Katy VFW where four tables were stacked with the cases.

Klein teacher earns C-SPAN fellowship

By JOSELYN HOFER EDITORIAL INTERN

Evangeline Mitchell, a teacher at Klein High School in nearby Klein, Tex. was selected out of multiple applicants nationwide to participate in C-SPAN's 2020 Teacher Fellowship Program.

Along with five other participants and C-SPAN's Education Relations team, Mitchell will be generating content for C-SPAN classroom - a free online resource for teachers - and the upcoming school year. Due to COVID-19, the four-week training session will be held virtually rather than in person in which educators can create project ideas and feature them on the C-SPAN Classroom website.



MITCHELL

As a U.S. History teacher at Klein High School for close to 20 years, Mitchell is more than qualified for this position, said Craig McAndrew, director of C-SPAN Education Relations. On top of that, Mitchell has also worked with C-SPAN for several years with participation in the C-SPAN teacher conference and hosting the C-SPAN bus for students. She's always shown creativity and unique ways of engaging students during the pandemic, said McAndrew, as well as a dedication to her teachings.

'With the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition to online learning, Evangeline showed creativity and initiative in her approach to teaching and engaging students," said McAndrew. "We look forward to working with Evangeline as we offer support and options for educators and students as they navigate these uncertain times.'

The Fellowship will begin on July 6 and will end July 31 while coinciding with C-SPAN's virtual Summer Educators' Conference. During these conference, Mitchell and other teachers will present ideas on how they will use C-SPAN in classrooms. Educators who are interested in teaching opportunities with C-SPAN can find more information on the website, www.c-span.org/classroom/opportunities/.

Waller County receives project updates

By SANDRA SADEK EDITORIAL INTERN

Waller County's Commissioners' Court received construction updates on several projects and certified two major grant awards to their 2020 budget on

County construction manager Danny Rothe gave the court three updates on the library, precinct 4 building and justice center projects.

According to Rothe, the interior of the library is complete and only exterior work remains. The project is still within budget. The library could be operational within two weeks but recent increases in COVID-19 cases could push that opening up, Rothe said.

Progress on the Precinct 4 Building is still underway but the application for a state permit for the water pump on the lot could delay the early opening of the building, Rothe said. He also said the Justice Center is nearing completion. Landscaping has begun and the building, with the exception of the jail, could be partially open later in July or early August.

The court amended the 2020 budget to reflect two grants from the Texas General Land Office regarding Hurricane Harvey repairs, amounting to \$2,244,015 and \$4,036,599 each.

An agreement with Low Voltage Security Solutions for a fire panel alarm monitoring to be installed in the Sheriff's Office, Jail and Court building in the Justice Center, Precinct 4 Building and the

Community Center, was passed. There is a \$900 installment fee for each location and then a monthly fee between \$55 and \$75 for maintenance.

The court will be publishing a notice of public hearing in the Waller County Express and the Katy Times regarding the designation of reinvestment zone for the Waller County Brookshire Rice Dryer Reinvestment Zone 7.

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.

Cane Island hosts the Return of Summer Concert Series

By JOSELYN HOFER **EDITORIAL INTERN**

Katy's Cane Island is hosting the return of its popular summer concert series with reserved seating on the lawn of Cane's Quarter at 2100 Cane Island Parkway and full menu service from The Oaks Kitchen and Bar.

The first concert was held July 2 with a rock and roll band, Rock Agents, and will follow with a Beatles cover band, Fab Five, on Friday, July 3. The Rock Agents will return July 16 followed by country singer and Texas native, Hayden Baker, on July 18. All concerts will begin at 5:30 p.m. and

will last until about 8:30 p.m. Other concerts may be scheduled throughout the summer and can be found on The Oaks Kitchen and Bar Facebook page.

In order to maintain a safe environment, Cane Island asks that you make a reservation by calling The Oaks Kitchen and Bar to practice social distancing. To locate Cane's Quarter, take the Cane Island exit off Interstate 10 and continue north until you reach the community entrance. Free parking is provided on site.

Additional show information can be found at: www.facebook.com/ TheOaksKitchenBar.



COURTESY CANE ISI AND/KAPI AN PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Oaks Kitchen and Bar will be hosting music events throughout the summer that are socially distanced. Diners can enjoy live music while being seated outside.

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by



6 9 8 3 9 5 3 8

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

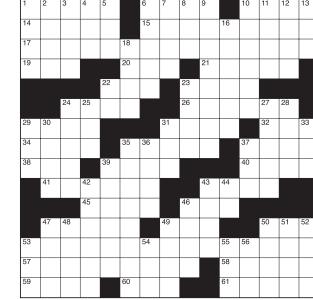
- 1. Cyprinids
- 6. Icelandic literary works
- 10. Break in half
- 14. Japanese mushroom 15. Have offspring
- 17. Not feeling well 19. A very large body of water
- 20. Witch
- 21. Behemoth
- 22. Speak negatively of 23. Absence of difficulty
- 24. Pampering places

31. Makes

- 26. Drives 29. Truck that delivers beer
- 32. A team's best pitcher 34. __ Carvey, comedian
- 35. Seas 37. S. American plants
- 38. Time zone
- 39. Deviate 40. No longer are
- 41. Moving in slowly
- 43. Patrick and Glover are two 45. Living quarters
- 46. Taxi 47. Pancake made of buckwheat
- flour
- 49. Swiss river 50. Not happy
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Give way to anxiety 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2K lbs. 61. Word of farewell

CLUES DOWN

- 1. ex Machina 2. WWII diarist Frank
- 3. Concluding passage
- 4. Supplement with difficulty 5. Title of respect
- 6. Cubic measures 7. Remnant
- 8. __ Jones



- 9. Salts of acetic acid
- 10. Long, upholstered seat 11. Capital of Okinawa Prefecture
- 12. A one-time aspect of Egyptian sun god Ra
- 13. Prefix denoting "in a"
- 16. Propels upward 18. What we are talking about
- 22. Prosecutor 23. Employee stock ownership
- plan 24. He brings kids presents
- 25. Burmese monetary unit
- 27. Hurries
- 28. Injury remnant

35. Most excellent

- 29. Tooth caregiver
- 30. Elvis backup singer Betty Jane 31. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 33. Midway between east and southeast

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

- (abbr.)
- 50. Malaysian coastal city
- 49. Piers Anthony's protagonist

46. Sammy ___, songwriter

48. Clare Booth ___, American

51. Hairstyle

47. Farmer (Dutch)

36. Heat units

39. Food items

bold

44. Blood type

writer

37. Possess legally

42. Skeletal structures

43. Challenge to do something

- 52. NY-based department store 53. Geosciences organization
- 54. Brazilian city
- 55. Niger-Congo languages
- 56. Gesture

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Post-quarantine workout routine

ecently, I visited my local gym for the first time after snacking-in-place for over two months. It was like going to see an annoying former friend - out of guilt. I've always had a tolerate-hate relationship with working out. I hate spending my time sweating and hyperventilating when I could be lounging in my recliner while watching reruns of "The Andy Griffith Show." Then again, health-experts tell us that regular exercise can literally add minutes to our eventual time in hospice.

In my desire to remain a source of irritation to my wife and three daughters for as long as possible, I've developed an exercise routine at the gym that is almost bearable.

First, I've found that it's important to wear proper athletic attire, which, for me, means looking like Barney Fife at an NBA tryout. The long Nike basketball shorts disguise the fact that I usually skip "leg day," and the tank top ensures that other patrons can thoroughly evaluate the effectiveness of my deodorant. As an added bonus, a protective COVID-19 face mask hides my identity and cuts down on the public humiliation factor. I also wear a pair of workout gloves so that I can get a better grip on the exit door handle.

I usually begin my workout with some intense cardio on a stairmaster/ellipticaltype thingy that mimics the sensation of wishing there was an escalator nearby. Although I realize I need to keep my body moving, I still think these machines should include some kind of head rest, preferably with memory foam. I try to stay motivated on the cardio equipment by listening to some inspirational workout music by Van Halen. My playlist includes songs like "Ice Cream Man," "Poundcake," and "Somebody Get Me a Doctor."

Once my legs feel like



GRAVES SPECIAL

overcooked fettuccine and I've worked up enough of a sweat to gross myself out, I head to the weight-training area. Before I had children and looked a little less like Steve Buscemi, I would march confidently over to the free-weights to pump some iron and sometimes pull my groin. But now that my days of chugging protein powder and popping my pecs are over, I rely on the weight machines that are less likely to crush my esophagus.

The feature I appreciate most about these contraptions is that they are heavily padded to the point of being almost comfortable. In fact, I sometimes doze off on one of the machines and have to be awakened by someone's grandmother who needs me to move so she can increase the weight and get her swole on.

I usually conclude my workout by doing a few abdominal crunches in my ongoing and fruitless effort to develop a six pack. If I push down hard enough on my abdomen with my fingers, I can sort of feel the six pack, but it seems to be stored in one of those insulated cooler bags - for freshness, I guess. Mainly, these exercises just make me need to go to the men's room on my way out of the gym.

Although exercising is almost as punishing as taking my three teenage daughters to shop for cosmetics, I know it's good for me, and I'm glad to be back in the gym wishing I were somewhere else. If you haven't started your own post-quarantine workout routine, I encourage you to visit your local fitness center. And if you aren't into the whole exercise thing, you can always slip into a weight machine and take a nap.

Katy Times

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Grow wiser by giving ourselves to the elderly

TOM PURCELL

ope Francis couldn't have said it better.

During Monday's Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square, he told the crowd not to toss out older family members like "discarded material.

He said "the solitude of the elderly" is "a tragedy of our times," lamenting that "the life of children and grandchildren is not given as a gift to the elderly," per the Holy See Press Office.

The pope added, "We grow if we give ourselves to others."

The truth is that visiting an elderly family member benefits the younger visitor far more than it benefits the older person who is visited.

mother and father, both in their 80s. The best moments now are quiet ones on the back porch, as they recall life in America's past. I love asking my father about his

I'm blessed to still have my

military service. Drafted during the Korean War, he served two years - and had experiences thwarting racism, which he shared with me.

My dad grew up in Carrick, Pa., just south of downtown Pittsburgh. When he was drafted, Pittsburgh, like much of the country, was segregated.

The Army, though, had ended segregation a few years prior, in response to an executive order by President Truman.

Out of my father's company of 200 soldiers, about 10% were Black.

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES Among fellow soldiers he befriended,

three happened to be Black.

One of those Black friends, who would become a mathematics professor, was being harassed by a group of fellows. The ringleader, a white fellow from Georgia, named Hodges, called him racial epithets.

My dad, who stood just under 6-foot-2, angrily confronted the harassers. Every one of them backed down - and never bothered his friend again.

But the story gets better. See, Hodges' father was a connected politician in Georgia, who arranged for Hodges to become squad leader. In that position, Hodges tormented a Black member of his squad, also my father's friend, by assigning him the worst duties.

Until Hodges got busted for theft. Stolen items were found in his locker. The captain told Hodges' squad they could vote for their new squad leader. They elected the Black fellow Hodges had been tormenting. As the new squad leader, he assigned Hodges the dirtiest, most awful job there was - cleaning the kitchen's grease pit.

That sweet little piece of justice happened in 1953 - 11 years before the Civil Rights Act would become

It happened in a very different America, in a military whose integration policies were just beginning to expose thousands of people of many different backgrounds to each other - and break down barriers.

Hearing my father's story reminded me that while the young are quick to dismiss prior generations for their imperfections - "OK, boomer!" they do so at their own loss.

Older folks have a treasure trove of wisdom to offer. They offer us a front row seat to their experiences with our shared history. You may be surprised by the deepness of their understanding and the actions they took to leave the world a better place than the found it.

But to benefit from their knowledge, you have to spend some time sitting with them on their back

Do that, and they'll treasure the time you give them more than you can know.

But as much as visiting benefits them, you'll benefit even more - and grow more than you may imagine from the hard-won wisdom they have



THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020 **1**

2020 Sanitation Proposal Bio	d Tabulation					
	Texas Pride	Republic Services				
Option 1 (6700 accts)						
Residential charge	\$12.80	\$14.25				
	G-1x/wk, R-EOW, HT-1x/wk, SHT-qtrly on Wed	G-1x/wk, R-EOW, HT EOW, SHT qtrly				
	3 routes, M Tu F (all svcs are same day)	3 routes, M W Th				
Option 2						
Residential charge	\$13.10	14.50 (REVISED)				
	G-1x/wk, R-1x/wk, HT-1x/wk, SHT-qtrly	G-1x/wk, R-1x/wk, HT-1x/wk, SHT qtrly				
	3 routes/ M Tu W (all svcs are on same day) (REVISED)	3 routes/M W Th (all svcs are on same day)				
Option 3						
Residential charge	\$16.20	\$17.25				
	G-2x/wk, R-1x/wk, HT-2x/wk, SHT qtrly on Wed	G-2x/wk, R-1x/wk, HT-1x/wk, SHT qtrly				
	2 routes/ G-M/Th, R-M or Th, HT-M/Th or G - Tu/Fri, R-Tu or Fri, HT-Tu/Fri	2 routes, G-M/Th, R-Th, HT-W or G-Tu/Fri, R-Th, HT-W				

Texas Pride and Republic Services offered the above pricing and route options for the Katy City Council to decide upon. A decision to award the contract was postponed in order to obtain clarifications regarding the request for proposals and subsequent responses from bidders.

CONTRACT

from page 1

Carroll III motioned for the item to be tabled after council discussions revealed that some documentation in the request for proposal response may not have been complete. The concern arose after it was noted that Texas Pride had not provided three years of audited financial data. The council ultimately decided to table the matter to provide the trash services vendors the opportunity to clarify their proposals.

Council Member Janet Corte expressed concerns to Republic Waste representative Joey Howell regarding recent price concerns with Republic increasing their pricing but bidding a lower cost than their current pricing. She noted that the price difference when compared to current pricing would save Katy residents about

"With bins around town, probably around the metro Houston area the past year, we have seen some of the market pricing (go down) and we had to kind of make a decision on our end, 'Are we going to bid I guess what we need or do we want to continue the relationship?' We've had this contract now for 20 years. At this rate for us, the margins are very-very slim at the \$14.25 (per bin per household, but) we would like to continue the relationship, really, that we've built probably over the last 20 years."

Texas Pride's rate is \$12.80 per bin per household according to city documents. Both would offer heavy trash pickup one time per week, super-heavy trash on a quarterly basis. Texas Pride would offer three different routes to the city on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays with all services provided to that route on the same day. Thus, someone getting trash service on Tuesday would put their trash, recycling and heavy trash out for Tuesday pickup and would not need to put their trash out any other day. Republic Services offers similar options with Monday, Wednesday and Thursday routes and recycling and heavy trash picked up at the end of the week and super-heavy trash picked up quarterly.

A survey from the city to obtain resident input was sent to 6,370 households within Katy's city limits and 40% or 2,549 of those households responded. Of those who responded, 78% were satisfied with Republic Services, the current waste services contractor for the city, and 21% were not pleased with the current vendor. About 1% did not indicate satisfaction either way

Both vendors said they would be able to provide glass recycling to residents, though Republic Services said they were concerned about possible chargebacks from their recycling services vendor if too many single stream recycling loads were rejected due to broken glass.

Texas Pride had submitted one year of audited financial information, while

Republic Services had submitted three years of audited financial data. The measure was tabled until the next Katy City Council meeting to allow city staff to examine both the wording of the request for proposals and to allow Texas Pride to submit the audited financial documents as a clarification to their response.

"These are companies and when you put something in a compiled financial report, you don't have a second set of eyes like the city does when we're audited every year. So when we're talking about the financial wherewithal to provide the largest service to the city that we provide, it's important that we nail down these numbers and we make sure of the voracity of the numbers. And so, if we ask for audited financials and we receive non-audited financials, then it doesn't seem like it complies with the (request for proposals)."

Katy City Council generally meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. The meeting scheduled for July 13 was cancelled and rescheduled as a special meeting for July 6 and the next regular meeting is scheduled for July 27 at 6:30 p.m. though that time may change to accommodate council members' schedules and city needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Safety concerns have moved city council meetings online since shortly after the pandemic began. Scheduling can be viewed at www.cityofkaty.com/about/calendar.

MASKS

from page 1

certain exceptions people cannot be in groups larger than 10 and must maintain six feet of social distancing

"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," Abbott said.

"I urge all Texans to wear a face covering in public, not just for their own health, but for the health of their families, friends, and for all our fellow Texans," he added.

Cumulative figures posted July 5 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed some 195,239 people in Texas diagnosed with COVID-19 and 2,637 confirmed deaths resulting from the dis-

Wear-mask videos posted

The governor's office released a video of Abbott to coincide with his July 2 executive order plus two more public service announcements imploring Texans to step up efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Major League Baseball Hall of Fame catcher Iván "Pudge" Rodríguez urges Texans in both English and Spanish to wear a mask in public to protect themselves and others from the deadly virus.

Tom Herman, University of Texas head football coach, urges Texans to work together as a team to stop COVID-19 by washing hands regularly, social distancing, wearing a mask and staying home when possible.

Similar public service announcements released previously by the governor's office feature Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan and Dallas Cowboys linebacker Jaylon Smith.

SNAP deadline extended

Gov. Abbott on June 29 extended the deadline for families to apply for the federal Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program to July 31.

"Ensuring access to healthy food in our communities is an important part of our response to this pandemic," Abbott said.

This one-time benefit of \$285 per eligible child can be used in the same way as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits to pay for groceries. Eligible families include those with children who lost access to free or reduced-price school meals through the National School Lunch Program due to school closures.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission partnered with the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Texas Education Agency to launch the \$1 billion federal program on June 1 in response to the

Winner to face incumbent

In the top spot on the July 14 Democratic primary election runoff ballot are state Sen. Royce West of Dallas and former U.S. Air Force officer Mary "MJ" Hegar of Round Rock. The winner will face incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the Nov. 3 election.

West, an attorney whose current term as a state senator will expire in 2022, has been a member of the body since 1993. He serves as vice chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee and is a member of Senate committees on Administration, Education and

Hegar has 12 years of military experience, including three tours as a helicopter pilot in Afghanistan, where she flew combat search and rescue and medical evacuation missions. She is a recipient of the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross with

Cornyn, of San Antonio, a member of the U.S. Senate since 2002, previously served as an associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court from 1992 to 1997 and as Texas attorney general from 1999 to 2002.

Revenue total is down

State sales tax revenue totaled \$2.67 billion in June, an amount 6.5% less than the amount reported for the month of June 2019, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said on July 1.

The decline in collections was driven principally by steep drops in remittances from oil- and gas-related sectors. Collections from the construction and amusement service sectors also were down sharply, Hegar said.

However, "While collections from restaurants also were depressed, the extent of the decline was checked by increased takeout and delivery sales," Hegar said. "And retail trade receipts rose significantly, buoyed by increased online shopping and building material purchases, as business premises were modified for COVID-19 precautions."

The majority of June sales tax revenue is based on sales made in May and remitted to the agency in June. For more state coverage, see page 10.

UPDATE

from page 1

protect one another-and that means wearing a face covering in public spaces."

That same day, Abbott issued a proclamation giving mayors and county judges the ability to impose restrictions on outdoor gatherings of more than 10 people, and making it mandatory that, with certain exceptions, people cannot be in groups larger than 10 and must maintain six feet between themselves and nose not in their nouse holds.

All of the executive orders require residents to practice social distancing and wear face masks in public spaces where they cannot remain socially distanced such as at the grocery store. Churches and polling places are exempt from the mask requirement, though wearing a mask at those locations is encouraged by state and county officials. Those with medical conditions which may cause concern related to wearing a mask should speak with their personal physicians and mental health providers for advice concerning wearing masks.

Orders now prohibit groups larger than 10 people from gathering, with certain exceptions.

Caseloads and hospital space

Across Texas, more than 210,000 cases of COVID-19 have been reported since the pandemic struck the state in early March. Of those, 37,776 cases are from Harris County; 4,346 are from Fort Bend County; and, 195 from Waller County, according to reports from DSHS.

Across the state, 2,715 patients have succumbed to COVID-19, with 407 of those deaths occurring in Harris County. Fort Bend County has seen a reported 59 deaths due to COVID-19 while Waller County Judge Trey Duhon's July 7 report via Facebook indicated the county has not had any fatalities to date.

Testing will be available in Waller County on July 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Pattison Fire Department, Duhon said. Those wanting to get tested can visit www.txcovidtest. org or call 512-883-2400 to register for the test.

While the mortality rate remains fairly low, local health authorities continue to emphasize that ensuring capacity at area hospitals is vital to maintain low mortality rates. Additionally, they are concerned with the other impacts the disease can have on the body such as additional lung infections, heart attacks, kidney failure, strokes and blood clotting.

As of July 6, the Texas

into the second phase of its surge plan. This adjusts medical facilities to increase the number of ICU beds from 1.330 to 1,703. Of those beds, 600 are taken by COVID-19 patients while 762 are taken by non-COVID-19 patients. Normal care units in hospitals show 4,463 beds being taken up by non-COVID-19 patients and 1,661 cases of COVID-19 that have not been placed in ICU care, according to data available on the TMC website. That leaves 2,956 beds available for patients. TMC's data portal also reports that cases in the area are up about 1.5 times what they were the prior week

Medical Center has moved

A July 6 projection of bed capacity at all TMC hospitals shows that TMC expects to enter their third phase of expanded capacity by July 20 or earlier as case counts continue to rise.

Battalion Chief of Community Medicine for Harris County Emergency Joe Casciotti said hospital capacity isn't the only concern. HCESD 48 ambulance crews have seen a dramatic rise in the number of calls they are responding to, from a normal load of 20-25 calls per day to 30 calls per day. Additionally, due to increased activity at emergency rooms, transferring patients to the ER's care has taken dramatically longer in most cases, he said.

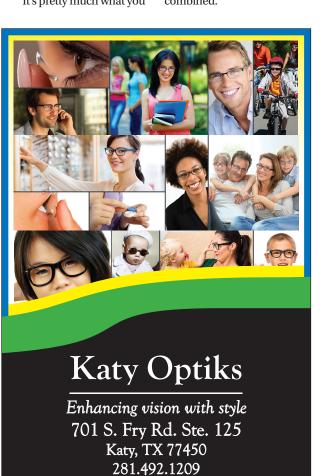
"It's pretty much what you

would see during a really bad flu season," Casciotti said. "Really long wait times to transfer patients to the emergency room because they just don't have the space. Hour and a half to two-hour wait times. The whole time that's occurring (the department's EMT crews are) not available to respond to other emergen-Casciotti said the department is doing its best to

provide patients with options to avoid the emergency room. Community paramedics visit with patients to provide intermediate care and help connect them with non-emergent options to ensure their health is maintained and hospitalization isn't necessary. This is accomplished through telemedicine, taking patients to stand-alone urgent cares and emergency rooms which is only allowed under emergency situations and working with community partners like Christ Clinic and the Methodist and Memorial Hermann hospital systems. These help manage the strain that has been put on the department's resources.

"In the past three weeks we've seen a significant increase in the amount of patients flagged as COVID-positive or potentially COVID-positive based on the symptoms," Casciotti said. "That's more in the last three weeks than all of May combined."





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PLAY BALL!

Sugar Land Skeeters return to Constellation Field

By JOE SOUTHERN

The Constellation Energy League is ready to play ball at Constellation Field this Friday.

The four-team league was organized by the Sugar Land Skeeters in just three weeks, then delayed a week when Gov. Greg Abbott reinstated new orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the pieces are in place, social distancing, mask, hand sanitization and other safety protocols are set, and live sports are ready to return to the region.

There will be 56 games played from July 10 through Aug. 30 with double-headers on the weekends. There will be fireworks each Friday night and promotions and giveaways to be announced.

The teams and their managers are: Sugar Land Skeeters, managed by Pete Incaviglia; Team Texas, managed by the father and son duo of Roger and Koby Clemens; Sugar Land Lightning Sloths, managed by Greg Swindell; and Eastern Reyes del Tigre (Tiger Kings), managed by Dave Eiland.

The preliminary player pool has 96 players and the league is still in the process of adding players and editing the current pool. The current player pool features: 19 former Major Leaguers, 13 former first-round picks from the MLB Draft, seven former Top 100 prospects in baseball (per Baseball America), and 56 players who've reached at least the Triple-A level of the affiliated minor leagues.

For ticket information, visit sugarlandskeeters. com/tickets or call 281-240-4487.

The following players are currently in the player.

The following players are currently in the player pool for the Constellation Energy League (* former Major Leaguer):

Pitchers

Blair, Aaron*; Bostick, Akeem; Boyles, Ty; Brickhouse, Bryan; Clarkin, Ian; Collier, Tommy; Crawford, Jonathan; Crockett, Kyle*; Dirks, Caleb; De Jong, Chase*; Dermody, Matt*; Dragmire, Brady; Dula, Chris; Ellis, Chris*; Gibson, Daniel; Gillies, Darin; Gorst, Matthew; Grover, Taylor; House, T.J.*; Huff, David*; Johnson, Jeff; Johnson,

Jordan; Jungmann, Taylor*; Kelly, Michael; Kelly, Parker; Kipper, Jordan; Lakind, Jared; Larkins, Turner; Ledet, Pat; Levandier, Winston; Martin, Josh; Martin, Kyle*; Mateo, Alejandro; McGuire, Andy; McKinley, Jayson; Moyers, Steve; Newell, Ryan; Nix, Michael; Owens, Henry*; Paulino, Felipe*; Pounders, Brooks*; Rhoades, Jeremy; Ridgeway, Beau; Rodriguez, Orlando; Ross, Robbie*; Rumbelow, Nick*; Scott, Robby*;

Self, Derek; Shetter, Ryan; Taylor, Cory; Wieland, Joe*; ad Young, Pat.



Almond, Zachery; Cordero, Albert; Hubbard, Dondrei; Lopez, B.J.; Phillips, Dakota; Reda, Alfonso; and Romanski, Jake.

Infielders

Aviles, Luis; Caulfield, Phil; Cecchini, Gavin*; Clemens, Kacy (also RHP); Cribbs Jr., Galli; Davidson, Braxton; Davis, Joel; Gillaspie, Casey; Gurwitz, Zane; Hinojosa, C.J.; Massey, Craig; Maxwell, Carson; Nathans, Tucker; Lancaster, Seth; Palmeiro, Preston; Romano, Ramsey; Ware, Brylie; Weisz, Keaton; and Westbrook, Jamie.

Outfielders

Almadova, Breland; Altmann, Josh; Barnes, Barrett; Bernard, Wynton; Borenstein, Zach; Dugan, Kelly; Eibner, Brett* (also RHP); Giansanti, Anthony; Hawkins, Courtney; Kemmer, Jon; Koontz, T.K.; Marzilli, Evan; McElroy, C.J.; Mitchell, Jared; Monroe, Reshard; Pompey, Dalton*; Taylor, Chuck; and Wilson, Kameron.



IOF SOUTHERN

Skeeters manager Pete Incaviglia will continue to manage the Sugar Land Skeeters during this year's



COURTESY KATY ISD

LJ Cryer has been announced as Katy ISD's male athlete of the year. Cryer has excelled both on and off the court, working hard on the basketball court with his Morton Ranch High School teammates. He was also named to the Houston Area Basketball Coaches Association and maintained a 3.6 GPA. His hard work has earned him a scholarship to Baylor University.



HOTO COURTESY KATY ISD

Katy ISD has announced that Emma Sticklen, a Katy Taylor graduate and University of Texas commit, has been selected at the district's Female Athlete of the Year. She is a three-time state champion in swimming and currently holds the division 6A state record in the 100 meter butterfly event. During this last school year, Sticklen was first team in all-state in five events.

USGA exempts all women in Women's Open Championship

By R. HANS MILLER
TIMES SENIOR REPORTER

The United States Golf Association announced July 1 that it will effectively exempt all competitors at the 75th U.S. Women's Open Championship to be held Dec. 10-13 at Champions Golf Club in Houston. The news comes about as a result of accommodations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are extremely pleased to still provide the world's best professional and amateur players the opportunity to compete for this historic championship, despite forgoing qualifying," said John Bodenhamer, USGA senior managing director, Championships. "After carefully examining previous years, these exemption categories allow us to closely mirror a traditional field, and we are excited to witness one of these players win what will truly be a milestone 75th U.S. Women's Open."

In addition to the customary U.S. Women's Open exemptions, the 2020 field of 156 players will include the top 75 point leaders and ties from the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings, as of March 16. Players in the top 30 of the LPGA Tour's 2019 Race to the CME Globe Final Points Cup list will also be exempt.

To ensure that those in the best form leading into the championship receive a place in the field, players who are not already exempt can earn a spot from their position on LPGA Tour's 2020 official money list – top 10 – or the Symetra Tour's official money list – top five – through Nov. 11. Exemptions will also be available based on performances in the following events on the 2020 LPGA Tour schedule: Walmart NW Arkansas Championship, Cambria Portland Classic, ShopRite Classic and KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

An average of 25 amateurs have competed in the last three U.S. Women's Opens, including Gina Kim, who tied for 12th last year at the Country Club of Charleston (S.C.). The World Amateur Golf Ranking* will be utilized to fill the amateur contingent at Champions Golf Club, as the top 20 point leaders who are not otherwise exempt as of Nov. 4 will be added to the six amateur categories already employed. Amateurs have historically enjoyed tremendous success at the U.S. Women's Open, including 1967 champion Catherine Lacoste, Jenny Chuasiriporn, who finished runner-up in 1998, and Brittany



PHOTO COURTESY JOPWELLS VIA PEX

The 75th U.S. Women's Open Championship to be held Dec. 10-13 at Champions Golf Club in Houston. As a result of COVID-19 concerns, rules for entry exemptions have been expanded this year.

Lang and Morgan Pressel, who shared runner-up honors in the memorable 2005 U.S. Women's Open at Cherry Hills won by Birdie Kim.

In lieu of international qualifying, the final rankings on the 2019 Ladies European Tour Order of Merit and the final money lists on the 2019 Japan LPGA Tour, Korean LPGA Tour and China LPGA Tour will help to round out the field. Remaining spots in the championship will be filled using the Rolex Rankings as of Nov. 9. More information on exemption categories and the entry application process can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Eleven U.S. Women's Open champions currently meet exemption categories, including two-time winner Inbee Park (2008, 2013) and Jeongeun Lee6, who claimed the title last year at the Country Club of Charleston. Joining Park and Lee6 are: Eun-Hee Ji (2009), Paula Creamer (2010), So Yeon Ryu (2011), Na Yeon Choi (2012), Michelle Wie (2014), In Gee Chun (2015), Brittany Lang (2016), Sung Hyun Park (2017) and Ariya Jutanugarn (2018).

Exempt players must file an entry. Entries will open Wednesday, Oct. 7 and close Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 5 p.m. EDT.

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TRIBUTES

Darrel Royer, 67, of Fulshear, TX died on Thursday, June 25th at Memorial Herman Hospital Memorial

Darrel was born May 23rd in Lake Charles, LA. He lived in the Houston/Katy area for the past 30+ years and resided in Fulshear for the last 11 years. Darrel was married to the love of his life Polly Royer for 38 years.

Darrel will be remembered as a man who had a tremendously kind heart, who

loved to whistle, and always brought a smile to the faces of people he would meet. Darrel had no problem talking to everyone like he knew them forever and treating all with kindness. Darrel was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend and will be missed dearly.

Darrel is preceded in death by his parents Orelian and Ora Royer of Lake Charles, LA. He is survived by his wife Polly of Fulshear, TX;

his children. Joe Rover of Austin. TX, Jonathan Royer (Ashley) of Pflugerville, TX, Jake Royer (Amber)

of Richardson, TX, April Ervin of Katy, TX, Amanda Hill (Travis) of Katy, TX; grandchildren Nicholas Royer, Tyler Royer, Link Burke, Annabelle Hill, Landon Hill, Braden Ervin, and Benjamin Royer; siblings Michael Royer (Lois Ann) of Humble, TX, Peggy Smith of Bridge City, TX, and Billy Royer (Jackie) of Lake Charles, LA.

His funeral service will be held

at 11 am on Thursday, July 9th at St. Faustina Catholic Church. Father Dat Hoang will officiate. There will also be a rosary at 10 am on Thursday, July 9th at St. Faustina.

DARREL ROYER

The family would like to express a word of special thanks to Amy Wenham and Charneeka Laday for the excellent medical care and compassion bestowed upon Darrel.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Gorman Travis Wagenfuehr, 30, passed into the arms of Jesus on Sunday, June 28, 2020 in Kerrville, Texas where he lived among friends for several years.

Travis was born on February 16, 1990 in Houston, Texas to his proud parents, Robert Harvey Wagenfuehr, Jr. and Lisa Guthrie (Wagenfuehr) Nelson. He is survived by his mother. Lisa and her husband Stuart Nelson of Katy, TX; his brothers Zachary Wagenfuehr (Selena) of Chicago, IL and Lane Wagenfuehr (Jennifer) of Frisco, TX; his sisters Kim Wells of Lexington. SC and Juliann Gaudette of Frisco, TX; his step-sisters Kristin Spruiell (Justin) of Yelm, WA and Stephanie Culbertson (Kyle) of Katy, TX; his nieces and nephews Blake and Taylor Wells, Dawson and Jayden Gaudette, Bryce and Reece Wa-

genfuehr, Everett and Owen Spruiell and Kinslev Culbertson; his uncle Fred (Buzzy) Wagenfuehr and aunt, Mary Wagenfuehr. He is also survived by his precious canine friend and companion, Riley. Travis was also blessed by two loving step-grandmothers, Ruth Guthrie and Margie Guthrie and their beautiful families.

Travis was preceded in death by his father, Bob, his grandparents Harvey and Freddie Wagenfuehr, Gorman and Imogene Guthrie.

Travis grew up in Katy, TX and graduated from Cinco Ranch High School. He was a licensed apprentice electrician and enjoyed many passions. He enriched his life through exploring music, engrossing himself in film, rebuilding cars, play-

ing board games, and spending time with Riley and all other animals. He was most recently trying to teach himself Japanese. Whether it was sitting around in deep thought or taking a grand adventure, he did it with friends. He would do anything for his friends and his family and his generosity knew no bounds.

Memorial services will be held 11:00 AM, Saturday, July 18, 2020 at the Church of the Holy Apostles, 1225 W. Grand Parkway South, Katy, TX 77494.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Dustin's House Foundation (dustinshouse.org), 2225 Rock Creek Drive, Kerrville, Texas 78028 or Freeman-Fritts

Animal Welfare Society of Kerr County (freemanfritts.com).

Travis was an incredibly quick-witted, intelligent and handsome man. He was a wonderful son and brother. He had his heart fully invested in his many loved ones, who will miss him for as long as we live. We pray that his bright light will be felt by all who knew him and to those who his story will be passed onto.

Arrangements are under the direction and personal care of the professionals at Kerrville Funeral Home (830) 895-5111.



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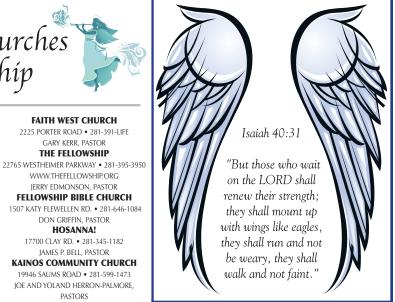
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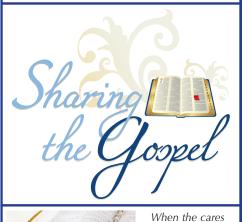
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4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4





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REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CITY OF

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By Order Of Mayor

And City Council

City Of Katy, Texas

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THE BIBLE SEM-**INARY** TO HOST ON-SITE EVAL-UATION TEAM VISIT. The Bible Seminary host a Transnational Associa-Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) on-site Evaluation Team on July 13-16, 2020, for the purpose of evaluating the institution for Accredited status. Third party comments are invited and may be addressed to: TRACS. 15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551. TRACS is approved by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized institutional accrediting agency and appears on the DOE Secretary's List of

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055 **ESTATE SALES**

HUGE ESTATE SALE in (Heritage Grand) Cinco Ranch (5331 Garnetfield Lane, Katy, Tx 77494) Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11 (7am to 6pm). Furniture, Gas dryer, toys, clothes, shoes, Christmas decorations, etc. Cash only and all sales final.

620 **HOUSES FOR SALE**

2000 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, 936-488-1314.

July 2

Puzzle Answers

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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 ased 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.

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950 950 **PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES**

950 **PUBLIC NOTICES**

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Owner: Mason Creek Utility District

Owner's Office: 847 Dominion, Katy, TX 77450

Project (the Work): Furnish, deliver and install smart water meters; provide related goods and services; and provide, by service agreement, an automatic water meter reading system with Internet portal; all as further described in the Contract Documents.

Project location: In Western Harris County, Texas generally bounded by IH 10, Fry Road, Kingsland Blvd. and Westgreen Blvd. and on the Internet

Owner proposes to let a contract for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owners Office by July 17, 2020 at 11:00 AM, when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on civcastusa.com. A pre-bid conference is set for July 10, 2020 at 11:00 AM at the Operations Center, 851 Dominion, Katy, Texas 77450 (also accessible by telephone conference at 800-719-8139; conference code 447079). /s/ Len Forsyth, Project Officer.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for the HARDSCAPE PHASE 1 TO SERVE KATY CITY HALL PLAZA will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 16, 2020.

The Owner is the City of Katy, Texas.

The City of Katy will hold a non-mandatory audio/web pre-bid conference at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 9, 2020. The Dial-In number for the non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is 713.358.8400, Access Code 0877892.

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

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

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

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

Copies of the Specifications may be obtained upon payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 3600 W. Sam Houston Pkwy. S., Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042 or at https://bids.lja.com. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding documents.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, will be received in the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, until 2 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, August 4th, 2020, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read via Go-To-Meeting for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of "Elyson Blvd Section 1 Landscape - West", Harris County,

Scope of Work of the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of concrete trails, sprinkler irrigation. grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, via Go-To-Meeting. Join the meeting from your computer at https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/577469741 or join the call via telephone number 1-866-899-4679, and use access code 577-469-741.

A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.

Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. Documents will be available for download on Monday, July 20th, 2020.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

Visit us at KatyTimes.com

LOCAL FOOD

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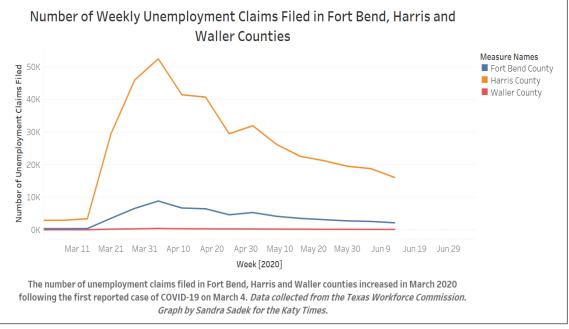
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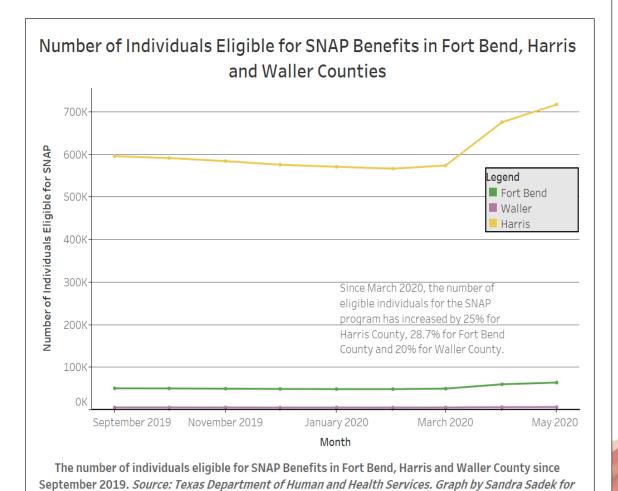
Visit their website at

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sites near you



Unemployment is one factor that adds significantly to food insecurity. Unemployment has increased dramatically since the COVID-19 pandemic began and while new applications have slowed down recently, many people continue to remain on unemployment as the pandemic continues.



The demand for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program aid has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic began. SNAP can aid families while allowing them to utilize local stores which contributes to local economies and helps reduce strain on food pantries.

the Katy Times

FOOD from page 1

"We know that these are families that are going through an economic hardship, depending on whatever factor that is that put them in that particular situation. Whether (it's) ioss of employment, nours being reduced, or an illness presented itself, a severe illness, death in the family, and different factors that, unfortunately, no one is exempt from falling into a situation like that," said Crespo.

The Texas Workforce Commission reports that as of June 20 there were 2,219 unemployment claims in Fort Bend County, 17,081 in Harris County, and 141 in Waller County. These new claims bring the Texas Gulf Coast region up to more than 117,000 residents on unemployment, according to the TWC.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, many food pantries have struggled to meet increased demand for food assistance brought on by unemployment and other factors.

'You do see unfamiliar faces. We are seeing people that are outside of the people that we usually serve," said Shayne Baker, who oversees Trini's Corner Market, a food pantry based out of the Mamie George Community Center in Richmond. "Seeing 100 families each day, we got to know a lot of those families, it was a little bit more personal. And now that we're expanding, there's a bunch of new faces that we are getting to meet and smile at."

Adjusting operations for an increased demand

According to 2018 data

collected by Feeding America, a nationwide nonprofit that fights food insecurity, there are already 81,310 food insecure people in Fort Bend County alone, with 44% of those people living below the SNAP threshold for poverty. Children are the most affected by this issue with 34,140 food-insecure children in the county, Feeding

America reports. As COVID-19 continues to affect daily lives, food insecurity in Fort Bend County is projected to increase by almost 4%, from 11% in 2018 to 15.7% in 2020, according to Feeding America.

KCM Food Pantry Director Krissy Viau Shetterly said demand at the food pantry due to COVID-19 has been "astounding." In March 2019, 1,390 households were served; for March 2020, following the start of the pandemic, 2,494 households were served, an increase of nearly 80%.

'You can see in March where the panic really set in, how the numbers just skyrocketed. It has come down a bit but it's still a lot more than we saw. Of course, I don't see it going back down anytime soon to anything like we had

before," Shetterly said. The panic following COVID-19's outbreak brought about panic in grocery stores, with people stockpiling and leading to food shortages. Thus, more people had to turn to food pantries, food pantry organizers said.

"At the beginning of (the pandemic), we were literally counting how many days' worth of food we had in the food pantry. We've never done that before," Shetterly

Food pantries have adjusted

operations to ensure the safety of families, volunteers and employees while continuing to assist. Many have switched over to a drive-thru style of distribution, limiting the number of individuals inside the pantry and reducing

"We do intake through a drive-thru line," Baker said. "All of our volunteers and staff are working outside in the heat to continue to provide that assistance and then we bring the food directly to the cars on the road, food into the trunk for the cars for the client so that they don't need to get outside of their vehicle or put themselves in any kind of harm's way."

Others have also reduced their hours to again limit contact as well as give staff and volunteers time to restock. Shetterly said KCM reduced its operational hours from seven and a half hours a day to five hours a day which makes clients more comfortable and helps volunteers

"That makes (our volunteers) a lot more comfortable also because we have a lot of elderly volunteers, and they don't want to stay at home. They want to stay out, they want to help their neighbors or community and so they're able to still do that and feel comfortable coming to the food pantry," Shetterly said.

Fighting food insecurity

The nationwide reach of food insecurity in the U.S. has led to many initiatives attempting to tackle the issue. The most well-known governmental food assistance is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

which served 38 million people nationwide in 2019. The Trump administration cut SNAP funding by \$17.2 billion in 2019. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced an emergency increase on April 22 to monthly benefits of 40% - about \$2 billion.

On May 12, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott also provided over \$1 billion in food benefits to families with children who benefited from free and discounted school meals before school closures due to COVID-19

Andra Tomsa developed Spare USA, an app that rounds up grocery and food delivery bills, donating that round-up to local food banks.

"Beforehand, about 15% of the nation was facing some form of food insecurity, largely, that included families with children, elderly or disabled members,' Tomsa said. "There are now middle-income middle-class Americans using food banks for the first time because, through no fault of their own, (work) has become sort of obsolete for the time being and that sort of economic impact is going to last for months if not years

after.' Tomsa attributes added demand at food banks to low wages that do not reflect the rising costs of living. She said it is important to support food banks, organizations which have become even more essential during the pandemic.

Katy ISD and other school districts are also helpful when it comes to fighting food insecurity. The Texas Department of Agriculture authorized school districts to do curbside pickup of meals

KATY CHRISTIAN **MINISTRIES** Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m - 2 p.m and 4 **MAMIE GEORGE** p.m. - 7 p.m. 281.391.9623 5504 First St, Katy, 77493 Must make an appointment with a case manager about your families Every Tuesday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. needs. After meeting with a case 1111 Collins Road, Richmond TX manager, you may be issued an ID card to use every two weeks in the Drive-through, no appointments Food Pantry until your follow up needed. You must register through appointment in 3 months, where your the Houston Food Bank text system case manager will reevaluate your needs with you. letters HFBNSS as the message to fill **ETERNAL FOOD BANK** Mon. - Fri., 10:30 am - 3.30 pm 281.271.1730 **UNITY CENTER New Physical Address Coming** Every other Friday, 10am-12pm Soon Allows each qualified family or 4010 4th Street, Brookshire, TX individual to access food three times within three months from the Food Drive-thru. No appointment needed Bank. After being served for three times in each qualifying period, there is a waiting period of three months before being eligible to re-apply for food assistance **FOOD BANK** food pantries and SNAP assistance houstonfoodbank.org for more information on food distribution during the pandemic. Katy ISD reports delivering 1,071,169 meals to

Katy ISD families since March 16.

There are many other ways to aid food banks and pantries during COVID-19 as they face higher numbers of clients needing assistance. Tomsa believes increasing SNAP benefits during the pandemic and even after will mitigate pressure on food banks and redirect people to their local grocery stores, thereby reinvesting in the economy

Shetterly and Crespo said they normally would encourage volunteering time at food banks and pantries, but the current COVID-19 situation has limited the availability of such opportunities. However, they said donating unique food items can make a huge difference in someone's diet.

"It's also being mindful of healthy food choices," Crespo said. "If someone's diabetic or has a medical condition, they can't eat XYZ, maybe we have an alternative. We don't have the luxury to say we have an array of all these healthy choices. But if we're blessed with healthier food choices, then that in itself will be also transforming lives from the medical aspect.'

For many Katy area residents, every day comes down to choosing between bills and food. COVID-19's impact on society has left many seeking out assistance for the first time.

"I don't care who you are or how wealthy you are. You never know when you're gonna need help," Smith said. "And I thank God for Katy Christian Ministries, and I pray for them every day because right now it's very difficult."

How families can cook together during COVID-19

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Families are spending more time at home than ever before. Stay-at-home guidelines have led many parents to expand their culinary horizons, and time in the kitchen can be made more enjoyable by getting the whole family involved.

As stay-at-home measures continued throughout spring, boredom was a common complaint among people of all ages. Families sticking out social distancing together can confront that boredom by working together to prepare delicious, homecooked meals. The following are some simple ways to get the whole family involved when the time comes to get dinner on the table.

¥ Include young children. Younger children may not be able to cut, dice or chop, but that does not mean they can't participate in nightly cooking sessions. Kids can stir, pour and, perhaps most importantly, shake. The Extension Nutrition Education Program at Purdue University notes that helping to prepare food can help children feel like they're part of the family and even encourage them to make healthy choices. Each of those things can benefit children in the short- and long-term. Older kids can take on more responsibility when preparing meals, and teenagers can even tackle entire meals on their own if they so prefer.

Rotate the responsibility for choosing dishes. The family chef may be accustomed to choosing meals. But with stay-at-

home measures in place and restrictions only slowly lifting, sharing that responsibility can be a great way to make everyone more excited about mealtime. Parents can still choose the majority of meals, but let kids choose one or two meals per week. To prevent kids from always opting for less healthy fare like macaroni and cheese or pizza, establish certain rules. For example, note that each meal must include at least one fruit or vegetable, relaxing these rules as you see fit. This is a great way to teach kids about nutrition while also showing them how less nutritious fare like pizza can be made healthier by replacing toppings like pepperoni with freshly cut vegetables.

Expand your operation. In-person

baking sessions with grandparents and large Sunday dinners with extended family members may not be possible in the era of social distancing. However, such traditions need not be abandoned entirely. Utilize video conferencing apps like Zoom to prepare foods together, with each family member whipping up their own meal or dessert. Items can then safely be dropped off at each other's homes. Go the extra mile by keeping the video conference going as everyone sits down to indulge in a tasty meal. Cooking together can be a great fami-

ly-friendly pastime as adults and children look for ways to spend quality time together while stay-at-home measures remain in place or are gradually relaxed.

Ector County GOP censures Abbott

By PATRICK SVITEK THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The Ector County Republican Party voted July 4 to censure Gov. Greg Abbott, accusing him of overstepping his authority in responding to the coronavirus pandemic, while state Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, called for a special session so lawmakers could have a say in how Texas proceeds amid soaring caseloads.

The party executive committee in Ector County, home to Odessa, passed the censure resolution 10-1, with one abstention and three voting members who were not present, according to the chairperson, Tisha Crow. She said she was among those who supported the resolution, which accuses Abbott of violating five party principles related to his exercise of executive power during the

While the resolution asks that delegates to the state convention later this month consider — and affirm — Ector County's action, Crow said consideration is "not guaranteed," and one precinct chair, Aubrey Mayberry, said the resolution "doesn't have any teeth" for now — but that it was important to send a message about what they consider Abbott's overreach.

Mayberry, who voted for the resolution, said he was working with precinct chairs in other Texas counties to get similar resolutions passed ahead of the convention.

The Ector County vote came two days after Abbott took one of his most sweeping executive actions yet, requiring Texans in most public places to wear masks. For months, Abbott has used his executive



Gov. Greg Abbott speaks about the categories of medical surge facilities during a press conference at the Texas Department of Public Safety in Austin on Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

authority aggressively to respond to the pandemic, forcing hospitals to suspend elective surgeries, ordering Texans to stay at home in April except for essential activities, and shutting down certain businesses and then reopening them before COVID-19 cases surged. Texas is now one of the nation's epicenters for the virus.

Perry wrote Saturday on Facebook that he is "deeply concerned about the unilateral power being used with no end in sight."

"This is why I urge Governor Abbott to

convene a special session to allow the legislature to pass legislation and hold hearings regarding the COVID-19 response," Perry said. "It should not be the sole responsibility of one person to manage all of the issues related to a disaster that has no end in sight."

In the upper chamber, state Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood, has also called for a special session, as have several House Republicans.

Abbott has not explicitly ruled out a special session before the Legislature meets again in January. In a TV interview Friday,

"I will say that all possibilities will always remain on the table, but right now we're just making sure that we do all the right things to ensure that we're putting public health and safety first and that we reduce the spread of the coronavirus."

- GOV. GREG ABBOTT

though, he made clear it was not his preference at this point.

The important thing is that we have the capability of responding very swiftly, and now is just not the time [to call the Legislature back]," Abbott told KTRK in Houston. "I will say that all possibilities will always remain on the table, but right now we're just making sure that we do all the right things to ensure that we're putting public health and safety first and that we reduce the spread of the coronavirus."



MIGUEL GUTIERREZ | THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The Texas Supreme Court on Jan. 15, 2020. The state's highest court has cancelled July bar exams in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Texas bar exam canceled in July

By REESE OXNER

After urging from Texas law school deans and aspiring lawyers, the Texas Supreme Court on July 3 canceled the two-day in-person bar exams scheduled for later this month, citing growing concerns about COVID-19. The bar exams will be offered online in October.

An in-person exam is still planned for Sept. 9 and 10 but could be canceled depending on recommendations from public health authorities. The Texas Board of Law Examiners will announce assistance for wi-fi and appropriate testing spaces and arrangements for people who prefer handwritten

The July exam, which was to bring more than 1,000 people into testing centers across the state, was canceled a day after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott banned certain outdoor gatherings of over 10 people unless local officials approve, down from the previous restriction of 100 people.

However, some have voiced concerns that delaying the bar examination could later limit job opportunity or cause professional challenges. Students generally spend 350 to 500 hours studying in the months leading up to the exam and graduate with an average of \$107,000 in loans for law school, according to a letter from the 10 Texas law school deans.

The deans, along with some students and others in the legal community, suggested instead of moving the exam online, to offer the option of legal apprenticeships in lieu of an exam or extending diploma privilege — a once-common practice that allowed law school graduates to be admitted to the bar without taking the exam.

Under previous orders, applicants could delay their exam to February and practice law under the supervision of a licensed attorney.

Rachael Beavers, a recent University of Houston Law Center graduate, is skeptical that the September exam will happen — or should — considering the rise in Texas'

'The idea that that is going to happen is optimism bordering on delusion," Beavers said, adding that she's been studying for the exam eight hours per day, including weekends, for weeks. "I've been tracking the COVID numbers and it doesn't seem like that is going to be safe to administer."

Beavers said she doesn't feel like she knows how to best prepare for the exam anymore.

The requirements for the in-person exam and the online exam will be different, with varying numbers of questions and essays required. The board will determine how to weigh the online exam. That also makes Beavers nervous.

'This is such a Rubik's cube of complexity that they've created, that it's hard to keep track of even what we will be studying," Beavers said. "There's no way to know what's going to be on it. It's nearly impossible to study for.'

Friday's decision follows the recommendation that the board made Thursday, after urging from the Texas law school deans, letters from recent law-school graduates, other public input and an online petition calling for diploma privilege. An additional registration period for the September or

October exam will be made available for new applicants. July or September applicants can change their application to the February 2021 bar exam for free.

Before canceling the exam, the court approved shortening the July test and authorized the special September date to reduce the number of bar exam-takers.

This test is not going to be testing competency for any of the applicants this year," Beavers said. "It's going to be testing their ability to adapt to this situation.'



In light of the decision to go forward with an in-person convention with a new mask requirement, two sponsors announced they would drop out. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said he was hopeful that the organization would still reconsider. The photo above shows the Texas Republican Convention at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio in 2018

GOP will proceed with convention

By CASSANDRA POLLOCK THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The Texas GOP's executive committee voted Thursday night to proceed with plans to hold the party's in-person convention in Houston

later this month. The State Republican Executive Committee, a 64-member body that serves as the governing board of the state party, voted 40-20 to approve the resolution supporting the in-person gathering. Thursday's vote comes as the state grapples with a surge of coronavirus cases, with Houston serving as one of the country's hot spots for the virus.

The SREC is scheduled to meet again Sunday to consider changing the party's rules. Those rules will include a tweak that allows the party to act on an "emergency fallback contingency plan," if necessary, to hold a virtual convention, party Chair James Dickey told members as he kicked off Thursday's virtual meeting.

The convention, scheduled for July 16-18, will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center, where roughly 6,000 people are expected to

Thursday's vote came hours after Gov. Greg Abbott ordered most counties in Texas to require masks in public — a notable turnaround for a governor who spent months resisting calls for such a requirement. Under Abbott's latest action, Dickey said during Thursday's meeting, convention attendees would now be required to wear masks for most of an in-person event.

Over the past week, demands have mounted for the party to cancel plans for an in-person convention, with some Republicans stating they would not attend such an event due to safety concerns. Others have also cited concerns about the optics of attending a large gathering while small businesses in their districts

remain shuttered under the governor's orders. Meanwhile, a faction of activists that over the next several days, the has argued that canceling an event party's leadership will reconsider in focused on selecting delegates for view of the rising number of positive

the national convention and voting

on the party's platform, among other things, would not reflect well on a party that dubs itself the party of personal responsibility. Some have also suggested that a virtual convention could disenfranchise certain

delegates On Tuesday, the party's plans for an in-person convention looked increasingly uncertain, when the Texas Medical Association, the state's largest medical group, called on the party to cancel the event, a reversal that came just one day after The Texas Tribune reported on TMA's

sponsorship of the convention. After Thursday night's vote, TMA announced it had withdrawn as an advertiser to the convention, arguing that face masks alone at such a large gathering were not enough.

'With or without masks, an indoor gathering of thousands of people from all around the state in a city with tens of thousands of active COVID-19 cases poses a significant health risk to conventiongoers, convention workers, health care workers, and the residents of Houston," Diana Fite, the group's president, said in a statement. "We are concerned not only for the City of Houston but also for the communities to which the delegates will return, giving the virus easy transportation to parts of Texas that have far fewer cases.

On Friday, the Texas Craft Brewers Guild also withdrew sponsorship.

"In light of the decision to go forward with an in-person Republican State Convention with over 6,000 attendees in close proximity, @TXCraftBrewers has decided to withdraw our sponsorship of the @ TexasGOP Convention in Houston," the group tweeted.

On Friday, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said he was hopeful that

the SREC would reconsider and take the convention virtual. "At the very minimum, masks will be a requirement for attendance and service. However, it is also my hope

COVID-19 cases, increased hospital-

izations, and shortage of ICU beds,"

A July 2 roughly three-hour meeting included a vibrant discussion about what plans related to the convention, if any, should change. Members went back and forth, making their cases for why the convention should go virtual or remain as

At one point, one member offered a motion that would have required delegates to test negative for the coronavirus before being allowed to attend the convention.

"What a load of horse shit," one member could be heard saying on the livestream before the motion was ruled out of order.

The SREC did not get much guidance from Abbott, at least publicly, ahead of its Thursday evening meeting. In a TV interview less than two hours before the meeting, Abbott declined to take a position on whether an in-person convention should move forward, deferring to the SREC while speaking generally about putting health and safety first.

One thing that's so important is we obviously have so many people who would be attending who would be coming from a variety of locations across the state of Texas," Abbott told KRIV in Houston. "These people are very valuable, very important, to the Republican Party. My top concern for them is their health and safety. The last thing that I would want to have happen is for any of them to contract COVID-19 or worse, lose their lives over it."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said he'll be at the convention.

"I agree with the twenty people [on the SREC] who believe it is not a good idea to hold an in-person state convention in Houston because so many of our party activists will be unable to attend," Patrick said in a written statement. "It also risks the exposure of those who do attend. But I respect the will of the forty people who voted [in favor] and I will be

Patrick Svitek contributed to this report.