

Katy Times



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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

KISD closed through April 13

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

In response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's request to ensure that gatherings of people remain at ten people or less and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 – also known as novel coronavirus – Katy ISD has cancelled classes until at least April 13, the district said in a statement released Monday evening.

"This measure will provide the district and health officials time to evaluate the extent of COVID-19 in the community," KISD Manager for Media Relations Maria DiPetta said in the statement. "Data collected over the next several weeks will also allow Katy ISD to make an informed decision to resume in-person instruction or extend the closure."

DiPetta said the district will begin providing students and parents information regarding the beginning of online instruction March 18. The goal is for telecommuting to school to begin March 23. A schedule of online classes will be provided March 20 in order to allow parents and students to prepare for online classroom attendance.

Multiple internet providers including Comcast, Spectrum, Verizon and AT&T are offering some form of free or reduced-cost internet to low-income families that need assistance which may allow students to get online.

"During this extraordinary time, it is vital that as many Americans as possible stay connected to the internet – for education, work, and personal health reasons," said Comcast Cable Chief Executive Officer Dave Watson.

KISD had originally extended spring break through March 21 with classes planned to resume March 22 in response to the pandemic. This change is in response to guidelines put out by the CDC which mirror guidance put out by the Trump administration earlier in the day Monday.

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March 19, 2020
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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

A PIVOTAL POINT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. David Persse speaks at a March 16 press conference announcing new guidance and restrictions in Harris County and the City of Houston. Fort Bend County came out with similar restrictions later that day.

Guidance provided on restrictions and concerns

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

In a joint press conference between Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Harris County announced additional restrictions and guidance to mitigate the spread of novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Restaurants in the county and city must switch to providing service only through takeout, drive-through and delivery while all bars and clubs are required to close, Hidalgo said. The county is recommending that all gatherings of any kind be cancelled or postponed as well.

"The reality is we're at a pivotal point right now," Hidalgo said. "The decisions we make – the decision you make – to

See **COVID-19**, page A3

IF YOU ARE SICK

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, follow the guidelines below when seeking treatment.

- Stay home and do not go into work or school
- Do not go out in public
- Use online services or phone services to seek medical advice
- Do not go to the emergency room without calling ahead to inform them you are coming
- Continue to wash hands, bathe and sanitize the home regularly to minimize the spread of novel coronavirus to other people in the household
- Self-quarantine for 14 days to avoid getting others sick



EDDIE GASPARI/THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Gov. Greg Abbott declares a statewide emergency amid new cases of COVID-19.

Gov. Greg Abbott suspends part of open-meetings law

By STACY FERNÁNDEZ
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Gov. Greg Abbott suspended a part of the Texas Open Meetings Act — which guarantees the public can access and participate in government meetings — on Monday in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

All sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act remain in place except for the requirement of a physical gathering space for people to watch the meeting and ask questions.

While social distancing practices are in place, governmental bodies — like

See **ABBOTT**, page A3

Beckendorf JH 'Ready to Roll'

By STACY FERNÁNDEZ
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Paige Siemers, a teacher at Beckendorf Junior High says she is extremely proud of her students. Many would say she's got good reason to be – they've raised more than \$400,000 over the last 14 years for nonprofits that range from Make A Wish to cancer charities through the fundraiser she coordinates called "Ready to Roll."

"Fifteen years ago, I was approached by the Leukemia Lymphoma Society and they said, 'Hey, we do this cool thing, it's called Pennies for Patients.'"

Siemers wasn't able to get involved in the program that first year due to her busy schedule at the time, she said. The program collects spare change from students to put towards cancer research and treatment. It is called "Ready to Roll" at the school because the coins collected must be rolled before being donated. However, she went back to the idea the following year and got the program going at Beckendorf with the help of Ted Vierling – principal at Beckendorf at the time and now Assistant Superintendent of Operations for Katy ISD.

In the first year, the students raised more than \$10,000 for the Pennies for Patients program, Siemers said.

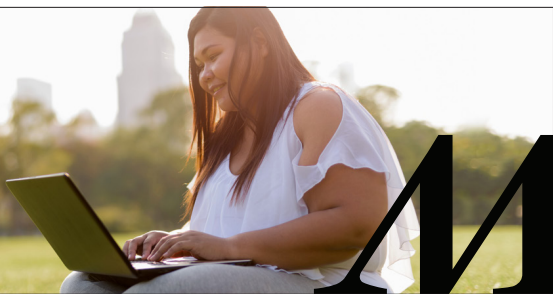
See **ROLL**, page A3

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CORONAVIRUS, FLU, COLD?

As the number of coronavirus cases rise, some key differences set it apart from the seasonal flu and the common cold — mainly the intensity of the symptoms and the recovery period. This is a guide to identifying the differences in the three conditions. **All three, however, are spread by air-borne respiratory droplets and contaminated surfaces.**

CORONAVIRUS

Onset: Sudden Symptoms

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Muscle ache
- Fatigue

Less Common Symptoms

- Headache
- Coughing up blood
- Diarrhea

Incubation:

12-14 days

Complications

5% of cases*

(acute pneumonia, respiratory failure, septic shock, multiple organ failure)

Recovery:

2 weeks

(mild cases); 2-6 weeks (severe cases)

Treatment or vaccine

No vaccines or anti-viral drugs available; only symptoms can be treated.

**Actual % varies widely by age group; impact more profound on older patients.*



SEASONAL FLU

Onset: Abrupt Symptoms

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Muscle ache
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose

Less Common Symptoms

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

WHAT THIS MEANS

If you have a stuffy/runny nose or are sneezing, you likely DO NOT have corona virus

Incubation:

1-4 days

Complications

1% of cases

(including pneumonia)

Recovery:

1 week

(mild cases); 2 weeks (severe cases)

Treatment or vaccine

An annual seasonal flu vaccine is available

COMMON COLD

Onset: Gradual Symptoms

- Sneezing
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose

Less Common Symptoms

- Low grade fever
- Muscle or body ache
- Headache
- Fatigue

Incubation:

2-3 days

Complications

Extremely rare

Recovery:

1 week

(for most cases; may last as long as 10 days)

Treatment or vaccine

No treatment but doctors advise treating symptoms

Fenice Community Media graphic/Richard Stone

Fry Rd. Firestone confirms employee with coronavirus

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

In a letter to employees that was shared with Katy Times, Bridgestone Retail Operations which owns and operates the Firestone Complete Auto Care location at 2440 Fry Road in Houston has gotten a presumptive positive diagnosis for novel coronavirus – also known as COVID-19.

“In an abundance of caution, we have closed this store location and required all teammates at this store to self-quarantine,” the letter, which was confirmed to be accurate by Leslie Boehms, communications manager for Bridgestone Americas, Inc.

The test results are in the process of being verified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Boehms said in the letter.

The notification suggests that any customers who visited the store since Feb. 28 be encouraged to contact their health care provider immediately if they experience any symptoms associated with COVID-19. The company has been reaching out to those customers it has contact information for in order to notify them of the situation, Boehms said.

Boehms said the company hired a contractor to come into the facility and completely sanitize the business to protect future customers and staff from COVID-19. That sanitization has already been completed.

This Firestone location remains closed at this time while staff complete their self-quarantine. No timeline has been provided for the store to reopen as of March 16.

KATY TIMES PET OF THE WEEK

Annabelle



Annabelle is a three-year-old, tortoiseshell cat. She is a beautiful, sweet girl that is scared of dogs. Her ideal home has a cozy, quiet spot for her to relax in, preferably by the window so she can squirrel watch. Her favorite toy is a light reflection on the floor or wall from something shiny that she will chase as it moves around.

Annabelle is available for adoption at Special Pals Shelter located at 3830 Greenhouse Road, Houston. The shelter is the Katy area's oldest no kill shelter and is open Weds., Thurs., Sat., and Sun. from 12-4 p.m. and Fri. 12-6 p.m.

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Katy Times

Waller County Justice Center on time and on budget

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Waller County's new justice center is moving along and expected to be completed on or by Sept. 1 according to county officials during the Waller County Commissioners Court's Nov. 11 regular meeting. The new \$39.5 million jail will replace the current jail and will house the Waller County Sheriff's Office, the county's 9-1-1 call center and the 506th Judicial District Court, Waller County Judge Trey Duhon said.

“When we started this project, I really wanted to end up with something that when people go to that courtroom or they deal with the sheriff or they go to the jail that [it's] at least something that gives them a sense of civic pride and I really think this facility is being done the right way,” Duhon said.

The upgraded facility which will include a variety of safety features for officers, the public and prisoners held there is a big change from the county's current facility, Duhon said. The prior jail was built in the 1980s during the oil downturn and a company was brought in to build the current facility with no jail experience. Metal buildings usually used in oil rigs and not intended for long-term use served as the core of the jail facility and are now rusting out, he said. Challenges to inmate safety with the outdated facility are a portion of what caused the tragic death of Sandra Bland in 2015. The county has evaluated its facilities and is using lessons learned in constructing the new facility, Duhon said.

The new facility – which is roughly 82% complete and about 30 days ahead of schedule – will include a variety of safety features to protect everyone at the facility, said Waller County Construction Manager Danny Rothe. Safety features include an “eye in the sky” walkway that allows officers to easily look into cells from above to visibly verify prisoners are safe. Modern jail hardware such as gates and



COURTESY WALLER COUNTY

Waller County's new jail and justice center is expected to open in September. The new facility will replace the current jail which is run down and not as safe as county officials would like it to be.

See **CENTER**, page A3

PUZZLE ANSWERS WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S EDITION

Katy Times

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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.

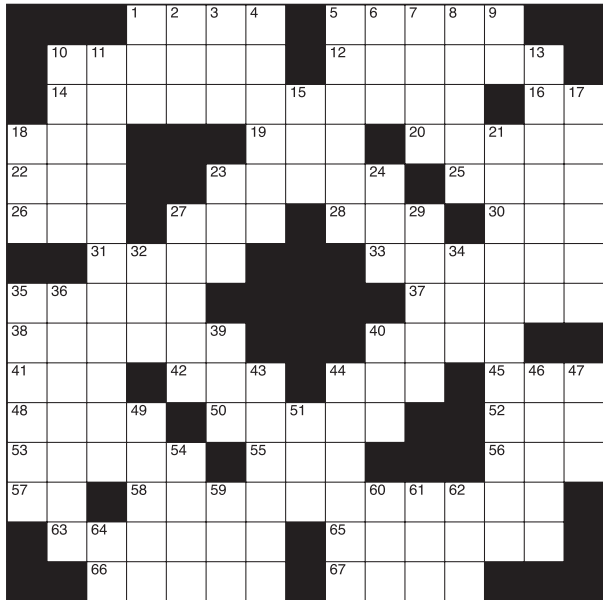
Fun By The Numbers

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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Currency of Guinea
5. Avert something bad
10. Sounds
12. Immediate dangers
14. Legendary Tar Heels coach
16. Californium
18. Work standards government dept. (abbr.)
19. Coastal Scottish town
20. Triangular lower back bones
22. Trouble
23. A way to smile
25. Something that is not what it seems
26. Of she
27. Temporary living quarters
28. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
30. Indicates near
31. Spiritual leader
33. Soup dish
35. Philippine island
37. No longer fashionable
38. Peaks
40. Alabama football team
41. ___ King Cole
42. Digital audiotape
44. Open trough
45. The woman
48. Cools down
50. Turkic language
52. Body part
53. Pulse steadily
55. Embedded computer hardware company
56. Indicates shape
57. Thou (plural)
58. Odd and remarkable
63. An evening party
65. National capital of Zambia
66. Tantalizes
67. Dark brown or black



CLUES DOWN

1. Not naturally outgoing
2. Exclamation of pain
3. Polynesian garland of flowers
4. Surrounded by water
5. Church towers
6. Hot beverage
7. Body parts
8. Travel documents
9. Railway
10. Gradually wear away
11. Measuring instrument
13. Minor dust-ups
15. Strongly alkaline solution
17. Extreme scarcity of food
18. Dash
21. Philly culinary specialty
23. Popular lager ___ Adams
24. Snitch
27. Trimmed
29. Greek god of desire
32. Take to the limit
34. Cool!
35. Sound mental health
36. Native American group
39. Test for high schoolers
40. Rocky peak
43. Preferences
44. Bother
46. Call attention to (slang)
47. Snake-like fish
49. Bulgarian capital
51. Don't know when yet
54. Italian Seaport
59. Brooklyn hoopster
60. Where to bathe
61. Equal, prefix
62. Beverage container
64. Denotes openness

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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COVID-19

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go out in groups or to stay home will very much determine whether people live or die.”

The announcement echoes responses from the largest cities in the United States which have placed similar restrictions, Turner said. It also mirrors the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Trump Administration regarding establishing firm boundaries for social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The CDC had lowered its recommended gathering size from 50 – just established Sunday – to 10 early Monday afternoon as cases nationwide mounted to 3,487 with 68 fatalities. New York and Washington states have born the brunt of the disease so far.

The county has increased its emergency response level to one, the highest rate the center can be set to, Hidalgo said. She added that the decisions to close certain businesses and restrict others were not easy to make and that officials understood the human impact of the decisions they were making – both the negative short-term impacts and the positive long-term impacts.

“History will say that we erred on the side of human life,” Hidalgo said.

Social distancing

Maintaining a safe social distance continues to be the most effective tool to fight the spread of COVID-19, officials said during the press conference. Hidalgo and Turner expressed concern that, despite government officials’ advice to maintain social boundaries, many residents throughout the Greater Houston area continued to attend large functions over the weekend.

“This is about more than just the [Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo],” Hidalgo said. “Conferences, weddings, religious gatherings, festivals, parades, other types of assemblies – all need to recognize that gatherings of any kind should not be happening,” Hidalgo said.

Hidalgo said maintaining six feet of distance from others whenever possible, avoiding physical contact and staying completely away from groups of people, especially those of ten people or more, should be practiced.

Fort Bend County Judge KP George advised Fort Bend County residents to practice social distancing as well and issued a statement on his Facebook page and another via a press release with similar guidelines to those set for Houston and Harris County.

“At this time we are strongly encouraging social distancing for all in the community to help flattening the curve,” George said.

Fort Bend County bars and clubs should close down while restaurants are encouraged to limit service to delivery, takeout and curbside service. If Fort Bend restaurants do not close, they are encouraged to restrict seating to 50% capacity and diners are asked to keep groups to six people or fewer.

Fort Bend County also recommends

ABBOTT

from page A1

city councils and school boards — are expected to conduct meetings by phone or video conference, Attorney General Ken Paxton said in a statement.

Virtual meetings were always an option, but a public space to watch or listen to the meeting was required. This suspension nixes that.

It’s likely the case that “regular citizens aren’t clamoring to go to a large gathering of people either,” said Kelley Shannon, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

Virtual meetings must still have 72-hour written notice online with a public toll-free, dial-in number or a free-of-charge video conference link; an online copy of agendas; means for public participation, like two-way audio or video; and public access to recordings of the meetings.

Shannon raised concerns to the governor’s office before the announcement to make sure there’s a set end date for the waiver.

“Our understanding is it is only through this current 30-day emergency declaration. If there’s a subsequent declaration, it could be included in that,” Shannon said.

But an expiration date for the change is not stated in Paxton’s announcement.

In addition to video streaming, Shannon encourages governmental meetings to have call-in lines when possible, since not everyone has internet access or electronic devices at home and telephones are more readily available.

“It’s all going to come down to how governments carry this out,” Shannon said. “But if they act in good faith and they follow the law, we feel that transparency and the public’s right to know will still be protected,” Shannon said.

“As coronavirus stops people from gathering, Gov. Greg Abbott suspends part of open-meetings law” was first published at <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/03/17/texas-gov-greg-abbott-suspends-part-open-meetings-law/> by The Texas Tribune. The Texas Tribune is proud to celebrate 10 years of exceptional journalism for an exceptional state.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Officials have released a variety of guidelines for social distancing to mitigate the spread of novel coronavirus. The information below is a noncomprehensive list of suggested restrictions.

FOR EMPLOYERS

- Maximize telecommuting options for employees
- Urge employees to stay home if they are sick
- Stagger shifts to minimize large groups of people working at the same time
- Frequently disinfect all surfaces in the office
- Prioritize protective actions for high-risk staff (e.g., Age 60+, diabetic, immune compromised)

HOSPITALITY BUSINESSES

- Bars and clubs should shut down immediately
- Limit service at restaurants to delivery, takeout and curbside
- Utilize electronic payment methods to minimize handling of cash/coins

GATHERINGS

- Avoid gatherings if at all possible
- If unavoidable, limit to no more than 10 persons
- High-risk people (elderly and immune compromised) should not attend
- Ensure adequate supply of hand sanitizer/soap and water for hand washing
- Encourage good hygiene
- Do not shake hands and remain six feet apart or more whenever possible

SENIOR/ASSISTED LIVING ESTABLISHMENTS

- Reduce or eliminate large resident gatherings
- Limit programs involving external staff
- Ask residents to remain in the facility unless absolutely necessary to leave

LIMIT VISITORS

- Utilize video conferencing to help seniors stay in touch with family
- Implement temperature and respiratory symptom screening of staff and visitors
- Implement short-term closes as needed to sanitize and contact tracing
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily
- Churches, temples and mosques
- Stream services online so people may worship from home
- Adjust support services such as meal deliveries and well-checks to mitigate exposure
- Eliminate group gatherings of 10 or more people such as youth groups, Bible studies and gatherings for seniors

SOURCES: Harris County, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fort Bend County, Texas Department of State Health Services

using digital payment methods rather than handling cash or coins.

Throughout the last week, health officials have recommended “flattening the curve” – referring to the bell curve diagram showing hospital capacity in respect to the rate of infection. Health authorities in Houston, Fort Bend County and Harris County have all said that there simply aren’t enough hospital beds in the region if infection rates climb too quickly. A rapid advance of the disease could lead to an increase in the mortality rate for the disease – currently estimated at about 3.9% by Johns Hopkins – if hospitals become overwhelmed by the number of patients requiring treatment.

Laurie Christiansen of the Harris County Fire Marshall’s office said the restrictions placed on restaurants and bars will be enforced. The department’s goal is not to enforce by fine or arrest – thought a possible \$2,000 fine is available if that type of action is needed – but rather to work with business owners and managers to

ensure public safety through education and cooperation.

“If we don’t take definitive action now, then we will pay a much bigger price down the road,” Turner said.

Testing and medical supplies

Supplies for testing are currently limited he said, though aid has been released by the federal government which has supplies such as masks and testing supplies on the way to the Houston area, Houston Health Authority Dr. David Persse said.

“Yesterday we got help from the federal government that personal protective equipment and some other supplies we need [are] en route and once that is in place we will have a plan,” Persse said. “We have done some dry runs on this plan and we think that they are ready to go but we still have to get the personal protective equipment and some of the other testing supplies in place that’s not quite here yet, but we are hoping by the end of this week that ... will be up and running.”

“The reality is we’re at a pivotal point right now. The decisions we make – the decision you make – to go out in groups or to stay home will very much determine whether people live or die.”

— HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE LINA HIDALGO

Some medical groups are running testing centers across Harris County, Persse said. They are small, but each piece of the puzzle for care is vital, he said.

Persse added that residents should not rush out to get tested for novel coronavirus if they are not experiencing symptoms.

“If you don’t have symptoms, the test won’t work,” Persse said.

The test which identifies whether or not COVID-19 is in the body is not accurate until symptoms are present, Persse said. Prior to the presence of symptoms, the test may show a false negative.

Earlier Monday, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said he expects the state’s overall capacity to test for COVID-19 would be 10,000 tests on a weekly basis. Prior to that announcement, the number has been much lower.

Dr. Umair Shah, Harris County Health’s executive director, said social distancing is still the best preventive measure in place at this time. Shah said local officials and the public will have to make difficult decisions to minimize the impact of novel coronavirus on the region. Those responsible for policy will also have to adjust plans as the situation evolves.

“As we’ve said all along – as the situation continues to evolve, as it continues to change that our response will also need to change alongside with it,” Shah said.

Officials across the region continue to urge residents to remain calm and to act responsibly by practicing social distancing and good hygiene.

Persse said that the goal of the measures from restrictions on businesses and gatherings to increased testing capabilities and protective gear for medical professionals is to prevent the spread of illness caused by novel coronavirus – as well as its effects. More than 300 deaths from the disease were reported in Italy on Sunday, he said. Steps to mitigate the spread of the disease in the Houston area and across the U.S. can minimize the death toll in America.

“We recognize that all of these attempts are everything we can do to help slow the spread of this virus in our community and that is absolutely critical to what we’re trying to do,” Shah said.



COURTESY KATY ISO

The Ready to Roll program raised more than \$40,000 this year with the participation of more than 150 students. Funds went to three nonprofits, including the Katy Wolf Pack organization - a Special Olympics team of athletes with developmental disabilities.

ROLL

from page A1

“We were the first school in the gulf coast region to raise over \$10K,” Siemers said.

Their first trip to Bank of America to drop off the donations had all \$10,000 plus in change and cash loaded up into Vierling’s truck and deposited. They later found that large amounts like they’d raised were supposed to be picked up by Brinks Security trucks, but it was their first year and a learning experience for both them and the bank, Siemers said.

At first the Pennies for Patients program was the only nonprofit that got assistance from the students,

but eventually, students went from being passively involved. The program evolved as Siemers used the information and experience she accrued working with the program to teach students about how nonprofits worked and what a 501(C)(3) is. In time, the students wanted to have a say in where the money was going and learned how to research

A 501(C)(3) is a nonprofit entity that is tax exempt. The term is a reference to the chapter of federal law that establishes the tax exemption.

“Students started looking at banners [for charities] and then said, ‘Hey, can we start proposing charities?’,” Siemers said.

Siemers looked at it as a teaching opportunity and began showing students how

to verify whether a nonprofit was legitimate and reputable through research. Once the students identified nonprofits they were interested in supporting, school staff began inviting nonprofits in to present a pitch to the students asking for their support.

Staff at Beckendorf have become heavily engaged as well, Siemers said. Offering rewards to the class for participation or fun challenges such as dying their hair purple if their class raises a certain amount of money. The program wouldn’t be as successful without their support and that of the parents who put their faith in the students, teachers and the program as a whole, she said.

“I don’t take it lightly that they trust my group of kids

and this project with their donations,” Siemers said. “I mean, I have parents that write \$1,000 checks. It’s not only the spare change, but they trust us with their donations.”

For the 2020 school year, students chose three different nonprofits to help through their fundraising efforts. Katy Wolfpack, Make-A-Wish and Lunches of Love were all supported by the Ready to Roll program. The total raised this year – without some online donations which had not been counted yet at the time of Katy Times’ interview with Siemers – was nearly \$41,500.

“The fundraising goal is not my primary purpose,” Siemers said. “My primary goal is to educate people about the needs around us.”

Take the goodness challenge

“The sincere wish to be good is half the battle.” — Marmee, in Louisa May Alcott’s “Little Women.”
“The OTHER half of the battle, however, is the part where the ungrateful objects of your kindness are unleashing the Rottweilers on you.” — Danny Tyree, in a shameless attempt to pad his word count.

According to the Associated Press, Michael Schur (creator of the critically acclaimed NBC series “The Good Place”) has signed with publishing house Simon & Schuster to write the humor/philosophy book “How To Be Good: A Definitive Answer for Exactly What To Do In Every Possible Situation” (scheduled for fall 2021). In a world where we’re constantly bombarded with negative messages such as “Only the good die young” and “Nice guys finish last,” it’s uplifting to see the concept of goodness analyzed and promoted, even in a tongue-in-cheek manner.



I thought it would be a hoot if I challenged each of you to write “alongside” Schur, spending the next year and a half pondering ethics and jotting down your thoughts on pivotal questions, such as “What is goodness?,” “Why does goodness matter?” and “Could I make amends for all my youthful indiscretions by depositing a sizable check in Danny Tyree’s Cayman Islands account?”

I anticipate that perspectives on goodness will vary wildly. Some of you will find its foundation in the Ten Commandments or the Golden Rule. Others may embrace simply Doing the Right Thing with no acknowledgment of a Higher Power. Your motivations might involve an eternal reward or an upgraded reincarnation or leaving the world a better place before your consciousness blinks out of existence. Just don’t let MEDITATION sour you on the concept of goodness. (“Becoming ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE makes my butt look really fat doesn’t, doesn’t it?”)

When you wrestle with issues such as carbon footprints, animal rights, little white lies and mercy killings, you realize goodness isn’t as clear-cut as you would like. Oscar Wilde’s character Dorian Gray certainly oversimplified when he remarked, “To be good is to be in harmony with one’s self.” Yeah, I don’t care if the voices in your head are harmonizing in a BARBERSHOP QUARTET — if they’re whispering suggestions like, “Dude, let’s spend another weekend frolicking and planting pipe bombs,” we need a definitive answer to the situation of having a sociopath in our midst!

Doing good can generate great peace of mind, but it is no panacea. You can still wake up in the middle of the night with the chilling realization that “Back in 2007 when I vacationed in Dollywood, Earl gave me strict instructions of ‘Don’t do anything I wouldn’t do’ — but I DID! May God have mercy on my soul, I did!”

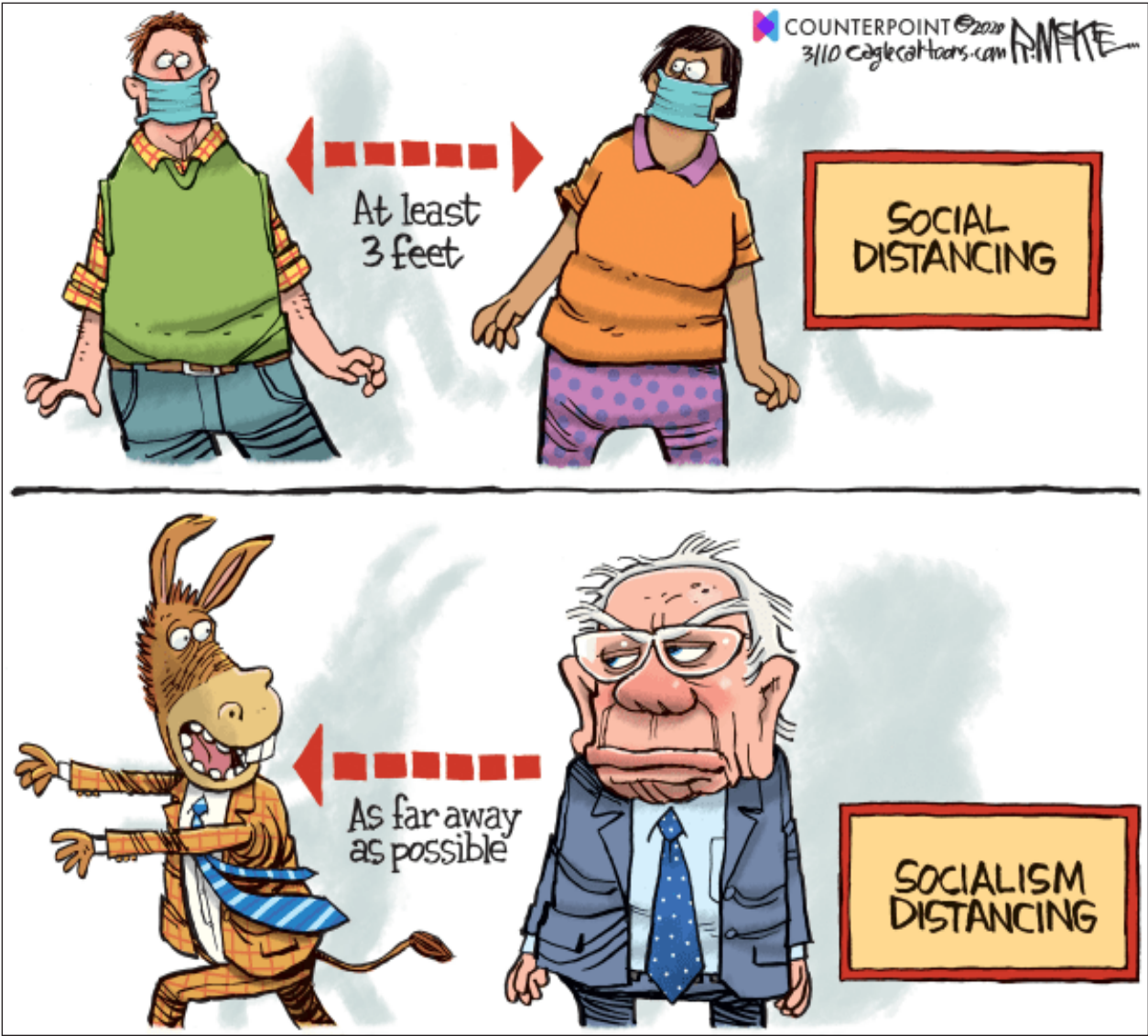
Part of goodness involves not overreaching. If you ACHIEVE goodness, stop. Don’t show off by trying to be “good and READY” or “good ‘n’ plenty” or any of those highfalutin variations.

Now get started writing your journal of the path to goodness!

Kind-hearted person that you are, you’ll probably wind up making allowances for people because of their baggage. Just don’t set the bar as low as for your “Good boy!” four-legged family members.

That would radically change the standards for sainthood. (“No, I can’t document any miracles performed in Jason’s name — but he ALWAYS waited until visitors left to cough up a dead squirrel and scoot across the carpet.”)

Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page “Tyree’s Tyrades.” Danny’s weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate. ©2020 Danny Tyree.



The year of free market women

LISA B. NELSON
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Only 15 miles from ALEC headquarters in Arlington, Virginia lies a relic of a bygone era: the Lorton Workhouse and Reformatory. Originally built in 1910 by the very prisoners it would house, shortly after its opening it became the home of the Silent Sentinels — women who stood in front of the White House six days a week, silently protesting; demanding the right to vote.

Surely one of the earliest suffragists, Susan B. Anthony said it best: “No self-respecting woman should wish or work for the success of a party that ignores her sex.” A banner emblazoned with this quote was displayed at the 1920 Republican National Convention in Chicago by suffragist leaders Mrs. James Rector, Mary Dubrow and Alice Paul.

In Women’s History Month, 100 years after women were granted the franchise, we’ve come a long way. But, we’ve a long way to go.

The right to vote is important for the equality of all citizens. Representation at the ballot box was an important step. But, 100 years later, representation in elected office remains the next milestone.

During the 2018 midterm elections, the public was promised a change in the legislature; it was going to be the “year of the women.” Drove of voters submitted their ballot in support of the record-breaking number of female candidates, and Americans across the states celebrated when 102 women were elected in the House and 14 women were elected in the Senate.

The country patted itself on the back — but not all Americans felt the celebratory spirit. In the midst of an election where the “women’s movement” was heavily associated with victimization and the issues used to

enable this attitude, one voice was left unheard: the voice of the market-minded, conservative woman.

As the women of the Democratic Party gained 18 House seats, bringing the number to 80, Republican women watched their representation fall from 22 to 13 seats in the House. In the state legislatures only 29 percent of seats are held by women. Of those seats, Republican women hold less than half.

It’s clear: 2018 was not the year of all women. But the future for market-minded, female representation is not bleak. According to the Center for American Women in Politics, 170 Republican women and 348 Democratic women have filed or are considered strong potential candidates for the House — nearly tripling the number of Republican women that ran in the 2018 cycle. These free market women are not running on the mindset of victimization, and they are ready to step up to the plate and break records.

And what of our responsibility — the conservative women ready to see principled representation for the unique voice we offer? It is time for free market women to support free market women. It’s time to take back our perspective on the women’s movement and reestablish that it does not belong to a party. All issues are nonpartisan, and all issues are women’s issues.

Think of the suffragettes that risked it all a century before. Think of the women of today in the Middle East who still need permission to vote from their husbands or fathers. Think of the women in countries like Uganda and Kenya who face violent protests at the polls and put themselves at risk to merely exercise their rights. They do not see themselves as victims — they continue to fight against the oppression because they know their voice is valuable.

How lucky we are in the United States to be able to put our voice into action at the voting booths. But it’s not luck; it was the work of the thousands of women and allies that fought tirelessly against the current for years. While long overdue, the 19th Amendment gave us that right, and now it is time to use it intentionally. We — the previously underrepresented women of free-market principles — must exercise our right and elect the women we know to be natural leaders and protectors of community and liberty.

Support the leaders that will show compassion and empathy, compromise, honesty, ethical decision-making and, most importantly, the leaders who will stand strong on what they believe in. Cast your vote to the women that value free enterprise and individual liberty, and who want to see a thriving economy for our children and our children’s children.

2018 can have “year of the women.” 2020 will be the year of the “market-minded” women.

Lisa B. Nelson is the chief executive officer of the American Legislative Exchange Council, an organization bringing state legislators and stakeholders together to develop public policy beneficial to the free market and individual liberty.

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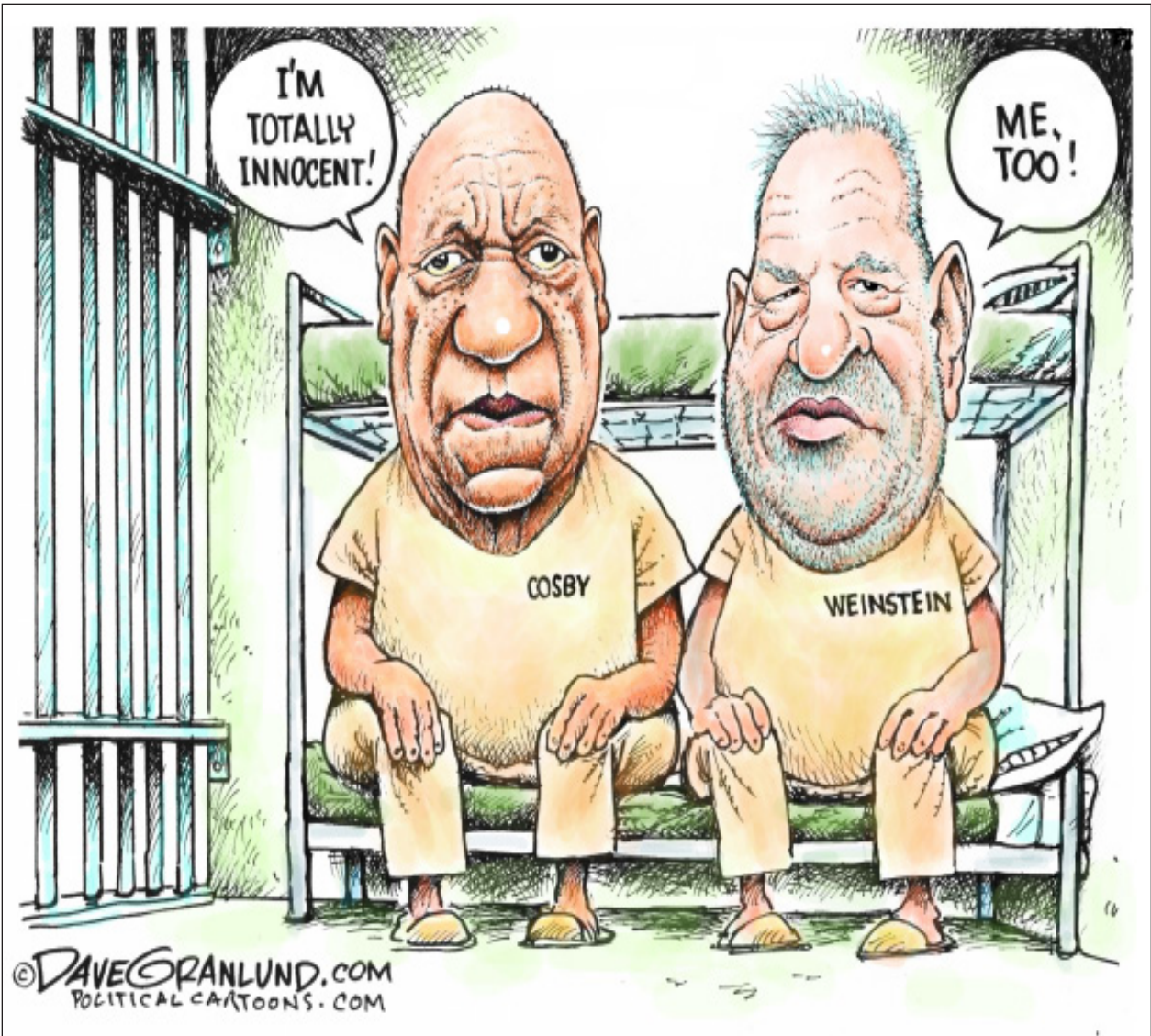
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There’s not enough beds if too many get sick

By **EDGAR WALTERS**
and **ANNA NOVAK**
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The front lines of Texas’ health care workforce are preparing for the possibility of widespread COVID-19 infection — and sounding the alarm about the state’s limited number of hospital beds.

Some hospitals are restricting who may visit and screening outsiders for fever. Some are asking doctors and nurses to work longer hours. Others are building drive-through testing sites, temporary triage centers and fever clinics in anticipation of high patient volumes.

And all of them are urging Texans to stay as isolated as possible in order to slow the spread of the new coronavirus, because there aren’t enough hospital beds to care for critical patients if too many people get sick at once.

“If we can get people to stay out of crowds, stay out of crowded environments to slow down the transmission of this virus from person to person, we should be able to stretch our resources to the point where we can take care of the entire population that needs hospitalized care,” said Craig Rhyme, the Lubbock-based regional chief medical officer for Covenant Health.

The Texas Tribune interviewed more than a dozen doctors, nurses and other health care workers about how ready the state’s health care system is for an expected spike in coronavirus cases. Most spoke on the condition of anonymity because their employers did not allow them to talk to reporters.

Because COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that attacks the lungs, some doctors worried that they would run short on ventilators, machines that provide oxygen to patients who become so sick they cannot breathe on their own.

“Capacity is a big problem if this thing continues to continue to prove to be a nasty bug,” said one emergency room doctor who works at multiple suburban and rural hospitals in North Texas. “The doomsday scenario that we’re worrying about is what does a relatively small hospital do when we’re using all four or five of our ventilators.”

At a Tuesday press conference, Gov. Greg Abbott said he was confident that Texas hospitals have enough ventilators to handle the situation.

“We feel comfortable with ... the information that we received with regard to ventilators,” Abbott said.



GARY RHODES FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Hospitals are urging Texans to stay as isolated as possible in order to slow the spread of the new coronavirus because there aren't enough beds to care for critical patients if too many people get sick at once.

“Some [hospitals] had numbers larger than what I anticipated, and so there is no great urgency about that right now, but we want to be prepared and make sure we have as many as we could possibly need.”

Texas’ hospital capacity — the number of beds available per person in the general population — is about 2.9 beds per 1,000 Texans, according to state regulators. The U.S. rate is about 2.8 beds per 1,000 people.

That’s less than the capacity of other countries that have already seen widespread transmission of coronavirus. Italy, where more than 2,100 people have died from COVID-19 and the nation’s hospital system has been overwhelmed, has 3.2 beds per 1,000 people, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. European media reported that Italian doctors were prioritizing ventilators for the patients considered most likely to survive, while the country ordered manufacturers to ramp up ventilator production.

South Korea, where the government has aggressively tested its population for the virus and the number of new infections has leveled off, has more than 12 hospital beds per 1,000 people — roughly four times more than Texas. The country reported 75 deaths from COVID-19 as of Monday and has seen the daily rate of new cases fall

from more than 900 in late February to less than 100 this week.

Texas health care workers say those figures underscore the need to slow the number of new infections so that hospitals can keep up.

“We need to do the best we can to try to slow down the virus so that our hospital systems are not overwhelmed,” said Mary Dale Peterson, president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and chief operating officer of the Driscoll Health System in Corpus Christi.

Other health care workers expressed fears that supplies of personal protective equipment, such as N95 respirator masks, could quickly run out.

“Literally, [my boss] told me to hide them,” said Allen, an X-ray technician at a Central Texas clinic who keeps the masks under lock and key. Many patients he sees get X-rays to check for pneumonia or other respiratory conditions.

Allen was able to place a limited order for masks last week, he said, but a backlog of orders kept the manufacturer from fulfilling the complete request. He estimated his clinic had enough protective equipment to last roughly three months under normal conditions and said he had been told to reuse masks as long as the patients they came into contact with hadn’t tested positive for COVID-19.

“I’ve heard from some of our members that they’re struggling

just to get the disposable surgical gowns that they would use in the operating room and are having to resort back to cloth gowns that they would have to launder and sterilize,” said Serena Bumpus, director of practice for the Texas Nurses Association.

In the eyes of Peter Hotez, the ability to protect health care workers from becoming sick is “our weakest link right now in our U.S. response to COVID-19.”

Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, told CNN this week that keeping workers safe will be paramount in ensuring the health care system can handle an influx of sick patients.

“If we have multiple frontline health care workers, ER physicians, nurses go down in this epidemic, a situation where we have colleagues taking care of colleagues in the intensive care unit, there’s nothing more destabilizing for the United States and we have to make this our highest priority,” he said.

Two emergency room doctors were reported to be in critical condition this week from coronavirus infection, one in New Jersey and the other in Washington. And on Monday, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced one of its employees had tested positive for COVID-19.

Texas reported its first coronavirus-related death, a Matagorda County man in his late 90s, late

Monday.

For Peterson, the Corpus Christi anesthesiologist, a main concern is the lack of testing, which can limit hospitals’ ability to perform effective triage, or sorting of patients based on how immediately they need care.

One nurse at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston said the hospital had begun building a temporary structure in an ambulance bay to serve as a triage space. Brette Peyton, a hospital spokesperson, said it was one of “numerous proactive measures aimed at minimizing risk to our particularly vulnerable patient population.”

And Jacqueline, a nurse at Parkland Health and Hospital System in Dallas, said her hospital was assigning some nurses to solely focus on patients who had tested positive for coronavirus.

“In my years of experience in nursing that’s absolutely unheard of because we just don’t have the staff for that,” she said. “I’m grateful, though, because that’s really what needs to be done.”

Other nurses were being asked to prepare healthier patients to be discharged more quickly, she said, “because they don’t want them exposed to anything in the hospital and because we may need that bed.”

A Parkland spokesperson did not respond to emailed questions. Patrick Svitek contributed reporting to this story.

The future of Texas depends on climate preparedness

By **KIAH COLLIER**
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texans should expect warmer weather, more wildfires and urban flooding, and increased impact from hurricanes through 2036 thanks to climate change, according to a new study from the Office of the Texas State Climatologist at Texas A&M University.

The study of historic and future climate trends says the state has already experienced such changes in recent decades and that “the future of Texas depends on its resilience to the natural hazards of the future.”

“It is up to Texans, both individually and collectively, to decide what level of resilience is appropriate, and at what cost, compared to the costs of damage and recovery on both an economic and societal level,” the study authors wrote.

The study covers a variety of past and future meteorological trends, including average temperatures, extreme temperatures, precipitation, extreme rainfall, drought, river flooding, urban flooding, winter precipitation, severe thunderstorms, hurricanes and coastal erosion, and wildfires. Some of its key findings:

The number of 100-degree days has more than doubled over the past 40 years and could nearly double again by 2036, to about 21 per year. At the same time, extreme cold will become less frequent and less severe.

Extreme rainfall has become more frequent and severe and is expected to worsen, increasing an estimated 2-3% by 2036. As a result, there will be a significant increase in urban flooding — as much as 15% more than occurred between 2000 and 2018.

While the frequency of hurricanes is expected to stay the same or even decrease, their intensity is expected to increase significantly. And thanks to sea level rise, the risk of hurricane storm surge in places along the Texas Gulf Coast where water is rising the fastest — like Galveston and Rockport — may double by 2050 compared with risk levels around the turn of the 19th century.

The state has gotten drier despite increased precipitation, and “the majority of factors point toward increased drought severity.” That increased dryness will increase risk of wildfires in areas currently at lower risk, like the eastern part of the state, which currently receives substantially more rainfall.

While it paints a dire picture, the study includes some bright spots. For example,



STEVE OVERBY

Flooding along the Blanco River in Wimberley in May 2015.

river flooding is not expected to worsen because increased temperatures will lead to drier, more absorbent soil.

“River flooding in Texas is projected to have no substantial change through 2036,” according to the study.

Rising temperatures also could result in a decreased chance of snow and freezing precipitation, including hail, though some of those projections are tentative and have major caveats. The study also says that the southeastern United States, including eastern Texas, is almost the only region on Earth where temperatures remained largely flat during the 20th century. However, it says that “recent temperatures have increased in all seasons and in all regions of Texas.”

The study, which was peer reviewed, was funded by Texas 2036, a Dallas-based

nonprofit organization focused on “building long-term, data-driven strategies to secure Texas’ continued prosperity for years to come.”

It acknowledges certain limitations of projecting historical trends into the future, including incomplete or inaccurate historical data. It also says that “natural climate variability and the randomness of extreme weather events can mask or even overwhelm any underlying long-term trends.”

But, the study says, “Despite these limitations, there are sound reasons to expect continued change in a variety of aspects of extreme Texas weather, and knowledge of such likely changes can be very useful in a variety of planning contexts.”

Various cities in Texas have pursued climate action plans. Such efforts at the

state level have been virtually nonexistent as climate change remains a politically divisive issue. A slew of climate change planning bills filed last year by Democrats did not even receive public hearings — one of the first major steps in the legislative process.

The vast majority of climate scientists agree that humans are causing climate change through increased emissions of carbon dioxide and other planet-warming emissions.

Disclosure: Texas A&M University and Texas 2036 have been financial supporters 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.

10 projects to do while waiting it out

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

After being asked by public officials to practice social distancing as much as possible for an unknown amount of time, it's understandable if we get a bit frustrated about not being able to take care of things outside the home. Here are ten ideas for getting your adulting done and feeling productive while social distancing:

1. **Clean out your garage** – Cleaning out the garage can be a huge chore. It doesn't matter if there's one box or a stack of boxes and miscellany. Getting the garage organized can reduce stress and help us find that three-quarter-inch socket we've been looking for.

2. **Sort out the closets** – It can be difficult to keep up with what's in our closets. Between weight gains and losses as we move into middle age and children growing, many of us find that we have closets full of unused clothing. Make it a family activity by putting on a fashion show where everyone wears their most garishly-out-of-style and outgrown clothing. (Feel free to post it to social media, but the repercussions are on you...) Once you have everything sorted, wash the clothing and donate it to those in need.

3. **Install a bidet** – While neither Katy Times nor any of the public officials we've talked to in the last two weeks, can figure out why people are hoarding toilet paper – it's still a part of our reality now. Installing a bidet – basically a booty-shower that mounts onto your toilet – in your home can reduce TP consumption and has the potential to save you money, according to "Business Insider." According to www.bidet.org, the device can also improve the health of the backside – especially for men – and reduces annoyances like pipes clogged up from too much bathroom tissue. They take minutes to install and cost from \$25 to a few hundred.

4. **Organize the books** – Not everyone is a reader, but for



R. HANS MILLER

Everyone has a project or two around the house that needs some attention and since social distancing will cause many to be home for a while, let's get those done. Katy may as well get organized if we're given the opportunity.

those that are, keeping the books in any semblance of order feels like spending time with your best friends. Take the time to take all of the books off the shelf, dust the shelf and the books, and put them all back together in some semblance of order. You may come across an old favorite that you'll have time to tackle now that you're not commuting, or you might realize that some of those books could find a new home. Either way – you get to spend time with your books, and that's a happy time for a bibliophile.

5. **Spring cleaning** – It's that time of year anyway, so why not deep clean all those things you may have been putting off. Shampoo the carpets, mop all the floors, bleach out the tub, clean out whatever-that-is that accumulated under the fridge – seriously, why is there so much kitty kibble under my fridge – and just generally make the place spick and span.

6. **Check smoke detectors** – Smoke alarms are an important part of keeping your family safe. Check the batteries to make certain they're working by pressing the button on the smoke alarm for a few seconds. Smoke alarms are only good for ten years, regardless of whether the battery is working or not. The expiration and manufacturing date are printed on the back of the unit. Detectors can often be purchased for \$10 or less.

7. **Finish filing taxes** – While it may be a pain, gathering up the last bits of information you need to file your taxes and getting those turned in will help keep you in the clear with the Internal Revenue Service. Tax Day is April 15.

8. **Work on the yard** – The weather is nice, the grass is growing and now that you've cleaned out your garage, you can get to that trimmer that was stuck in the back on a hook and get the yard cleaned up and ready for summer. Plant flowers, repair bare spots and fix play equipment.

9. **Spruce up the guest room** – Yes. We may be practicing social distancing now, but eventually life will return to normal and we'll want to satisfy our social cravings – yes, even you, my fellow introverts – by having a guest or two over or having family visit. Strip the bed, wash the bedding, clean the windows and mirrors and just generally spruce up the place. Prepare for those times when socializing is once again the norm.

10. **Clean out fridges and freezers** – Food poisoning is one of the most common forms of illnesses in the world and the where and how you store your food can impact how often you suffer from it, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Use a household cleaner that disinfects and hit the countertops at the same time – two birds with one stone.

Whether you take on these projects or come up with some of your own, Katy Times hopes you can keep from going stir crazy as we all wait to get back to good times in public at our favorite local venues.

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Psalms 94:19

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2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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TIMEOUT

Novel coronavirus concerns have sports world in limbo

Katy ISD athletics in wait-and-see phase

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD athletic director Debbie Decker and her staff are establishing plans for how to proceed when, and if, the district and University Interscholastic League lift suspensions of athletic competition due to precautions for novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Parameters are being set for Katy ISD coaches so that, when and if they are given the go-ahead, they can pick right back up and figure things out to continue their respective sports seasons.

Just four days after it postponed its return from spring break by one week to March 22, Katy ISD announced on March 16 it was adding on another two weeks. The district will not open until April 13 at the earliest.

That same Monday, the UIL, which had suspended all athletic competition from March 16-29 on March 15, also suspended



DEBBIE DECKER

practices and workouts through March 29, which means all school campus athletic facilities will be closed. All of those changes in a matter of days are indicative of a fluid situation regarding how to handle a disease that is expected to get worse before it gets better. “We are urging our member schools and their communities to stay vigilant and take every possible precaution to remain safe and healthy,” UIL Executive Director Dr. Charles Breithaupt said in a news release. “We understand there is a lot of uncertainty during this unprecedented

time. Please know UIL leadership is working diligently to adjust to this rapidly evolving situation and will share updates as soon as possible.” Decker’s athletic department is taking guidance from district superintendent Ken Gregorski and his assistants, as well as the district’s emergency management department. “They’re the ones having the daily conversations with the health department and with the county,” Decker said. “Any direction we’re given, we’re like any other

See KATY ISD, page B3

Southland Conference cancels tournament

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Tears were shed, hugs were embraced, and consoling words were offered. Common sights any other year at the Southland Conference men’s and basketball tournaments, but a surreal one this year. Shortly before tip-off of the Southeastern Louisiana-New Orleans women’s basketball game on the morning of March 12, it was announced over the public address system to a limited attendance at the Merrell Center that the tournaments were canceled, effective immediately, due to precautions for novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. That decision was made at around 11:16 a.m. Not long before, the Big 10, SEC and American Conference canceled their respective tournaments. The decision to cancel the Southland tournaments was made by member presidents. For the 13th consecutive season, the tournaments were being held in Katy. The winner of each tournament earns an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, which was also canceled this year later that same day. There will be no March Madness. Southeastern Louisiana and New

See SOUTHLAND, page B3

HOPING AND WAITING



Tompkins senior Laurn Wild controls possession during a district soccer match against Seven Lakes at Tompkins High on Jan. 29.

Katy ISD athletes deal with uncertain times

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes sophomore soccer player Katie Fitzpatrick was at a friend’s house on March 13 when her friend received a message stating the University Interscholastic League, the state’s governing body for high school athletics, had canceled all practices and events. Katy High junior softball player Olivia McFadden was on her way to a hitting practice when she heard the UIL news. In between innings of a tournament doubleheader, Cinco Ranch senior baseball player Logan Henderson and his teammates were in the dugout when a parent popped in and told them that would probably be their last game for a while. Tompkins senior soccer player Laurn Wild was told the news by head coach Jarrett Shipman through their team app. Katy senior baseball player Alec Atkinson and his teammates were told by head coach Tom McPherson before their last tournament baseball game against Langham Creek. “I started to hear a lot of news on (the morning of March 12), when a lot of the events started to get canceled,” Cinco Ranch junior distance runner Sophie Atkinson said. “I actually had a race planned that night in San Antonio, and I was worried it’d get canceled. But they still put it on, and it was kind of like a last-chance meet. I went into that race knowing it was probably one of my last chances to run, so I had to give it my all.”

See ATHLETES, page B3

Katy native Macy Ray’s college career abruptly comes to end



Incarnate Word sophomore guard Macy Ray.

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Incarnate Word sophomore guard Macy Ray and her teammates were 45 minutes from leaving on the morning of March 12 to the Merrell Center to warm up for their Southland Conference tournament game later that afternoon. Then, the Katy native said, reality set in. At around 11:16 a.m., the Southland Conference announced it was canceling its men’s and women’s basketball tournaments because of precautions for the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, abruptly ending the collegiate careers of seven Incarnate Word seniors and Ray, the former Taylor High standout who is cutting her hoops career short to begin nursing school at the University of Texas medical school in downtown Houston.

That morning, first-year Cardinals coach John Dow texted his players to come down to the designated team meeting room at the hotel they were staying at. Players had followed the news of the Southland’s cancellation on social media, and Dow confirmed it. In the following 30 minutes, players talked, cried, consoled each other and reflected on what had been the program’s most successful season since joining NCAA Division I in 2013-14. They left to return to San Antonio shortly after. The Cardinals’ 76-69 overtime loss to Abilene Christian on March 7 marked the last game of Incarnate Word’s season, and of Ray’s career. Ray unknowingly made the most of it, posting a career-best 23 points and seven 3-pointers made, with one turnover in 43 minutes. “None of us thought that Abilene Christian was going to be our last game,” Ray said. “We had worked so hard to

make the (Southland) tournament, and we had come into this tournament thinking we were going to make it to (the championship game) and make another first for the program. To be hit suddenly with that news was just devastating.” Ray said the team did not seriously start following coronavirus news until they heard during their Tuesday, March 10, practice that the Ivy League canceled its conference basketball tournaments. “That’s when we thought, wow, could this actually happen to us? Then everything just happened so fast,” Ray said. “We were at Cheddar’s (on March 11), eating dinner as a team, and we got an email saying school had been canceled and we were going to be online for the rest of the semester. “We still thought we were going to play, but just in front of a limited number of

See RAY, page B6

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Joseph earns Power of Influence honor

STAFF REPORTS

Four of the best high school head coaches in the nation, including Katy High's Gary Joseph, highlight the 2019 Regional Power of Influence Award winners.

The award is given jointly by the American Football Coaches Association and the American Football Coaches Foundation. The winner of the 2019 Power of Influence Award will be announced at the American Football Coaches Awards on January 14 during the 2020 AFCA Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. The regional winners are finalists for the national Power of Influence Award.

The regional winners are Joseph, Region 4's winner; Region 2 winner Terry Cur-

tis of UMS-Wright Preparatory in Alabama; Region 3 winner Dave Nelson of Minnetonka High in Minnesota; and Region 5 winner, the late Lou Farrar of Charter Oak High in California.

This is the first year the AFCA has recognized regional winners for the Power of Influence Award. Coaches who receive the award are recognized for their impact on their team, as well as the legacy they leave with the school and surrounding community.

The award is not based on wins and losses; however, it should be noted that coaches of powerful influence have longevity and success. The winners are selected by members of the AFCA Board of Directors.

GARY JOSEPH: Joseph led Katy High to the third round of the Class 6A Texas

high school playoffs in 2019, finishing with a 12-1 record. In 16 years as a head coach, Joseph has an overall record of 213-21 with four state championships, eight championship game appearances and 15 district championships. He reached 200 victories faster than any other high school coach in Texas high school history. Joseph has led his players to participate in "Say No to Drugs" programs in local elementary schools around the Katy community, and when Hurricane Harvey decimated the Houston area in August 2017, he and his players went door to door, helping people move furniture, remove carpet and sheetrock and feed local volunteers. He is a multi-time coach of the year honoree at the state and national level and has



Katy coach Gary Joseph was recently recognized as a 2019 Regional Power of Influence Award winner, an honor given to coaches for their impact on their team, as well as the legacy they leave with the school and surrounding community.

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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.

been inducted into the Greater Houston Football Coaches Association Hall of Honor, the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame and the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor.

TERRY CURTIS: Curtis has been the head coach at UMS-Wright Preparatory

School for 21 years. Prior to his current stint, he was the head coach at Murphy (Ala.) High School from 1993-98, and at Shaw (Ala.) High School from 1989-92. Curtis has an overall record of 317-85 with eight state championships. He has a playoff record of 75-20 and has guided UMS-Wright

to at least the quarterfinal round of the state playoffs in 19 of his 21 years. This season, Curtis led the Bulldogs to a 14-0 record and their third straight Class 4A state championship. He currently serves as president of the Alabama

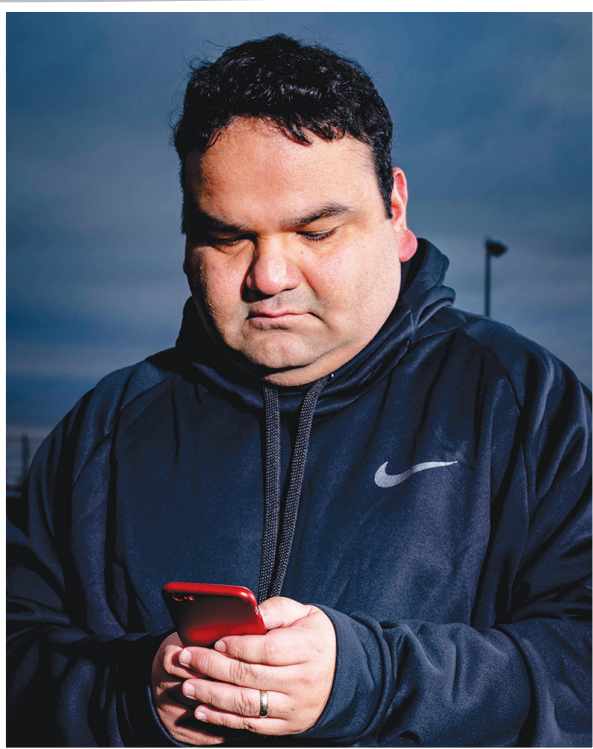
See **JOSEPH**, page B6

Katy Sports

Don't miss out on updates and forecasts on Katy area teams!

Contact Dennis with any sports events or tips in the Katy area.

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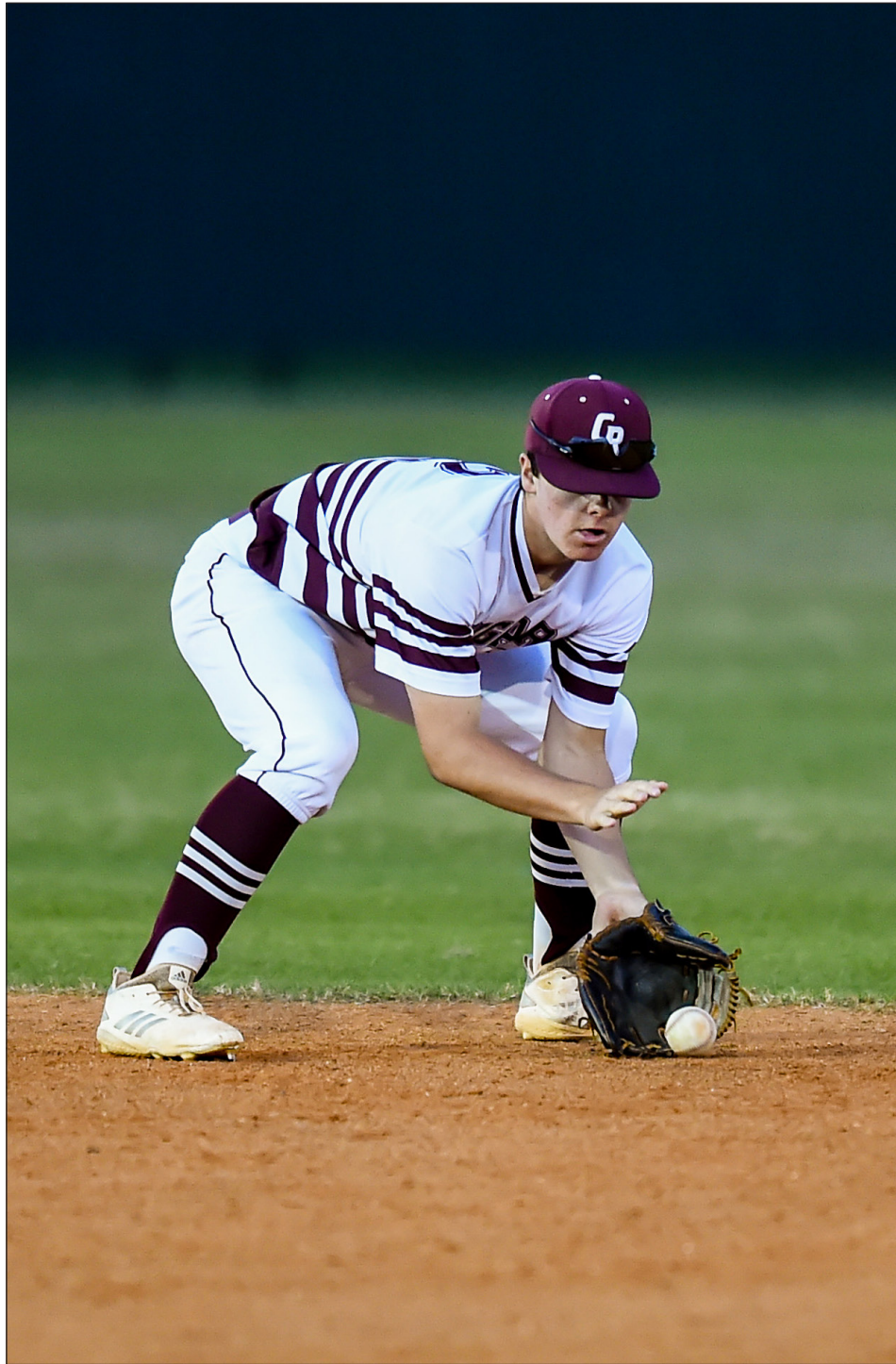
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SPORTS



MARK GOODMAN

Cinco Ranch senior Logan Henderson takes a ground ball at second base during a game against Clear Lake at Cinco Ranch High on March 10.

ATHLETES

from page B1

She did. Atkinson ran the United States' No. 2 outdoor time in the mile run that night, clocking at 4-minutes, 48.95 seconds.

Katy ISD student-athletes remember exactly where they were and what they were doing that Friday afternoon when they heard the UIL suspended all athletics competition March 16-29 because of precautions for novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19 and a type of virus which there are many different kinds. It came just a day after Katy ISD extended its spring break for a week to March 22 and postponed its own athletic events.

Then came news March 15 that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, recommended that organizers, be it individuals or groups, cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 or more people for the next eight weeks. A day later, the UIL announced the suspension of athletic practices and workouts through March 29, which had been initially left up to the discretion of the local school district.

And just hours after that UIL announcement, Katy ISD announced it was extending its break another two weeks and not opening until April 13 at the earliest.

"It's been something out of a scary movie," McFadden said. "But I believe this country has the smartest doctors, scientists, and elected officials. So, I have no doubt that we'll kick Coronavirus' butt here before too long.

"But as it applies to softball, whether it's the coronavirus or the plain, old American flu, we'll never quit. This is Katy High. Home of Champions."

Precautions for coronavirus caused the NCAA to cancel its spring sports season and March Madness, and the NFL to cancel its public draft events. It's led to the NBA, NHL and MLS suspending their respective seasons indefinitely, and Major League Baseball pushing back Opening Day to mid-May, at the earliest.

"In my honest opinion, I think they are overhyping it, but they could know something that the general people do not," Henderson said. "It is very contagious, and the number of cases will just multiply day by day. It's sad to see all of these sporting events being canceled. My heart goes out to all of the athletes and the workers who make all of the games happen, because they will be without jobs for a while. Hopefully this thing blows over soon and we can just play baseball again."

For now, Katy ISD student-athletes cannot be in physical proximity to their coaches. Campuses are closed.

It's all a significant difference for student-athletes in that they do not have the guidance of coaches or organized partnership of teammates in a group setting to work with. They have to stay motivated on their own, develop their own drills at times, and find their own workout venues, all while keeping in mind to distance themselves from groups and stay isolated as best as they can because of coronavirus.

"When you're a team, you have routines," said Sophie Atkinson, who intends to find a field for her workouts and run around the Cinco Ranch area. "For us (at Cinco Ranch), it's been getting together every morning and hammering out workouts, but now we don't have that and we don't have the direction of our coaches. It's a lot of self-discipline and accountability, and everyone takes that differently."

For others, the hiatus provides rest.

"I have been using some of this time to recover and relax my muscles as we have been playing two games a week for the last six weeks," Fitzpatrick said, "but at the same time, I have still been getting touches on the ball, because even though we haven't been practicing, I don't want to lose my touch."

Tompkins sophomore softball player Avery Hodge has been going to hitting lessons and practicing at the Program 17 facility in Katy. Henderson has been staying on top of his arm care routine and doing workouts.

Before her team departed for spring break on March 9, Wild's coaches gave players a workout plan, with specific exercises for each day, to adhere to over the break. Wild is still getting work in with a ball since the workouts are not soccer-based.

McFadden is attending personal hitting and strength and agility lessons.

"I've always been taught to control the controllables," McFadden said. "So, I'm just trying to stay ready for when the time comes. You can hit in the cages or off a tee every day, but there's no substitution for game at-bats. Everything else, I feel we have the reps and have established the necessary muscle memory to get the job done. If not, we'll be running until we do, short season or not."

There lies another factor: the idea that the UIL could cancel the rest of its spring sports season and whatever remained of its state boys basketball tournament, which was suspended on the first day of play last week.

"It is a scary thought," Hodge said. "Our team has had a really good start to the season (12-3), and everyone was very excited to pick up from where we left off last year."

At the time of suspension, the high school softball season was a couple of games into district play. The baseball season was on the brink of starting district play. The soccer season had a few games left of district play. The track and field, tennis and golf seasons were a couple weeks from district and postseason play beginning.

"I have major concerns that the UIL will follow in the NCAA's footsteps and cancel the rest of our season, because they have already suspended the season by two weeks," Wild said. "I understand that, obviously, there are a lot more people involved in NCAA events, which is why they would cancel seasons like that. I just hope that instead of cancelling our season, the people making such a serious decision like that understand this is going to gravely impact many athletes' lives.

"Especially as a senior athlete, I hope they will do everything they can to make our seasons happen. I don't know what exactly the solution is for all of this, but whether it is not allowing spectators or continuing to postpone the season until it's safe to play or eliminating the unnecessary games to allow for playoffs to happen, I hope the UIL does everything they can to allow these seasons to finish."

Alec Atkinson does not want to even consider the thought of an abrupt cancellation.

"I don't like to imagine that our seniors' high school careers would end like that," he said. "It would be truly devastating for all of us after four years of pouring our blood, sweat and tears into the program and into the game. In the end, it's completely out of everybody's control, so as of right now I'm just concerned about the team staying sharp for however long this suspension lasts, so that when we get back, we pick up where we left off without skipping a beat."

KATY ISD

from page B1

(district) department, as far as waiting for word on direction of this."

Decker said patience is necessary.

"When you look back and you've gone through something like Hurricane Harvey, which had total devastation and thousands of people out of their homes ... right now, we all have our homes and we're basically trying to stay healthy and keep ourselves patient," she said. "This is a very serious disease and a very serious virus, but at the same time, at the end of the day, when you look at what this community has been through, this is one of those things we will exercise caution and patience for the safety of our students and our staff."

Decker said the experience of going through the tragedy of Hurricane Harvey in 2017 helps keep things in perspective.

"Right now, we're on the preventative side of this, whereas with Hurricane Harvey, when it came through, we were on the recovery side," Decker said.

"You understand why the president, why Governor (Greg) Abbott, why the county officials and school districts are doing what they're doing to help stop the spread of this. Having that forward thinking and being able to do that on the front end, instead of trying to come up with things on the back end."

In regard to whether she thinks there is a possibility the UIL could cancel its spring sports season, Decker said there's no reason to plan for a 'what if.'

"Because of this being a fluid situation, we could 'what if' so many things," she said. "Right now, the direction we have is that if all goes as planned, we may be able to resume right at the end of March, first of April. That's what we're working towards right now. There's no reason for us to put down 25 what-ifs and try and come up with plans for that. The direction we have from them (the UIL) and the school district right now is we're looking at the end of March, start of April."

"Those are the plans right now, and if at any time that changes, then obviously we'll also make some changes."



DENNIS SILVA II

Southland Conference tournament workers take off flooring and logos from the Merrell Center court after the league decided it was canceling its men's and women's basketball tournaments on the morning of March 12. The decision was made because of precautions for coronavirus, and it was eventually determined that the NCAA would cancel the rest of its spring sports season as well as March Madness.

SOUTHLAND

from page B1

Orleans players wept, hugged each other and emotionally walked off the court back to their locker rooms, a particularly heart-breaking moment for the seniors who had learned their careers had abruptly come to an end.

"It's a sad time for sports, a sad time for life, period," Southland Conference deputy commissioner John Williams said. "This is just a small blip on the screen in the world, and we have to keep that in perspective. But it is a sad time for the kids, when they hear the announcement, that their career is over and they don't get to play that last game they thought they would. That's what got me, just watching for them. We feel for them, we wish them the best in life, but this is something they'll never get back."

The Southland announced later during the week it was canceling all spring sports. Many collegiate conferences have done the same since, closing their sports season and transferring academically to online services.

Williams said the conference had been monitoring coronavirus for about a week up until the tournaments, without knowing how extensive it would get.

"But we knew going into an arena was one of the areas most people were concerned about," Williams said. "We came here with Katy not having any incidents, we felt good about that, and were looking at trying to get through this."

At 6:31 p.m. on March 11, following Northwestern State's win over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi that opened the men's Southland tournament and before Lamar's win over McNeese in the nightcap, the Southland announced it would limit attendance for its tournaments starting the following day to teams, game

officials, tournament staff, spirit groups, credentialed media, other support personnel and family members included on the teams' official pass lists. Ticket holders were not permitted to attend.

"Commissioner (Tom Burnett) and I talked over and over about where we're going to be at, and we felt like having too many fans in here was not a good thing, but we still went on with the tournament, like everybody else," Williams said. "Then (on March 12), the Big 10 teams pulled their teams off the court, SEC cancels, American (conference) cancels."

About four hours after the Southland announced the cancellation of its tournaments, the NCAA announced it canceled remaining winter and spring championships.

The NCAA sports season for 2019-20 is done.

According to cdc.gov, there have been 4,226 cases of the coronavirus in the United States as of March 17. There have been 75 total deaths. Forty-nine states have reported cases.

Because of coronavirus, the NFL canceled its public draft events, Major League Baseball pushed back Opening Day to mid-May at the earliest, the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments and spring sports seasons were canceled, the NBA, NHL and MLS suspended their seasons, and the UIL suspended athletic events March 16-29, including its boys basketball tournament.

"In a situation like this, basketball is a small piece," Williams said. "When you look at the millions of people, or hundreds of thousands, who have been affected by this, it'd be stupid to put ourselves in jeopardy and people's lives in jeopardy just to get a game. At the end of the day, it's a game. These kids are young and they have a whole life ahead of them, so let's not ruin that. Right now, it hurts like heck. But I'll appreciate all of our understanding of why it happened."

KATY TIMES ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



HEIDI NIELSON | JUNIOR SOPHIE ATKINSON | JUNIOR CINCO RANCH HIGH

Cinco Ranch High junior distance runners Heidi Nielson, right, and Sophie Atkinson had standout performances on March 12 at the Alamo Mile in San Antonio. Nielson posted the United States' best outdoor mark in the mile, running it in 4-minutes, 47.90 seconds, and Atkinson posted the U.S. second-best outdoor mark in the mile with a 4:48.95 on a breezy evening in San Antonio.

(Katy area coaches can submit nominations for Athlete of the Week to densilva2@gmail.com.

Please include the player's name, class, photo (if possible) and 2-3 sentences on their accomplishments/why they are deserving of AOW. Nominations must be submitted every week by noon on Monday to run in that week's Thursday newspaper.)

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Katy Times

Cryer headlines all-district honorees

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

After producing one of the best seasons ever in Texas high school basketball history, Morton Ranch senior guard L.J. Cryer was named District 19-6A's Most Valuable Player for the second straight year.

The Baylor signee averaged 38.9 points during district play in leading the Mavericks to a second straight undefeated district title. In district play, Cryer, who finished his career as the fifth-best all-time scorer in Texas high school basketball history, scored more than 40 points four times and capped off his district season with a career-high 50-point game in a win over Mayde Creek. In 12 district games, Cryer made 50 3-pointers, an average of more than four triples per game.

Mayde Creek senior guard Rommell Williams was recognized as 19-6A's Offensive Most Valuable Player after averaging 22.8 points in district play. The Midwestern State signee averaged 28.1 points during the second half of district play to lift the Rams from a 1-5 district start and to the playoffs for the second consecutive season.

Rams junior guard Jermon Washington was named the district's Newcomer of the Year. He averaged 8.8 points, 2.2 rebounds and almost one steal per game during district play.

Cryer's longtime backcourt mate, senior Westley Sellers, was honored as 19-6A's Defensive Most Valuable Player. Sellers averaged 7.4 rebounds and four steals per game in district play.

Katy coach Danny Russell was named the district's Coach of the Year. Russell's Tigers finished second in 19-6A with a 7-5 record and earned a trip to the playoffs for the first time since 2013-14.

Tompkins finished third in district play, followed by Mayde Creek in fourth. Cinco Ranch barely lost out on a playoff berth, finishing fifth and falling in a play-in game to the Rams.

Following is the rest of the all-district team.

First Team: Jake Arnold, jr., Taylor; Jayden Collymore, sr., Cinco Ranch; L.J. Cryer, sr., Morton Ranch; Dayvaughn Froe, so., Katy; Johnny Nash, sr., Tompkins; Hank Sanders, sr., Tompkins; Westley Sellers, sr., Morton Ranch; Rommell Williams, sr., Mayde Creek.

Second Team: Casper Belaiter, sr., Katy; Derek Dickenscheidt, sr., Cinco Ranch; Johnny Miller, sr., Seven Lakes; Luke St. Julien, jr., Taylor; Jermon Washington, jr., Mayde Creek.

Third Team: Adrian Caldwell, sr., Morton Ranch; Connor Champion, jr., Katy; David Chavez, sr., Mayde Creek; Bryson Morehead, sr., Tompkins; Ethan Shiflett, jr., Morton Ranch.



Morton Ranch senior guard L.J. Cryer was named District 19-6A's Most Valuable Player for the second straight season.

PHOTOS BY MARK GOODMAN



Mayde Creek senior guard Rommell Williams was named District 19-6A's Offensive Most Valuable Player.



Morton Ranch senior guard Westley Sellers was named District 19-6A's Defensive Most Valuable Player.



Mayde Creek junior guard Jermon Washington was named District 19-6A's Newcomer of the Year.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A BEER RETAIL DEALER'S OFF-PREMISE LICENSE, A WINE ONLY PACKAGE STORE PERMIT AND A PACKAGE STORE TASTING PERMIT BY QUALITY LICENSING CORP. D/B/A QUALITY LICENSING CORP. (STORE #3827) LOCATED AT 5660 W GRAND PKWY S, RICHMOND, FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS 77406. OFFICERS OF SAID COMPANY ARE JOHN SCUDDER, PRESIDENT/CEO; MATTHEW W. ALLEN, VP; WAYNE HAMILTON, VP; ANDREA M. LAZENBY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY; DANIEL JOHN RICE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the authority of Transportation Code Chapter 251, Subchapter E to consider the installation of No Thru Truck Signs at the following location:

Lazy Ridge Road – No Thru Trucks
Foxwood Drive – No Thru Trucks

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

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EVENTS

Ingleside Round-Up Days and Music Festival, March 20 & 21, N.O. Simmons Park, Ingleside, TX. Music, Food & Fun. Admission \$5. Presented by the Ingleside Chamber of Commerce, www.inglesidetxchamber.com.

New Braunfels Area Car Club Swap Meet & Sunday Car Show, April 24-26, 2020, Comal County Fairgrounds, 801 E. Common Street, New Braunfels, www.newbraunfelsareacardclub.com. No Dogs Please.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Katy Management District No. 1 in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on April 09, 2020 for **Katy Mills Boulevard Streetscape Project**.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including roadway pavers, sidewalks, site furniture, entry signage, street signage, street lighting, irrigation, planting, fine grading and hydromulch.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (Form CIQ) and Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Forms are provided with Spec Book)

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Two Hundred-Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for each set. This **sum is non-refundable** and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Katy Management District No. 1 in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2020, at 10:30 A.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

COUNTRY LANE ESTATES – All roads within subdivision – 30 mph.

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 213, Attention: Charles "Ted" Lee, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:00 a.m., Local Time, Thursday, April 9, 2020, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the Twinwood Parkway Phase 1A, Segment E Bridge to Serve Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 213, Waller County, Texas".

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Construction of the Twinwood Parkway Phase 1A, Segment E Bridge.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided, and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers 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., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding documents.

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.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 213

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SOCCER STANDINGS

DISTRICT 19-6A
BOYS

	DISTRICT		TIE	POINTS
	W	L		
x-Seven Lakes	9	1	1	28
x-Cinco Ranch	8	1	1	25
x-Tompkins	7	3	0	21
Taylor	4	5	1	13
Morton Ranch	3	8	0	9
Mayde Creek	2	6	2	8
Katy	0	9	1	1
x-clinched playoff berth				
y-clinched district title				

GIRLS

	DISTRICT		TIE	POINTS
	W	L		
x-Tompkins	9	0	1	28
x-Seven Lakes	8	1	2	26
Cinco Ranch	4	3	3	15
Taylor	3	5	2	11
Morton Ranch	3	7	1	10
Katy	2	4	4	10
Mayde Creek	0	9	1	1
x-clinched playoff berth				
y-clinched district title				

DISTRICT 19-5A
BOYS

	DISTRICT		TIE	POINTS
	W	L		
x-Paetow	7	1	4	25
x-clinched playoff berth				
y-clinched district title				

GIRLS

	DISTRICT		TIE	POINTS
	W	L		
Paetow	1	9	2	5

SOFTBALL STANDINGS

DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Cinco Ranch	2	0	7	9
Tompkins	1	0	12	3
Katy	1	0	6	6
Taylor	1	1	7	5
Mayde Creek	1	1	5	7
Seven Lakes	0	2	6	7
Morton Ranch	0	2	3	10
x-clinched playoff berth				
y-clinched district title				

DISTRICT 19-5A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
Waller	1	0	15	3	1
College Station	1	0	13	3	1
Magnolia West	1	0	9	11	0
A&M Consolidated	1	0	6	12	0
Magnolia	0	1	12	9	0
Paetow	0	1	5	3	0
Bryan Rudder	0	1	5	13	0
Brenham	0	1	5	15	0
x-clinched playoff berth					
y-clinched district title					

BASEBALL STANDINGS

DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
Cinco Ranch	0	0	13	1	1
Katy	0	0	12	3	2
Tompkins	0	0	10	2	1
Taylor	0	0	8	6	0
Seven Lakes	0	0	8	6	0
Mayde Creek	0	0	3	4	1
Morton Ranch	0	0	3	11	0
x-clinched playoff berth					
y-clinched district title					

DISTRICT 19-5A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
A&M Consolidated	0	0	12	1	0
Brenham	0	0	9	6	1
Magnolia West	0	0	8	2	0
College Station	0	0	8	5	2
Waller	0	0	7	3	0
Magnolia	0	0	6	4	0
Bryan Rudder	0	0	4	7	0
Paetow	0	0	2	9	2
x-clinched playoff berth					
y-clinched district title					

PHILLIPS HEADED TO SHSU



Hannah Phillips, of Katy, will compete collegiately next year for the Sam Houston State University rodeo team. Phillips (left) is pictured with SHSU rodeo coach Edward (Bubba) Miller. Phillips is the daughter of Mike and Lisa Phillips.

JOSEPH

from page B2



MARK GOODMAN

Katy coach Gary Joseph was recently recognized as a 2019 Regional Power of Influence Award winner, an honor given to coaches for their impact on their team, as well as the legacy they leave with the school and surrounding community.

Football Coaches Association and on the Alabama High School Association’s governing body. Curtis was a founding member of the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star game and has been chair of the selection committee for over 30 years. He is a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, the Mobile County Hall of Fame and the UMS-Wright Hall of Fame, to name a few. Curtis has also won multiple Coach of the Year awards in Alabama.

DAVE NELSON: Nelson completed his 18th season as head coach at Minnetonka High School and has a record of 115-74 with one state championship in 2004, one runner-up finish in 2017, four section football championships and two conference titles. When you include his 18 years as head coach at Blaine (Minn.) High School, Nelson has an overall record of 267-124 with two state championships, four runner-up finishes, 12 section championships and 13 conference titles. He has served as president of the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association, been on the selection committee for the Minnesota All-Star Football game since 1987 and served as chairman of the Minnesota Hall of Fame Banquet since 1989. Nelson is the founder and chairman of Tackle Cancer, which has raised over \$2 million since its start in 2012. He has been inducted into the Anoka High School Hall of Fame, the Minnesota Football Coaches Hall of Fame and the University of Minnesota-Duluth Hall of Fame.

LOU FARRAR: Farrar passed away in November after a battle with leukemia. The 2019 season was his 52nd year in coaching and his 39th as head coach at Charter Oak High School. Farrar coached five California Inter-scholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section champions and his 322 wins ranks No. 6 in California High School football history. He led Charter Oak to the CIF playoffs 26 straight seasons and won 19 league championships. Farrar was on the Board of Directors for the Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation and the Southern California Football Coaches Association. He was a five-time CIF Coach of the Year honoree, two-time Los Angeles Times Coach of the Year and National Football Foundation Coach of the Year, just to name a few. Charter Oak renamed its high school football field to Lou Farrar Stadium on November 1, 2019.

RAY

from page B1

fans. It didn’t hit us until (March 12) morning at breakfast that we saw the Big 10, Big 12, SEC and all those tournaments being canceled. We knew we’d be next, while trying to stay focused on the possibility that we still might play.”

Ray knew in September this would be the final season of an outstanding basketball career. Along with her parents, Macy met with nursing advisors about what would be best for her future. This was the path to take.

An athletic scholarship paid for prerequisites and basic courses in allowing Ray to pursue the career she desired.

“I knew I had two years more of eligibility, but everything I do, I try to do to the best of my ability,” said Ray, who admitted she had second thoughts about cutting her basketball career short. “My dream was never to only play two years of college basketball, but I knew to be as successful of a nurse as I wanted to be, I couldn’t balance both. Incarnate giving me the opportunity to pay for the first two years has set me up to be the best nurse I wanted to be.”

Ray hopes to be a labor and



UNIVERSITY OF INCARNATE WORD ATHLETICS

Incarnate Word sophomore guard Macy Ray, a four-year varsity letterman for coach Blair Ary at Taylor, averaged 7.9 points, 1.9 rebounds and 1.8 assists in 32.6 minutes per game for the Cardinals this season. Ray is ending her basketball career to go to nursing school in Houston.

delivery nurse like her older sister, Lexie.

“Seeing how much benefit it has brought to her, being able to be a stay-at-home mom half the week and still pursue the career she loves. Seeing how successful she is, it was like, ‘Wow. I think I can enjoy that, too,’” Ray said. “I got to

be in the delivery room when my nephew was born, and I just fell in love with it. I knew right then that’s what I wanted to be.”

Ray, a four-year varsity letterman for coach Blair Ary at Taylor and a first-team all-region selection during her junior and senior years, averaged 7.9 points, 1.9 rebounds

and 1.8 assists in 32.6 minutes per game for the Cardinals. She started 27 of 29 games and led the team in 3-pointers made (51) and was second in points and assists per game.

Incarnate Word finished 14-15 overall, 10-10 in the Southland conference. The Cardinals were the No. 6 seed heading into the South-

land tournament but topped three first-place conference teams over the course of their season.

“I just wanted to create so many firsts for the program,” Ray said. “Have a winning record, make it to the tournament. Doing everything in my power to make this season the most memorable. I took each game one at a time, just being grateful to play the sport.

“I’m sad it’s over, especially that it ended this way, but everything that basketball provided for me, I couldn’t be upset. It provided so much, from friendships that are going to last forever to paying for my education. It’s bittersweet.”

Ray said she is in “shock” from what she’s seen and heard about the coronavirus.

On the evening of March 12, not long after Ray and her teammates and coaches had returned to San Antonio, Incarnate Word students received an email from the school stating the university wanted them to go home and be moved out of dorms by March 30.

“We went from hearing about all those cases in New York and California and then reality hits,” Ray said. “Just recently, there was a case in San Antonio, and someone had entered the North Star Mall, and that’s the mall that all of us student-athletes go to. It’s just crazy how fast it has spread and how many people it has affected.”