


Katy Times



Q&A WITH CEO OF MEMORIAL HERMANN'S KATY, CYPRESS HOSPITALS
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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020

Waller extends disaster order

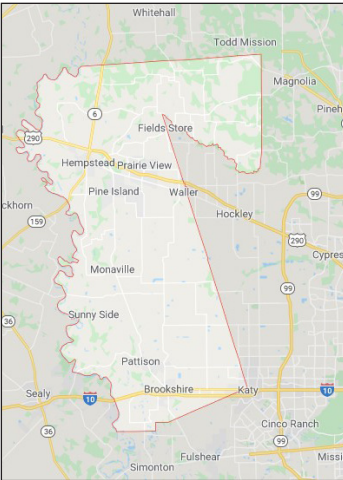
By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon has extended his county's disaster declaration, as authorized by the Waller County Commissioners Court April 1, through to April 30, matching a statewide order issued by Tex. Governor Greg Abbott.

"Waller County residents should remain at home as much as possible and limit trips outside of their residence for essential items or to provide essential services. Only one person per household should obtain essential items at any one retail location at a time," Duhon said via Facebook.

The order, which supersedes the one issued by Duhon March 25, generally matches that put out by Abbott in regards to restrictions placed on Waller County residents, including those living in the portion of Katy that lies in Duhon's county. Businesses that are considered essential must make accommodations to ensure social distancing - maintaining at least six feet between customers - can be maintained. Private or public gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited except for businesses providing essential services. Drive-through, pick up and delivery through restaurants is permitted, but no restaurants should serve food inside. Gyms, massage parlors, piercing and

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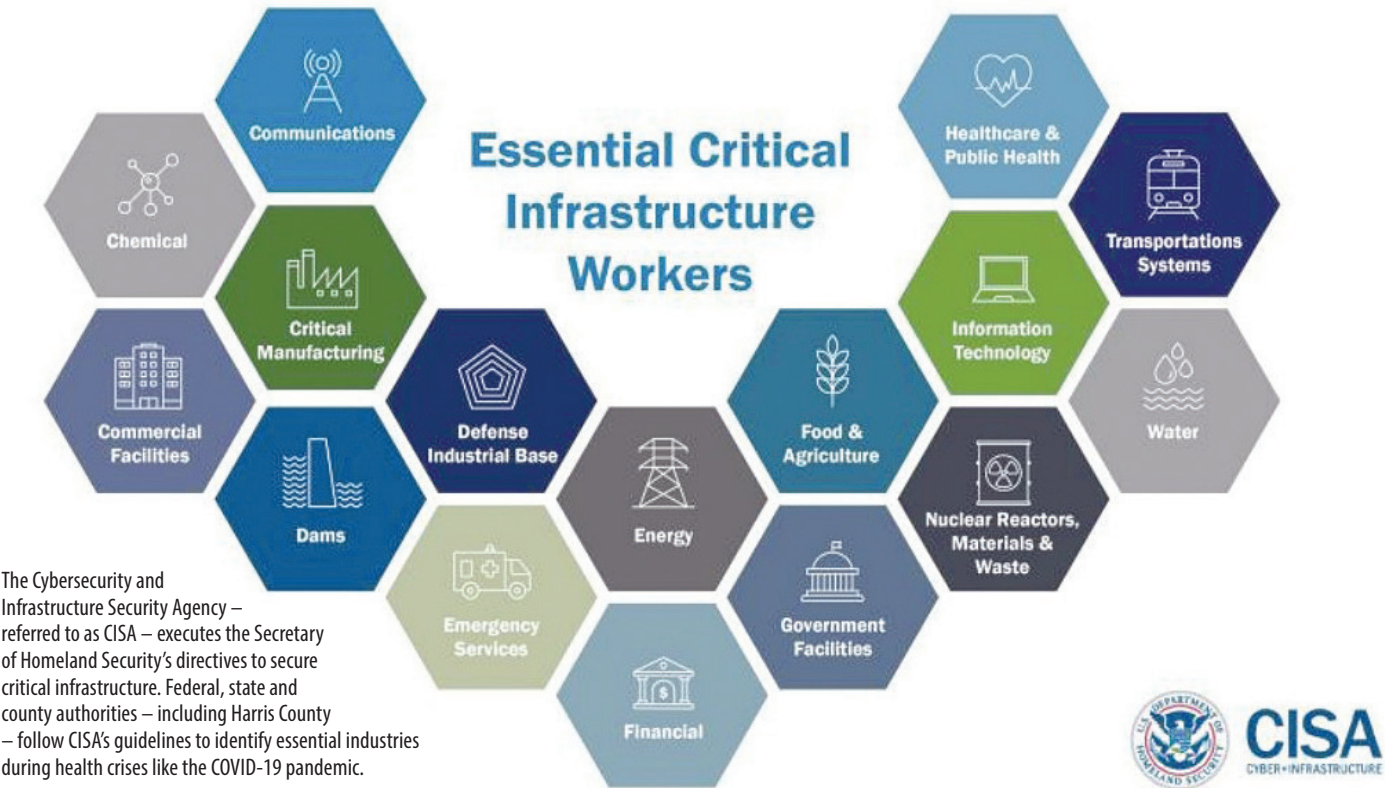
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A grim milestone



The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency - referred to as CISA - executes the Secretary of Homeland Security's directives to secure critical infrastructure. Federal, state and county authorities - including Harris County - follow CISA's guidelines to identify essential industries during health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.



Hidalgo amends Harris Co. Stay Home, Work Safe order as death toll reaches double digits

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo has amended the county's Stay Home, Work Safe order which was originally issued March 24 to clarify items related to religious services, essential workers and the transportation industry Saturday morning. The order is currently set to expire at the end of the day April 30.

"Harris County reached a grim milestone yesterday. Deaths have entered double-digits - 13 people have had their lives stolen by #COVID19. Stay informed and take action," Hidalgo said in a Facebook post.

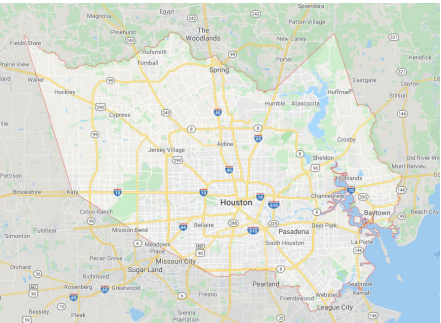
As of April 6, Harris County now has a total of 930 confirmed cases of the Novel Coronavirus - also referred to as COVID-19 - and 163 people have recovered according to the Harris County Public Health website. Of those cases, 45% of patients are male, 53% are female and the gender of the patient is unknown in 2% of cases. Most cases are in

HARRIS COUNTY CASE COUNT

Harris County and the city of Houston are tracking COVID-19 cases together. Most cases are found in those aged 30-49, but most complications are in those aged 60 and older.

COMBINED ACTIVE CASES: 1,548
COMBINED RECOVERIES: 239
COMBINED COVID-19 FATALITIES: 22

SOURCE: Harris County Public Health



The amended order clarifies and makes changes to requirements for religious services. Churches of all faiths may hold services in-person if digital opportunities are unavailable, but virtual services remain encouraged and social distancing requirements remain in effect.

A text alert sent by Ready Harris, the

See **MILESTONE**, page A5

those between the ages of 30 and 59. Those aged 20-24 account for 24 cases countywide. These numbers include the entire county, which includes the city of Houston.



Dr. Eric Salazar, principal investigator at Houston Methodist's Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, is in charge of Houston Methodist's activities associated with plasma-based treatment for COVID-19.

Houston Methodist OK'd for virus treatment trial

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

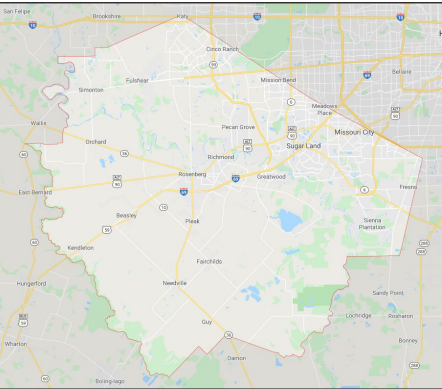
Houston Methodist, a part of the Houston Medical Center, has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to test a new therapy hoped to help treat patients suffering from COVID-19, a statement on the hospitals website said. The treatment involves using the plasma of a recovered patient to introduce antibodies into a

patient that has not recovered and the FDA expanded the trial April 3.

"Here at Houston Methodist, we have the capability, the expertise and the patient base from our health care system, and we feel obligated to try this therapy," said Houston Methodist President and CEO Marc Boom.

Under FDA guidelines, the new therapy

See **TRIAL**, page A5



Fort Bend extends stay home order

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Fort Bend County Judge KP George amended and extended the stay home order for his county yesterday evening. The amended order now extends through April 30 or when the county's emergency declaration is lifted, whichever comes sooner. Additionally, some restrictions have been strengthened in order to increase protections against the spread of COVID-19.

"I trust my team of medical and public health experts that advise staying home during April is the only tool we have to save lives," George said in a Facebook post announcing the order.

See **FORT BEND**, page A5



10 podcasts to entertain and educate

By **BRANDEE MILLER**
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

If you're a curious person who loves to learn about a wide variety of subjects and don't have a lot of time to read, you probably listen to podcasts. Similar to radio programs, podcasts are prerecorded audio shows about a variety of topics and can be a great way to get away from a screen and listen while you do other things or even settle in to relax. For the most part, the podcasts listed below are long running, with several episodes to help you pass this time while social distancing.

Stuff You Should Know is a podcast hosted by Charles Bryant and Josh Clark. They cover a wide list of topics from pinball to politics, and it should be noted that not every episode is family friendly. SYSK is part of the iHeartRadio family. <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/105-stuff-you-should-know-26940277/>

The History Chicks is a bi-monthly podcast that tells the stories of women (fictional and factual) throughout history. The two hosts, Beckett Graham and Susan Vollenweider, speak on mostly family-friendly topics and often offer show notes to help with educating yourself with their source materials in your own time. The History Chicks is found on the Wondery podcast network. <http://thehistorychicks.com/>

In Defense of Plants is a weekly educational, family-friendly podcast

that teaches about everything from the science of plant care to the evolution of plants. If the bounty of the botanical world fascinates you, give this podcast a listen. Matt Candeias is the host and has guests from all over the world to talk about their botanical specialties. www.indefenseofplants.com/podcast

Radio Ambulante is a weekly Spanish podcast that tells Latin American stories and is presented by Peruvian author Daniel Alarcón. There are nine seasons to binge. You can find it with the NPR family of podcasts. As there is a variety of topics touched upon throughout the series, this podcast is not recommended for the whole family. There is a section to use for educational purposes. <https://radioambulante.org/category/audio/episodios>

The Purrrcast is a weekly podcast that talks to cat people about all things feline. Hosts Sara Iyer and Steven Ray Morris talk about a variety of subjects, most being appropriate for the whole family. www.exactlyrightmedia.com/the-purrrcast

Sleep Cove is the newest podcast on this list. Host Christopher Fitton offers sleep stories, guided sleep meditations and sleep hypnosis to help you fall asleep and stay asleep peacefully. Sleep Cove is appropriate for adults only. www.sleepcove.com

Jensen & Holes: The Murder Squad is a weekly true-crime podcast hosted by Paul Holes, a

retired cold case investigator, and Billy Jensen, a true crime journalist who focuses on unsolved murders and missing persons. This is not a podcast for the whole family as it discusses crimes that still need to be solved in detail. It can be found with the Exactly Right family of podcasts. <http://themurdersquad.com/>

Critical Role is a weekly Dungeons and Dragons game that is designed for adult audiences as it contains improv and role-playing game content. In its first campaign, Critical Role follows the adventures of a group of heroes known as Vox Machina throughout the land of Exandria. Critical Role is part of the Geek and Sundry family. <https://critrole.com/podcast/>

In the Dark is an investigative true crime podcast that follows journalist Madeleine Baran through two cases in two seasons, respectively. As it deals with kidnapping in the first season and murder in the second season, this podcast is recommended for adults only. In the Dark is from APM Reports. <https://www.apmreports.org/in-the-dark>

ID10T (formerly known as "The Nerdist podcast") is a weekly interview podcast hosted by Chris Hardwick. Hardwick hosts notable entertainers who talk about their nerd-related interests. Not every episode is friendly for the whole family. <https://id10t.com/podcast/>



Podcasts are downloadable using a variety of apps or you can listen directly from their respective websites. This screenshot is from one such app called Podcast Addict which is part of a crowd of podcast players compatible with Apple, Microsoft and Android devices.

6 steps to start researching your family history, lineage

Identifying one's family history and lineage can be an exciting and rewarding endeavor. Many people are compelled to trace their ancestry and ultimately gain much from having done so.

Interest in genealogy has grown in recent years. The popular and free family tree application FamilySearch Family Tree had 1.6 million contributors in 2018 who added 28 million new people to the global tree. Thousands upon thousands also utilize other genealogy resources to paint a more accurate picture of their histories.

According to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, more than 26 million people shared their DNA with ancestry firms as of the start of 2019. MIT predicts that number will rise to 100 million by the end of 2020.

Those ready to get started on researching their lineage may wonder where to start. These guidelines can map the way.

1. The first step is to work from the known to the unknown, advises The New England Historic Genealogical Society's American Ancestors program. Write down names, dates,

places of birth, marriage and death announcements, and other pertinent information you can dig up from looking at personal effects. This will provide a starting point and serve as a springboard for further research.

2. Establish what you want to learn about your family. Maybe you simply want to have a complete family tree that dates back to a particular ancestor? Perhaps you want to see where your family name originated? Identify what is behind your interest and allow those goals to guide your research.

3. Access census records, military records, travel documents, and other official papers, which can provide key clues to family history. These can be researched individually, but many people like using resources like Ancestry.com because their databases pool information from a variety of sources. The National Archives offers free access to its records database at www.archives.gov/research/databases.

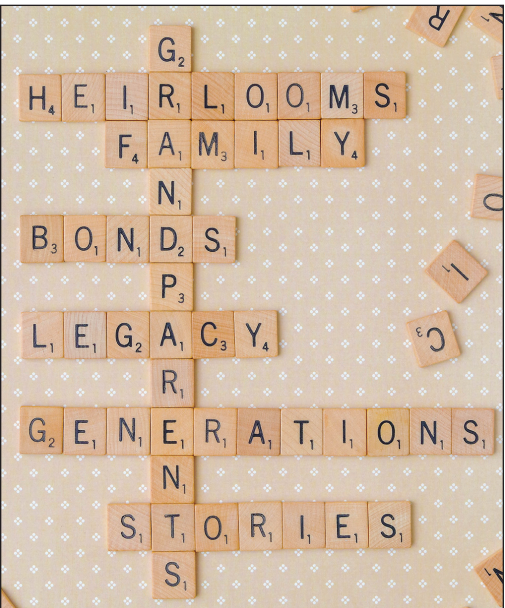
4. Consider privacy concerns before digging deeper. Acquiring DNA testing and sharing results in an effort to connect with

relatives has become a popular side effect of genealogy research. However, experts advise caution before submitting any DNA samples. MIT Technology Review indicates that, if the DNA collection trend continues, the companies that hold this data will have genetic information on more than 100 million people. The Review goes on to say, "as these databases grow, they have made it possible to trace the relationships between nearly all Americans, including those who never purchased a test"

5. Learning new information can be overwhelming, so it's best to focus on one family story at a time rather than tackling the entire family tree in one sitting, suggests the service Findmypast.

6. Connect with like-minded individuals if you find that your genealogy interests expand beyond personal history. Family historians often connect via social media or through local genealogical societies.

Genealogy research is a growing pastime that can reveal secrets and insight into one's family history. It's never too late to start uncovering information.



Many people are compelled to trace their ancestry and ultimately gain much from having done so.

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Canadian law enforcers

5. Actor Idris

9. Cut or bruise

11. Vegetables

13. Aircraft delivery

15. To make obsolete

16. Things similar to those already noted

17. Columbus is a famous one

19. Age group

21. Denotes nature of sound

22. Klutz

23. Uninteresting

25. Computer manufacturer

26. 2,000 lbs.

27. Genus of seabirds

29. Emerges

31. Baseball stat

33. Witnesses

34. Observed

36. Satisfy

38. Former OSS

39. Small Eurasian deer

41. Wife of Sparta's king

43. Ballplayer accessory

44. Temporary cessation of breathing

46. Where construction workers ply their trade

48. Arguments that justify a religious doctrine

52. Thick cloud of tiny water droplets

53. Widens

54. Detection

56. Period of inactivity

57. Tomato and vodka are two

58. Greek war god

59. Urinates

CLUES DOWN

1. Churned

2. Seal bottles

3. Million barrels per day (abbr.)

4. Meat from a pig (French)

5. Within

6. Walk in a slow pace

7. Cries

8. About Andes

9. Fishermen use it

10. Expresses delight

11. Shouts

12. Feudal agricultural laborer

14. Sailboat

15. Small Eurasian willows

18. S. American native people

20. Extreme disgust

24. Nonsense (slang)

26. Produce male reproductive cells

28. Computes

30. Pop singer

32. Weds secretly

34. Having two poles

35. Yankee hero Bucky

37. Building

38. Per __, each

40. Six (Spanish)

42. Makes amends

43. Scoundrels

45. Baseball's best pitchers

47. Some are scrambled

49. Emit coherent radiation

50. Singer Redding

51. Break


55. Institute legal proceedings against

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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Q&A with CEO of Katy, Cypress hospitals

In an effort to help our readers better understand hospitals' perspectives on the COVID-19 pandemic, "Katy Times" posed the questions below to Heath Rushing. With nearly 20 years of experience in hospital administration, Rushing now leads Memorial Hermann's Katy and Cypress campuses as CEO and senior vice president. Rushing holds a bachelors degree in Exercise Physiology and a masters degree in Hospital Administration.



HEATH RUSHING

Q. What are Memorial Hermann's biggest concerns in relation to COVID-19?

A: At Memorial Hermann, our key objective is to create the safest, most efficient environments for managing the pandemic and we are utilizing our pandemic plans to help guide us. To further prepare our System and city for the potential surge of COVID-19 patients we are also following the guidance from the CDC, the US Surgeon General, and other medical professional organizations, as well as learning from the experiences of other cities and regions across the globe. Memorial Hermann is committed to ensuring we are in a position, even in the midst of this pandemic, to continue to safely care for greater Houston, and the Katy community, just as we have done for the past 100 years.

Q. Other than complying with the various stay home orders effective in our area, how can Katy Times readers support the hospital staff during this time?

A: The Katy community has been extremely generous and outspoken with their support for Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital. All we can ask is that the community remains vigilant and patient through these uncertain times and trusts us to take the lead in navigating this pandemic. We also encourage our community to look for opportunities to help thank a healthcare worker. In fact, on April 10 at 7 p.m. residents

MEMORIAL HERMANN LOCATIONS IN KATY



Heath Rushing oversees operations at two of Memorial Hermann's campuses.

MEMORIAL HERMANN KATY HOSPITAL
23900 Katy Freeway
Katy, TX 77494
Phone: 281-644-7000

MEMORIAL HERMANN CYPRESS HOSPITAL
27800 Northwest Freeway
Cypress, TX 77433
Phone: 346-231-4000
www.memorialhermann.org

from the Katy community have planned to drive to the hospital, honk their horns and flash their lights to celebrate our healthcare workers! Even small opportunities to share gratitude mean the world to our staff. Memorial Hermann is also accepting donations of personal protective equipment and disinfectant products, you can learn more about what to donate and how on our FAQ page or by emailing donations@memorialhermann.org.

Q. When your staff are looking at statistical models and other data that help project spread of a disease like COVID-19, are they concerned that the need will exceed the health care system's capacity?

A: We have planned and prepared for dealing with a pandemic, as

we do with natural disasters. We have an emergency response plan and dedicated team that leads continuous drills throughout the year. As we begin working through our emergency response plan, our decisions are grounded in our ability to protect the health of everyone and provide high-quality care when and where we can while, meeting the public safety standards that are helping to establish community-wide solutions.

Q. What are you and other senior hospital staff doing to keep hospital staff morale as high as possible as they work through the Novel Coronavirus crisis?

A: Our goal first and foremost is to always ensure our staff are informed as well as feel safe and cared for. We have streamlined all internal communication to meet staff needs and questions and ensured our leadership is present, visible, and approachable at all times. Staff are also receiving support when it comes to moments of rest and relaxation, meals, and other respite activities that we have offered locally. Our physician partners even funded two weeks of activities and treats for our hospital! The Katy community's forthright support for our hospital staff has directly contributed to the am pride our hospital staff has at the moment, and we are so thankful for the support and encouragement.

Q. We keep hearing about a shortage of PPE. What are your hospitals doing to ensure an adequate supply of PPE and can residents help with this issue in any way?

A: Memorial Hermann has an ample supply of PPE. We have worked diligently and proactively to take the necessary steps to ensure our healthcare workers continue to have the required personal protective equipment - known as PPE - to safely care for patients. Below are just a few examples of our proactive efforts:

- Memorial Hermann, along with our colleagues across Houston, made the decision to postpone elective, non-urgent surgeries and procedures. By doing this,

we are conserving PPE, as well as leaving beds and other equipment available that may be needed during a potential surge of COVID-19 patients.

- Memorial Hermann is working collaboratively across all health systems to collect donations and support for additional PPE from those industries that may have an excess supply. Memorial Hermann has received donations from several employers already. These donations are helping to ensure we can maintain our steady supply of PPE.

- Memorial Hermann is taking a more creative approach and recently partnered with a local, non-profit manufacturing company, Tx/Rx to help us produce face shield masks and other PPE. This is a tremendous partnership using Houston manufacturing capacity to bolster the community's supply of PPE.

- Memorial Hermann also started a new process for the safe re-use of N95s by using Bioquell Hydrogen Peroxide Vapor technology. This method of sterilization has been validated by numerous studies and the FDA. Memorial Hermann is following the Duke Health protocol which includes inspecting each mask before re-issuing.

The Katy community has been extremely generous with various donations of PPE as well. We are eternally grateful for the continued support!

Q. How will Memorial Hermann be billing patients who are tested or treated for COVID-19?

A: Billing and payment will vary based on the patient, insurance provider, and various other elements.

Q. Does Memorial Hermann have a projection on when the COVID-19 pandemic will peak in the Greater Houston area? If so, what is that projection?

A: In a rapidly evolving situation such as this Memorial Hermann would not make public projections on potential cases. What is important to know is that Memorial Hermann stands ready to care for the Katy community and all the communities it serves.

Fulshear trash services adjusted for COVID-19

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

The city of Fulshear announced March 31 that it's trash services provider, WCA Waste Corporation, has notified the city of changes to its trash service which go into effect as of Wednesday. The notice comes after a WCA employee tested positive for COVID-19.

"At WCA, our highest priority continues to be the health and well-being of our customers and staff during an evolving situation. Last night, we learned that one of our drivers has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. As a precaution, the helpers and other drivers who have been in close contact with this driver have been quarantined," a notice from WCA read.

Service changes include restrictions that WCA will only be picking up trash inside the trash bin and up to two bulk items set out at the curb, including items such as bundled tree limbs or



TOM FISK

The city of Fulshear's trash services have been restricted due to a trash collector being diagnosed with COVID-19.

grass clippings. Additionally, recycling bins will not be picked up and residents are asked not to place the bins on the curb for collection. Trash should not be placed in the recycle bins either as collectors have been instructed not to pick up anything in the yellow-topped recycle bins.

Dumpsters for recycling have been placed south of

Cross Creek Bend Boulevard on Plymouth Lane by the Cross Creek Ranch Welcome Center and at the Irene Stern Community Center.

"This safety measure is based on recommendations from public health officials and our commitment to minimize possible employee exposure to the COVID-19 coronavirus," WCA's statement said.

Katy City Council extends its emergency declaration

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

During a special meeting held April 6 at 3 p.m., the Katy City Council voted to extend the city's emergency declaration to match the state's declaration of a health emergency's expiration. Council also voted to table an agenda item calling for a health authority for the city to be appointed.

"In order to place the City in the best position to receive possible assistance from state and federal agencies it is recommended that the Mayor issue a Disaster Proclamation that lasts for seven days and that the City Council pass a resolution extending the Disaster Proclamation until it is terminated by City Council action," Katy City Attorney Art Pertile III advised Mayor Bill Hastings in a letter dated April 3.

Council approved the measure to extend the declaration but held back on declaring a health



R. HANS MILLER

Katy City Council extended the city's health disaster declaration at a special meeting Monday afternoon, but tabled appointment of a physician as the city's official health authority.

authority for the city. A health authority is a physician that advises the council regarding medical emergencies and public health issues.

Currently, the default public health authority for the city is Dr. Umair Shah, the health authority for Harris County but the council and mayor would like to have a physician specifically for Katy, May-

or Pro Tem Chris Harris said. No nominees were discussed at the meeting, Harris said.

"So it was tabled till Thursday's special meeting to allow the Emergency Operation Coordinator and Katy Police Captain Bryon Woytec and staff time to locate and agree to a medical professional qualified and available for the city," Harris said.

KATY TIMES PET OF THE WEEK

MEET SIRIUS



Ooooh...I want to play with you! I am an 18 month old solid black kitty named Sirius. I came to Special Pals with my identical brothers. I'm such a fun, loving boy that loves to snuggle anytime.

Sirius 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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There are too many magazines

Since “Playboy” recently published its final print issue, and since I’m reading a biography of publishing magnate Conde Nast on my tablet, I felt it appropriate to share my misgivings about magazines.

During the research phase of this column, I developed severe writer’s cramp while standing in a bookstore frantically scribbling down the names of the mind-numbing array of specialized-yet-overlapping periodicals. (Luckily, one of the magazines was the April issue of “Your Right to Loiter in A Bookstore If You \$#@& Well Please Illustrated.”)

Maybe I’m overly nostalgic for the days when millions of Americans watched the same three TV channels and read the same general-interest magazines (“Life,” “Look,” “Family Circle,” “Saturday Evening Pliers for Changing TV Channels,” etc.). But I’m alarmed by the wretched excess of niche magazines for every hobby, profession, ethnicity, travel destination, political persuasion, vehicle ashtray model and level of skill at making bridesmaids’ lives a living hell.

Don’t get me wrong. I love magazines. I’m even one of those people whose eyes are bigger than his stomach and who (with the hope that springs eternal within the human breast) hauls discarded magazines home from the library demonstrably faster than he can read them. (“If we quietly move the bed and the microwave onto the deck and don’t do anything to antagonize the heap of magazines, maybe it won’t attack us.”)

I can’t read my scrawled notes, but I think there really was a “Northern Hemisphere Invertebrates Whose Eyes Are Bigger Than Their Stomachs Monthly” on the bookstore’s magazine shelves.

Spinoff magazines add to the clutter. There’s “Teen Vogue,” “Very Interesting Junior,” “National Geographic Little Kids.” The dental offices of 2035 will doubtless feature late-2020 issues of “AARP Magazine: The In Utero Edition.”

I’ll admit that some of the magazines sound like they’d make absolutely bril-



liant ONE-SHOT publications. But, realistically, how can they keep delivering on the hype month after month? When the cover of a survivalist magazine touts “25 more essential survival skills,” it makes me feel sad for the poor losers who kicked off LAST year (you know, 300 essential survival skills ago!!!!).

It’s not just survivalists. Are there REALLY 75 sizzling new sex secrets, 50 all-new kale-and-Pop Tarts recipes, 42 unprecedented mullets and 63 must-have tattoos based on the video game Pong each and every month?

These claims are about as trustworthy as a live-in lover promising you, “Baby, here are 25 MORE exciting reasons you should forget about that gun-in-the-face incident last night and continue letting me crash on the couch all day while you work three jobs to pay for my beer and weed.”

I know the ubiquitous “word search” magazines are supposed to keep you mentally sharp, but how sharp is it when the only word you can think of to reply to an internet scam is “Certainly!”?

As a bookworm and writer, I don’t want to dash cold water on anyone’s love of reading; but it can’t be healthy to spend ALL your time indoors curled up with “The Journal of Belly Lint Shaped Like the Lesser-Known 19th-century Vice Presidents.” Sometimes you simply have to feel the sunshine, breathe the fresh air and actually gather up the belly lint shaped like...

Sigh Could somebody just locate a subscriber to “Homemade Prison Shivs of the Mid-70s” and let him put Mr. Belly Lint Collector out of his misery?

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



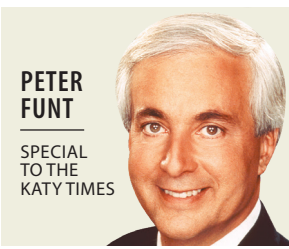
‘Thank you wave’ makes comeback

Walking my dog Dorothy a few months ago I didn’t recognize the fellow waving from the white car until he stopped to say hello. Turns out it was Ed, a casual acquaintance, whose wave I hadn’t acknowledged because I couldn’t see him through the tinted glass.

Since then I’ve made it a point to wave at every car that passes on our quiet street. Maybe I know the driver, perhaps I don’t. But the wave can’t hurt; in fact, it’s rather nice.

Nowadays, with social distancing, we’re all doing a lot more waving. Folks keep their distance but most wave, salute or signal – acknowledging that we’re in this together. Jerry Seinfeld’s old complaint that people don’t offer a proper “thank you wave” doesn’t hold in coronavirus times.

I’ve long been intrigued by simple hand signals. As kids we thought we knew a big secret: If you made a pulling motion with your



arm as a truck passed, the driver would respond with a blast of his air horn.

Sitting on the observation deck at our local airport I’ve noted that the ground crew – those folks with the orange flashlights – give each pilot a final salute, which is always acknowledged with a salute from the cockpit. It’s a civilian version of scenes in “Top Gun” when Tom Cruise and the other fighter pilots salute the guys who send them off the aircraft carriers. Another old film, “The Sting,” features a band of lovable con men who identify each other with a forefinger salute across the nose.

It’s believed the origin of hand saluting was in Roman

times. A citizen who wished to approach a public official raised his right hand to show that he was not carrying a weapon. According to the Armed Forces Museum, the modern salute evolved as a show of respect. “By 1820, the gesture was officially modified to the current version still used in the military today – the touching of the hat. Hand salute, palm down is believed to be an influence of the British Navy, as deck hands were often dirty and to expose the dirty palm was regarded as disrespectful.”

Many of us will never forget the sight of three-year-old John-John Kennedy saluting his father’s casket as it was carried from St. Matthew’s Cathedral.

During the crisis, President Trump favors the simple thumbs up. Some give the A-OK sign, forming a circle with thumb and forefinger. You might use two hands to make a hand-heart gesture, popularized by the singer Taylor Swift. Or

maybe the Hawaiian Shaka, a waggle of the upward thumb and forward-pointing pinkie with the middle three fingers curled to the palm. Perhaps just a nod to strangers crossing the street.

A hand on the heart, often accompanied by a soft pat-pat on the chest, is better than words when it comes to saying “thank you” and “I really care.”

While walking Dorothy the other day I stopped to watch the mail carrier make a delivery across the street. As he pulled away, I felt compelled to offer a military-style salute. He slowed, turned slightly, and saluted back.

Sometimes the smallest gestures have the biggest meaning.

Peter Funt is a writer and speaker. His book, “Cautiously Optimistic,” is available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [CandidCamera.com](https://www.CandidCamera.com). © 2020 Peter Funt. Columns distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons, Inc., newspaper syndicate.

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TRIAL

from page A1

was initially considered an emergency investigational new drug – referred to as an eIND by medical professionals – that requires FDA approval for all patients that receive it. However, the trial was expanded into a full clinical trial, the FDA announced April 3.

“This is an important area of research — the use of products made from a recovered patient’s blood to potentially treat COVID-19 in those affected by this illness. The FDA remains actively engaged with partners across the U.S. government, academia and industry to expedite the development and availability of critical medical products to prevent and treat this novel virus – both evaluating the safety and efficacy of potential therapies and facilitating emergency access for patients, as appropriate,” said FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen M. Hahn.

The treatment, known as convalescent serum therapy, has been used to fight diphtheria, flesh-eating bacteria, the Spanish flu and other serious conditions for more than a century, the hospital’s statement said. It uses plasma from a recovered patient with antibodies present in it and that plasma is infused into a sick patient’s body and has the potential to save lives by bolstering patients’ immune systems with already-established antibodies for the Novel Coronavirus.

The first patient to donate plasma from the study has been in good health for more than two weeks and has already donated. The plasma was transfused into a COVID-19 patient March 28. Since that time, the hospital has done four more infusions and identified 10 additional donors who have already donated, said Patti Muck, a senior media relations specialist with Houston Methodist.

A study of five Chinese patients who received the therapy was published in the “Journal of the American Medical Association” in mid-March and suggests that the therapy is beneficial to those suffering from COVID-19.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has said his state will begin recruitment for plasma donors soon in the New York City suburb of New Rochelle which was heavily hit by the pandemic. Methodist representatives said potential donors do not have to be Methodist patients, but must have a documented positive COVID-19 test in their medical history to be considered.

The process for donating plasma is similar to that for donating blood and takes about an hour, Methodist representatives said. Donors are connected to a device that removes plasma while returning red blood cells to the donors’ bodies. Plasma may be donated twice per week, unlike regular blood donations which the American Red Cross says can see separations of eight to 16 weeks between donations.

Locally, Dr. Eric Salazar, principal investigator at Houston Methodist’s Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, said a review of patient charts at the hospital is promising and nearly two-thirds of the patients may meet the criteria to donate plasma once they recover. Patients with underlying conditions and of advanced age will not be eligible to donate.

While the research is just starting, Salazar said it could help many patients and fast tracking the research is worthwhile.

“Convalescent serum therapy could be a vital treatment route, because unfortunately there is relatively little to offer many patients except supportive care, and the ongoing clinical trials are going to take a while. We don’t have that much time,” Salazar said.

MILESTONE

from page A1

county’s emergency response communications group, said the order aligns the local order with that issued by Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

“Per the Texas Attorney General’s guidance on this topic, if religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, then religious services may be conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship,” the order reads.

Essential critical infrastructure and retail are determined by guidelines set forth by the Department4 of Homeland Security’s National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, commonly referred to as CISA.

To clarify what qualifies as “essential critical infrastructure” the order now refers to bot the federal guidelines put out by CISA and the Texas Division of Emergency Management’s online list of additional essential services. The TDEM guidelines specifically add religious services and excludes cosmetology salons, gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios as well as eating and drinking inside bars, restaurants and food courts.

Service from restaurants is still allowed via drive thru, curbside and delivery, per TDEM guidelines.

See this story’s cover graphic and this link for the extended CISA guidelines.

Generally, health care, transportation, IT, water infrastructure, energy, food and agriculture, government facilities, financial institutions, emergency services, defense workers, certain manufacturing, chemical facilities and communications companies may remain in operation, though the order does encourage working from home via telecommute whenever possible.

Essential retailers now include the following:

“Food producers and service providers, including grocery stores, warehouse stores, furniture suppliers, big box stores, bodegas, liquor stores, gas stations and convenience stores, farmers’ markets that sell food products and household staples. Food cultivation, including farming, ranching, fishing, and livestock. Food production, including the production of canned goods, bottled beverages and other grocery items. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery, drive-thru or carry-out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free services to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. The restriction of delivery or carry-out does not apply to cafes and restaurants located within hospital and medical facilities. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers. Gas stations, auto supply, auto and bicycle repair, hardware stores, and related facilities.”

FORT BEND

from page A1

The updated order was developed to match requirements set forth in Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s most recent order addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and incorporating public feedback requested via an online survey, George said.



FORT BEND COUNTY JUDGE KP GEORGE

Almost 900 Fort Bend County residents responded anonymously to the poll which asked questions about household makeup, how residents were staying informed about COVID-19 and asked for typed-in feedback regarding how residents felt the county’s administration should act regarding the pandemic moving forward.

“Everything we can do. Please, please continue the Stay at Home Save Lives order through April and anything else possible. Our six-year-old is severely immunocompromised and immunosuppressed and she depends on herd immunity. She depends on us to save her life,” one response read.

The order requires all Fort Bend County Residents to remain at home except when necessary and encourages working from home rather than at the office – and those that must work to practice social distancing. The decree also permits residents to leave home as needed to provide or obtain essential services such as buying groceries, attending medical appointments or working in an essential services field such as at a grocery store or hospital.

According to the order, essential services include grocery, warehouse, big-box, liquor and convenience stores. Farmers Markets that sell food products and household staples, bodegas and gas stations are also

FORT BEND COUNTY COVID-19 CASES

CONFIRMED CASES: 280
RECOVERED PATIENTS: 15
COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS: 6

**Data as of 9:20 p.m. April 6*

included. Agricultural professionals such as farmers and ranchers are also essential. Laundromats, dry cleaners and laundry service providers, auto repair and supply stores, bicycle repair facilities and hardware stores are also permitted to remain open. Businesses that supply products necessary for people to work from home and firearm retailers are also considered essential.

Restaurants may remain open but must provide services only through curbside, delivery and carry-out.

Service providers such as electricians, plumbers, exterminators and related maintenance professionals may continue to operate and provide services. Trash and recycling collection, mail and shipping, funerary, veterinary and health and welfare services may also remain in operation.

News services such as radio, television and newspapers may remain open.

Childcare service providers may remain open, but only if they provide childcare to other essential businesses. Transportation service providers may also remain open.

All essential services are required to practice social distancing as much as possible.

Violation of the order is subject to a possible fine of up to \$1,000 and possible jail time up to 180 days, the order said.

“We don’t back down to the enemy. We come together and protect the vulnerable, be leaders, strengthen our communities and look out for our neighbors as ourselves,” George said.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

In general, the Waller County Office of Emergency Management recommends the following for all county residents while the COVID-19 health emergency is in effect.

GENERAL

- Cancel non-essential events;
- Minimize social gatherings;
- Minimize in-person contact with people not from your household;
- Do not leave your home or go to work if you are not feeling well;
- Having hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers and tissues available;
- Frequent cleaning of high touch surface areas like counter tops and hand rails;
- Maintain physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible with a minimum distance of 6 feet between yourself and other individuals

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:

LIMIT OUTINGS

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS INCLUDE PEOPLE WHO ARE:

- 60 years old and older.
- People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems.
- For vulnerable populations, don’t go to gatherings unless it is essential. If you can telecommute, you should. Avoid people who are sick.

the home as “much as humanly possible” in an April 6 update.

I cannot stress this enough at this time – please stay home,” Duhon said. Work from home. Eliminate

or reduce any outside trips – especially this week. If you are providing essential services, go to work from home and return with the minimum number of stops and contacts in between.”

WALLER

from page A1

tattoo studios and beauty salons are required to remain closed.

Duhon and the commissioners court strongly encourage all religious institutions to conduct services online and must maintain social distancing if services are conducted in person.

Full guidelines provided by the Waller County Office of Emergency Management can be found below.

Duhon said Dr. Carlos Plasencia, the Department of State Health Services physician that serves as health authority for Waller County, has indicated that the spread of COVID-19 is slowing down after two weeks of restrictions have been in place, which is a good sign.

“The sooner we all pull together and keep this thing from spreading any further, the better off we will be. I know we would all rather be going anything but this, but I know we can buckle down and keep at it,” Duhon said.

Duhon also recommended people follow the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention’s recommendation that residents begin wearing face masks and minimize trips outside



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TRIBUTES

Danny Dearl “Dan” Caudle passed away on Monday, March 30, 2020, in Katy, at the age of 82. Dan was born on October 8, 1937 in Maud, Texas to William Nathaniel and Bessie Preston Caudle. In 1964 he married Virginia Lynne Farris in Muskogee, Oklahoma. In 1966 he received his PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Oklahoma and began a distinguished career with Conoco as an environmental engineer, retiring after 27 years. He was a Distinguished Lecturer for the Society of Petroleum Engineers and was a member of the American Chemical Society and NACE. Dan was a member and Deacon Emeritus of Sharpstown Baptist Church in Houston. For the last 27 years, he and Virginia have been residents of Katy. Dan served his country in the U.S. Navy Reserves for eight years.



DANNY DEARL “DAN” CAUDLE
1937-2020

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Caudle of Katy; children, Annette Seiber of Katy, Dana Caudle of Auburn, Alabama, Amy Luke and her husband Gregory of Katy, and Robert Caudle of Katy; grandchildren, Jesse Seiber, Olivia Caudle, Jeffrey Newman, William Luke, Catherine Luke, Matthew Luke, and Aden Caudle and beloved friend Jim Cokinis as well as numerous other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Ernest, Gerald, Theda, Nathan, and David.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the Sharpstown Baptist Church.

Condolences may be expressed at www.SchmidtFuneral-Home.net.

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

Checkups are vital to health

Regular visits with a medical professional are an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Too often people visit the doctor only when they are ill, as they may not realize just how essential well visits and physical exams are.

Routine checkups are the smartest way for people in all age groups to stay on top of their health, but they can be especially valuable for those age 50 and older. Regular checkups enable physicians to check current health against past visits, ensuring that any anomalies can be investigated and treated efficiently and promptly. This can make the difference in slowing down the progression of a disease that has already developed or prevent something from becoming a full-fledged issue.

The Mayo Clinic says there are no hard and fast rules about how often seniors should visit health care providers. Those who are in generally good health may only require one medical checkup a year. At this point vital signs will be checked, medications reviewed and lifestyle topics discussed. Doctors may even recommend or discuss tests. Patients also can bring up any issues they may be experiencing, however insignificant they may seem. Anything from sleep disturbances to memory loss to unexplained fatigue or pain can be addressed. Sometimes getting everything out in the open and being



Routine checkups are the smartest way for people in all age groups to stay on top of their health, but they can be especially valuable for those age 50 and older.

reassured that there's nothing to worry about can be helpful. General care and geriatric doctors also are adept at asking questions to get a sense of how patients are faring in the world. This may include topics that seemingly have no relevance to health but can be quite important. A provider may ask about topics such as bathing or dressing. Questions about social interaction or typical routines can paint a better picture of both physical and mental health.

The recommended frequency of doctor visits may change as health issues arise or if follow-up is needed after a treatment plan or injury, according to the caregiver company Home Care Assistance. Some seniors may have to visit a provider once a week or once a month. Doctors, nurses and therapists will design a regimen based on a patient's current health needs.

The following are some compelling reasons to be diligent with provider visits.

- Frequently health issues can be silent and not noticed early on by a patient, according to Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore.
- Patients will be less likely to forget about important screenings, like mammography, prostate tests, cholesterol tests, and more.
- Vaccines can be administered, as even adults need certain immunizations to stay healthy.
- Patients can discuss potential lifestyle changes, like going on a diet or taking up a new fitness regimen.

It is essential to follow through with health care provider visits, even if they seem redundant. Physicians may detect issues that warrant close observation. Patients are urged to have an open dialogue with their doctors so they understand the reason behind health care visits and expectations in the future.

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When the cares of my heart are many,
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Psalms 94:19

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3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

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

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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Psalms 94:19

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UIL modifying contingency plans

Director: Sports to recommence 'as soon as school can resume'

By COLE McNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

In response to Governor Greg Abbott extending social distancing guidelines through April, the University Interscholastic League (UIL) also recently updated its suspension timeline to match up with the Governor's return-to-school date of May 4.

"As that date approaches, UIL will monitor all available information and provide member schools with more specific guidance on district and post-season date adjustments related to this new extension," a release from April 3 says. "All in-person practices, rehearsals and workouts remain suspended until further notice and remote instruction remains in



place. UIL remains committed to providing a reasonable acclimatization period for rehearsals and practices to occur prior to resuming contests and games. All decisions remain flexible and will be consistent with the advice of local, state and federal officials."

In a letter to athletic directors and coaches, UIL Athletic Director Dr. Susan Elza applauded their efforts in tackling the transition to all-remote coaching.

"We are both amazed and appreciative of the leadership of our athletic directors and coaches," she said. "We are inspired by the work that continues in a challenging environment and the creativity of the remote coaching that directly benefits the athletes across the state."

At the same time, UIL Deputy Director Jamey Harrison, EdD, advised everyone in his letter to superintendents to wait before reconfiguring resumption of play until more information is available.

"Please do not begin to make plans for district competition prior to receiving this additional information," he said. "Again,

once we have more information approaching May 4th, we will provide those details to you for planning purposes. ... This is based on the information available at this time. Should further changes be required, we will communicate them to you as quickly as we can."

On March 26, UIL Director Dr. Charles Breithaupt said in a video message that sports are to return "as soon as school can resume."

"I know you're anxious, I'm anxious for you ... especially if you're a parent of seniors who are finishing their high school careers," he said to all impacted by the virus. "Our staff is working around the clock to do all they can to make these activities alive again. As soon as school can resume, we'll continue the UIL competitions for the 2020 school year."

Jenny McGhee selected for USA Volleyball Board of Directors

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Jenny McGhee, senior associate commissioner for external operations for the Southland Conference since July 2017, has been appointed to the USA Volleyball Board of Directors as its High Performance representative. McGhee has worked for the Southland Conference in multiple capacities since 2008 and will replace departing director Kristin Fasbender.



JENNY
MCGHEE

"Jenny will bring a wealth of experience to the board as a former volleyball student-athlete and with her involvement as the administrator in the Southland Conference responsible for Indoor and Beach Volleyball competition," said Cecile Reynaud, chair of the USA Volleyball Board of Directors. "We look forward to having her join the board immediately."

McGhee will finish out the remainder of Fasbender's term and will then be eligible to run for the same position when the current term expires June 2021.

McGhee's responsibilities include administrator for women's indoor volleyball, beach volleyball, and men's and women's golf, according to a Southland Conference press release.

McGhee, who was a member of the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Committee from 2015-2019, serves as the liaison to the conference's senior woman administrators, student-athlete advisory committees and the conference's association with multi-rights team Van Wagner Sports and Entertainment. She oversees the promotion and marketing of the Southland Conference and its member institutions as well as the conference's branding and licensing.

Prior to working for the Southland Conference, McGhee worked for the Texas Tornado Hockey Club from 2002-2008. She escalated up the company ladder holding positions of ticket operations executive, director of community relations and marketing partnerships, and vice president of corporate partnerships during her tenure.

"(McGhee) will bring a wealth of experience to the board as a former volleyball student-athlete and with her involvement as the administrator in the Southland Conference responsible for Indoor and Beach Volleyball competition," said Cecile Reynaud, chair of the USA Volleyball Board of Directors. "We look forward to having her join the board immediately."

McGhee played four years of varsity volleyball at Stephen F. Austin University, where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with marketing emphasis in 2001. After graduating from college, she coached for North Dallas Juniors Volleyball Club.

"It is an honor to join the USA Volleyball Board of Directors and contribute to the meaningful work of the board, the USA Volleyball staff and all of the athletes who we serve. I am grateful to have the opportunity to give back to the sport that has given so much to me as a player, coach and administrator," McGhee said.

Southland was forced to cancel the majority of the Southland Conference basketball tournaments in March when the COVID-19 pandemic began impacting the Greater Houston area directly.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Blinn sophomore Tristan Ikpe was the Buccaneers' leading scorer and rebounder with 17.3 points and 10.4 boards per game. Pictured is Ikpe going up to the rim in a game against Panola College on Jan. 6 at Blinn College.

Local players receive accolades

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Although the National Junior College Athletic Association's national basketball tournament was postponed, the Region XIV Tournament was played in full and both of Blinn College's teams nearly punched a ticket to the big dance.

The men's team lost in the championship, 87-73, to Angelina College while the women's team clinched a semifinal berth but also fell at the hands of Angelina College by a 71-60 margin.

Still, both teams were well-represented on all-region teams.

Sophomore guards led Blinn women to a 25-7 record, national ranking

Blinn College sophomore guards Kristine Ezimako, Gabriela Bosquez and Mia Cherry each received Region XIV Conference honors after leading the No. 24 Buccaneers to the regional tournament semifinals.

"The leadership and work ethic of these three is what led us to the great season that we had," said Jeff Jenkins, Blinn head coach.

Ezimako was named all-region and all-conference after leading Blinn with 15.1 points and 8.3 rebounds per game. She led the Buccaneers with 69 blocks and 59 steals and led the region with a 42.5 three-point percentage.

Ezimako also earned Region XIV all-tournament honors after leading Blinn with 30 points and 22 rebounds in two postseason games. Throughout Ezimako's two seasons with Blinn, she totaled 807 points and 460 rebounds.

"Kristine definitely deserves this award," Jenkins said. "She was our leading scorer and rebounder on a very good team."

Bosquez and Cherry earned all-conference honorable mention.

"Gabby and Mia transferred in this season and made an immediate impact," Jenkins said. "They played very hard on both sides of the ball."

Bosquez was second on the team with 11.9 points per game and averaged 4.8 rebounds. She led the Buccaneers with 99 assists and was second on the team with 51 steals.

Cherry tallied 9.4 points per game and 3.2 rebounds per game while recording 59 assists and 38 steals.

Blinn finished the season ranked 24th in the nation after posting a 25-7 overall record and 13-4 conference record. The Buccaneers defeated Paris Junior College 62-58 in the NJCAA Region XIV Tournament quarterfinals.

Sophomore-led Buccaneers earn second-place finish in Region XIV Tournament

Four Blinn College men's basketball players received 2019-20 Region XIV Conference honors after leading the Buccaneers to a 23-10 record and a second-place finish in the NJCAA Region XIV Tournament.

Sophomores Tristan Ikpe and AJ Rainey were named first-team all-region, Azariah Seay was named second-team all-region, and Pedro Castro was named honorable mention all-region.

"Tristan, AJ, Azariah, and Pedro played a big role in this year's success. They deserve to be recognized with these honors," said Scott Schumacher, Blinn head coach. "Our team put it all together in the region tournament and these four guys helped lead the way to the championship game."

Ikpe was the Buccaneers' leading scorer and rebounder with 17.3 points and 10.4 boards per game. He ranked

second in the nation with 344 total rebounds to break Blinn's single-season rebound record.

Ikpe also broke Blinn's career rebound record with 877 rebounds in two seasons. He led Blinn with 22 double-doubles and scored a season-high 37 points against Angelina College on Feb. 26. Ikpe is committed to Sam Houston State University.

Rainey averaged 13.5 points and 2.4 rebounds per game. He led the team with 1.2 steals per game and shared the assists per game lead with 3.6. In two seasons with the Buccaneers, he totaled 761 points and 193 rebounds.

Seay tied for second on the team with 13.5 points per game and recorded 2.6 rebounds per game. He totaled 405 points and 77 rebounds in one season with the Buccaneers.

Castro averaged 10.8 points and 6.3 rebounds per game. He led the Buccaneers with 1.5 blocks per game and shared the lead for assists per game with 3.6. He totaled 356 points and 208 rebounds in one season with the Buccaneers.

Ikpe and Seay also earned Region XIV all-tournament honors. Ikpe posted 60 points and 29 rebounds, while Seay totaled 63 points and seven rebounds in three postseason games.

In addition to finishing the season with a 23-10 overall record, the Buccaneers posted an 11-8 conference record. They eliminated Coastal Bend College and Jacksonville College before falling to Angelina College in the NJCAA Region XIV Championship game.

Blinn has competed in inter-collegiate athletics since 1903 and captured 41 NJCAA national championships since 1987. For more information, visit www.buccaneer-sports.com.

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Couple celebrates anniversary at hospital

By **R. HANS MILLER**
SENIOR REPORTER

After taking her husband Matt Reed to the Memorial Hermann Katy hospital April 1 for inpatient care for COVID-19, Barbara Reed didn't know when she would be able to see her husband next, let alone how they would celebrate their eighth wedding anniversary which was coming up this April 5. Matt's stay in the hospital wasn't a surprise after days of dealing with the disease, but it still rattled her, Barbara said.

"I knew to expect it, but when it actually happened, it's just a shock," she said.

The trip to the hospital was the latest event in a string of stressors that had first pushed the couple into quarantine with their dogs, Taco and Belle, on March 23. That was followed by a positive COVID-19 test for Matt on March 26.

Such a diagnosis was especially concerning in relation to Matt because he is asthmatic, one of the commonly referenced "underlying health conditions" in the COVID-19 pandemic's narrative.

Eventually, after tracking Matt's symptoms – including his pulse rate and blood pressure – Barbara called the hospital to ask what they should do as Matt's pulse rate dipped, reflecting a drop in oxygen in Matt's system.

Barbara called Memorial Hermann Katy and was instructed to bring Matt to the ER. She gathered his things – including copies of his insurance information, positive COVID-19 test, ID and other documents – and drove him to the ER.

"They took him right in and got him admitted right away," she said.

Matt was whisked away and she was left to go home to Taco and Belle to quarantine on her own, not knowing if she herself was a carrier for the Novel Coronavirus.

Family members dropped off needed supplies on the back porch, including herbs and other plants to transplant into the back yard to keep her occupied, but Barbara kept thinking about the upcoming anniversary and how she just wanted to celebrate with Matt.

She was also concerned about Matt's mental state as he was in the hospital and seemed depressed and lonely. Eventually, she came to a realization.

"I started directing my energy into what I could do," Barbara said.

One of the things she realized is that she could do was find a way to celebrate Matt's and her anniversary – and maybe cheer Matt up at the same time.

"I called (Twinkle Greetings) to hire them. I called them and I told them, 'I know it's late notice. This is my circumstances. Can



Barbara Reed waves a sign at her husband to wish him a happy anniversary. On the back of the sign is last year's message encouraging a "Springer dinger" at an Astros game where the pair celebrated their seventh anniversary.



you help me?' They accommodated me right away," Barbara said.

Barbara also called Steve Cooney, an administrator at Memorial Hermann Katy, who was able to help her coordinate permission to set up a display beneath Matt's hospital window.

"Memorial Hermann Katy was amazing when I called and asked to do this," she said.

Twinkle Greetings was able to set up a sign in the lawn at Memo-

rial Hermann where Matt would be able to see it.

At 10 a.m. April 5, Barbara was out by the sign in her wedding dress with a sign that read, "You're my lobster" a reference to a "Friends" episode where Phoebe discusses lobsters' monogamy in their relationships.

Family and friends joined in as well – all while practicing social distancing. Even Taco and Belle were able to show Matt some love.

Matt turned his attitude around almost immediately after – aided as well by the special dessert hospital staff got to him – angel food cake with strawberries and whipped cream.

"In my opinion, his attitude from yesterday to today is a 180," Barbara said by phone the afternoon of April 5. "Yesterday he was down. Today he'd showered and was wearing a regular T-shirt."

Matt was released from the

hospital April 7 after his symptoms became manageable enough for him to return home. Barbara said she is grateful to her family and the staff at Memorial Hermann for their support in what was a difficult situation, especially the hospital focusing on how they could help her support her husband.

"It wasn't about the disease – it was about how can I do something nice for my husband," Barbara said.

Harris County suspends jury duty through May 8

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Harris County has suspended jury service through Friday, May 8, 2020. Jurors who have received a summons for

dates through May 8 do not need appear and do NOT need to reschedule. For updates or additional information, please check our website www.justex.net.

49 UT-Austin students have coronavirus

By **CLARE PROCTOR**
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Hundreds of University of Texas at Austin students traveled to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico over spring break — and 49 have now tested positive for the novel

coronavirus, according to the school.

The university is now aware of 211 students who traveled to Mexico between March 14 and 19, including 178 students who organized their trip through JusCollege, a travel vendor. The trip included many additional students from other colleges and universities, but according to the release, UT-Austin is not aware of how many students from other schools also attended the trip.

A representative from JusCollege could not immediately be reached for comment late Friday.

"This incident is an urgent reminder of the responsibilities students have to their communities, each other and themselves," said Sonia Reagins-Lilly, the university's vice president for student affairs and dean of students. "We are deeply concerned for the health of the students affected and for their broader impact on the communities where they live."

The number of confirmed cases among the students has grown this week, with 28 students reportedly testing positive on Tuesday and 44 testing positive April 1.

Health officials directed all students — both those who had positive and negative test results — to



The Tower at the University of Texas at Austin. Dozens of students have tested positive for COVID-19 after trips to Cabo San Lucas for spring break.

self-quarantine according to public health protocols.

When students traveled to Mexico, the country was not yet under a federal travel advisory, but per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation, Austin Public Health advised all nonessential international travel to be avoided. The school had also prohibited university-sponsored programs from planning international travel.

The number of confirmed cases may continue to rise in upcoming days as more students are tested, but almost all students from the UT Austin cluster who

traveled to Cabo San Lucas have been tested, according to the report.

The university had already extended spring break and begun moving all classes online to prevent the spread of the virus before the students left for Mexico.

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

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Texas tells locals to delay May elections

By ALEXA URA
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Citing the state's stay-at-home order, the Texas Secretary of State is instructing municipalities to delay their May 2 elections.

In an email to local election officials sent April 2, the state's director of elections, Keith Ingram, said cities, towns and school boards that hadn't pushed their upcoming elections to November "must take action to do so immediately" or risk facing a challenge in court.

"If you don't move your May 2nd election, you are subjecting voters to health risks and potential criminal violations," Ingram wrote. "Failure to postpone your election will put your election at severe risk for an election contest."

In response to the new coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Greg Abbott paved the way for postponements two weeks ago with an emergency proclamation suspending parts of the state's election code. Since then, municipalities and other local entities across most of Texas had voted to cancel their traditional early May elections.

But a handful of towns and special districts were still planning to go ahead with their May votes even as many county election officials told locals they wouldn't run the elections. Some city councils cited a state constitutional requirement to fill some vacancies within 120 days. Others feared the measures on the May ballot would get lost at the bottom of a robust November general election ballot.

Abbott issued an executive order Tuesday telling Texans to stay at home for the next month unless they are taking



ANGELA PIAZZA FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Williamson County residents voted on Super Tuesday at Southwestern University's Howry Center in Georgetown.

part in essential services and activities. In announcing his order, the governor made clear he expects all Texans to adhere to the guidance or face criminal punishment. The order lasts until April 30. Early voting for municipal elections would have started before then.

Although election workers are included under the federal government's guidance on essential workers, that would not include voters, Ingram said.

The secretary of state's office also indicated Thursday that it was assessing how the coronavirus pandemic could affect future elections, including an increase in voting by mail.

In an advisory also sent to local election officials Thursday, state officials signaled that the state's voting-by-mail qualifications could extend to voters affected by the pandemic.

Voting by mail is fairly limited in the state, and Texans seeking the absentee voting option must offer an excuse to qualify. To be eligible under typical circumstances, a voter has to be 65 years or older, have a disability or illness, be out of the county during the election period, or be confined in jail.

In the advisory, officials noted the Texas election code qualifies voters as having a disability if they have a "sickness or physical condition" that prevents them from

appearing to vote in person without the likelihood of "injuring the voter's health."

Pointing to that provision, the Texas Democratic Party recently asked a state district judge to declare that it would apply to any voter in Texas "if they believe they should practice social distancing in order to hinder" the spread of the new coronavirus.

State election officials also advised locals to review whether they could meet an increased demand for voting-by-mail requests for the 2020 election and to consider whether they should seek court orders to modify in-person voting procedures to accommodate quarantined voters.

"If you don't move your May 2nd election, you are subjecting voters to health risks and potential criminal violations. Failure to postpone your election will put your election at severe risk for an election contest."

— TEXAS DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS, KEITH INGRAM

"Please be advised that this is the first of several advisories we plan to issue regarding election implications of COVID-19," Christina Worrell Adkins, legal director of state's elections division, wrote to locals. "We have spoken to a number of election officials about this topic, and we plan on continuing these discussions as we work to develop more specific guidelines."

The Texas secretary of state has been a financial supporter of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune's journalism.

Why these Texas churches aren't closing their doors

By VIANNA DAVILA
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE
AND PROPUBLICA

On San Antonio's East Side, if Pastor Shetigho Nakpodia wants to tend to her flock, she has no choice but to go to them.

Much of what she does involves delivering food and serving meals to people in her community, many of them experiencing homelessness. As she puts it, her small church, called Redeemer's Praise Church, is open 24/7 — coronavirus pandemic or not.

"I never close," she said.

As religious groups around the state move their services online in response to COVID-19 and local governments mandate stay-at-home orders, there are still some who say in-person gatherings are an integral part of their faith.

Gov. Greg Abbott's decision Tuesday to call those religious services essential has bolstered many of them.

James Buntrock, associate pastor at Glorious Way Church in north Houston, says it's part of the church's religious mandate to hold services, but it is also making adjustments.

"We will do our best to cooperate with social distancing and guidelines," said Buntrock, who is among the religious organizations who have filed a petition against Harris County's stay-at-home order. "If we need to have multiple services to accommodate a larger crowd, we'll hold people out." The church plans to seat family units together and then put 6 feet of distance between them and other households.

The church plans to keep livestreaming services, but "we can't do everything that the church needs to do through video," Buntrock said. "A church is hands on." And a church limited to livestream "is one power outage away and one internet outage away from being shut down entirely."

On Sundays, at Nakpodia's church in San Antonio, people come and go, grabbing food and sometimes staying for Bible



IVAN PIERRE AGUIRRE

A parishioner prays in a church in Texas.

"We will do our best to cooperate with social distancing and guidelines. If we need to have multiple services to accommodate a larger crowd, we'll hold people out."

— ASSOCIATE PASTOR AT GLORIOUS WAY CHURCH
IN NORTH HOUSTON, JAMES BUNTROCK

study or her sermon — usually no more than 25 people over the course of the day. Some take coffee or food and simply leave.

Unlike other, larger congregations, she has no way to livestream — and much of her work isn't about the services but the food she provides, she said. "If coronavirus doesn't kill them, starving will kill them."

Rabbi Mara Nathan, with Temple Beth-El in San Antonio, said she understands some faith groups, especially smaller ones, may lack the financial resources or technological

access to do services remotely. Or they may not have a formal liturgy but instead have gathering practices, which "adds a whole other level of challenges."

She urged them to turn to larger congregations for help and to learn from what they've done.

"I think it's important for all the different faith leaders to know that we can rely on each other," Nathan said. "This is a moment where our moral leadership is essential."

Decisions to stop holding live services in Texas mosques have not

come without pushback, said Shariq Abdul Ghani, director of the Minaret Foundation in Houston.

"Not because they don't understand what [the coronavirus] is, but because of the connection we have with the mosque," he said. "As Muslims we are mandated to go to mosque on Friday, to be without a mosque for this long is incredibly unusual."

But he said mosques also understand the responsibility they have as members of their community. "We, as Houstonians, feel we have a role to play in stopping the spread and in also understanding the need to not congregate and understanding what that does," he said.

In a letter to faith leaders Wednesday, after the governor's order, San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff urged them to continue operating remotely. "Our faith community is so much a part of San Antonio's basic nature," the letter read. "Yet, through this collective action, we are giving our community hope

that there are brighter days ahead ..."

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New drivers in limbo for permits, licenses

By **STEVE FOUNTAIN**
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

While the Class of 2020 waits to see if they will get to walk the stage for graduation, another teen-age right-of-passage is also in limbo due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the government offices closing due to the Coronavirus pandemic are the Texas Department of Public Safety offices, including the one at 2302 W. Dickinson Blvd. in Fort Stockton.

"It's a challenging time," said Sgt. Oscar Villarreal, who handles media communications for DPS out of its Midland office. "Right now, we cannot license someone. I wish we could relieve public stress; a lot of people are asking 'what do I do?'"

Villarreal said while the state has extended expiration dates for drivers who have a license, there is no option for someone seeking their learner's permit or their first driver's license.

So, although a teen-ager or new driver may have completed all the requirements, there is no means for them to take their driving test. Likewise, someone who has completed all the instruction and paperwork to obtain a learner's permit has no means to turn that paperwork in to be issued a permit.

Other drivers

Among his emergency actions, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott delayed the expiration of Texas drivers licenses, personal identification cards, commercial drivers licenses (CDL), electronic election certificates (EIC).



Many Texans are wondering how to proceed with Department of Public Safety offices closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From new drivers to new residents, there are many questions about how to proceed in the age of the stay home order.

If one of these documents expire on or after March 13, 2020, holders are granted a waiver for the expiration date for 60 days after the state provides resumes normal operations, at which time holders will be able to renew without any penalty.

Villarreal said people whose license has expired – but are otherwise in good standing as a license holder – are free to drive on the expired license. However, someone whose license was suspended or restricted are still not able to legally drive under the emergency order.

In the interim, however, you must download a copy of the Verification of Driver License Expiration Extension notice from <https://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/documents/extndExpDateDL.pdf>.

Many Texas drivers license and identification card holders are eligible to renew their cards,

address change, or receive a replacement online at www.dps.texas.gov. (Click on services, then Driver License/ID Home)

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) may accept an expired Texas drivers license or identification card as valid identification for domestic flights up to 12 months after expiration.

New residents

New Texas residents can legally drive with a valid, unexpired driver license from another U.S. state, U.S. territory, Canadian province, or qualifying country for up to 90 days after moving to Texas. For more information, go to: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm>

CDL drivers

To ensure commercial drivers

"It's a challenging time. Right now, we cannot license someone. I wish we could relieve public stress; a lot of people are asking 'what do I do?'"

— SGT. OSCAR VILLARREAL, DPS MEDIA RELATIONS

are able to continue to work during the national emergency, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration temporarily waived compliance for medical certificates expiring from March 1, 2020 until June 30, 2020. The state will continue to process medical certificates received, and will discontinue the downgrade of CDLs for expired medical certificates. When the department resumes normal operations, drivers will be able to renew without any penalty.

A CDL driver with a medical certificate or a hazardous material endorsement that is expired, may continue to use their current card until June 30, 2020.

FMCSA is also waiving the 14-day requirement to hold a commercial learner permit before skills testing can be conducted. At this time, the commercial driver license offices that are conducting skills tests will continue to prioritize testing for those drivers who have held the CLP for 14 days or longer. CDL Third-Party Skills Test providers may prioritize drivers who were already scheduled for testing or may waive the 14-day

requirement, depending on their business need. This waiver expires June 30, 2020.

Effective March 28, 2020, FMCSA issued a three-month waiver for Commercial Learners Permit (CLP) holders operating commercial motor vehicles during the COVID-19 response. The waiver is in effect until June 30, 2020 and allows a CLP holder to operate a commercial motor vehicle without having a commercial driver license (CDL) holder in the front seat, as long as the CDL holder is present elsewhere in the cab. The CLP holder must have successfully passed the CDL skills test and must keep a copy of the test with them while driving. Furthermore, the CLP holder must have a valid driver license and medical certificate or meet the expiration extension requirements. The benefit of this waiver will allow CLP drivers to continue their training, due to the closures of state departments of motor vehicle facilities. For more information, please visit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

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PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES
<p style="text-align: center;">COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE INVITATION TO BID</p> <p>The County of Waller proposes to purchase the following items on competitive bid:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONSTRUCTION OF HEADWALLS ON BULLER ROAD AT DRY BRANCH</p> <p>Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., April 20, 2020 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. April 22, 2020, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on May 6, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.</p> <p>A contract shall not be awarded to a bidder who is not the lowest dollar bidder meeting specifications unless, before the award, each lower bidder is given notice of the proposed award, and is given an opportunity to appear before the Commissioners' Court and present evidence concerning the lower bidder's responsibility.</p> <p>Bid award shall be based on either unit price or lump sum as indicated on the BID SHEET.</p> <p>Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County.</p> <p>Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at www.co.waller.tx.us</p> <p>ALAN YOUNTS County Auditor 836 Austin Street, Suite 221 Hempstead, Texas 77445</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">INVITATION TO BIDDERS</p> <p>Sealed Bids will be received by Fort Bend County M.U.D. No. 34 on CIVCAST until 2:00 P.M. on April 24, 2020 for Water Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant Perimeter Fence Improvements.</p> <p>All bids will be publicly opened and distributed for construction of improvements including demolition, fencing and metal gate installation.</p> <p>Bidders shall submit the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided on CIVCAST. A Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Forms are provided with Spec Book)</p> <p>Bid Documents are available through CIVCAST. Interested bidders should contact Bryan Malloch at bmalloch@kgadeforest.com.</p> <p>A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Fort Bend County M.U.D. No. 34 in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.</p> <p>Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.</p> <p>The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance and Payment 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.</p> <p>The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:</p> <p>"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."</p> <p>The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.</p>				<p style="text-align: center;">NOTICE</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 2946 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON MARCH 23, 2020:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; PROVIDING FOR A FINE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000 FOR EACH OFFENSE.</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Request for Proposals</p> <p>Drymalla Construction Company, Inc. (CM at Risk) is soliciting Qualifications/Proposals from Subcontractors for the Lamar Consolidated ISD High School and Junior High Renovations and Additions. Project consists of High School Classroom and Administration Renovations, Band and LGI Additions. Junior High, Choir Renovations and Additions. Qualifications/Proposals are due at 2:00 PM on Wednesday April 22, 2020 at the offices of Drymalla Construction Company, Inc., 608 Harbert, Columbus, Texas 78934, via fax 979-732-3663, or email to bid@drymalla.com. NO PHONE BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED! For information on how to obtain copies of the Request for Qualifications/Proposals documents call 979-732-5731, or email Jason Labay at jason@drymalla.com. Documents are available online at http://www.drymallaplans.com and Virtual Builders Exchange.</p>								
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2000 SQ FT, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, fireplace, kitchen island, granite downstairs bar located in quiet neighborhood in Crystal Beach, Tx by School. For more information, call 936-488-1314.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

April 2 Puzzle Answers

M	A	D	S		A	C	E		M	A	A	S
O	R	E	A	D		L	A	X		A	R	M
M	E	A	G	E	R		G	N	P		N	S
S	A	L	A	M	I		A	D	O		T	I
				O	P	A	L	E	S	C	E	N
M	A	N	T	L	E	D		L	E	A	S	E
O	B	T	A	I	N	S		A	S	L		
A	C	H	E	S						I	L	E
				H	A	M		O	F	F	E	N
				O	P	E	R	A		P	L	O
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M	E	A	L		D	U	G		E	N	E	M
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I	E	E	E		Y	E	W			S	A	S

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 2945 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON FEBRUARY 24, 2020:

An Ordinance Amending City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance 621, By Granting A Special Use Permit Located At 5364 Franz Road For Wireless Telecommunication Facilities In A “ R- 1” Single Family District, As Allowed By Section 15. 2- 10 Of The City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance; Providing For An Effective Date; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing A Penalty In An Amount Up To \$ 2, 000 For A Violation Of Any Provision Of The Ordinance.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**COMPETITIVE BIDDING
NOTICE INVITATION TO BID**

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

TRAFFIC AND GUARDRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN WALLER COUNTY

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., April 20, 2020 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. April 22, 2020, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on May 6, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.

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

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

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

Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at www.co.waller.tx.us

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids in duplicate addressed to Mr. J.R. Dollins, III, President, Brookshire-Katy Drainage District, will be received in the offices of Brookshire-Katy Drainage District, 1111 Kenney Street, Brookshire, Texas 77423, until **10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 23, 2020**, and then publicly opened and read for furnishing all labor, material and equipment and performing all work required for construction of: **HARVEY CHANNEL RECOVERY – PHASE II STALKNECHT AND WILLOW FORK**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Federal guidelines of not gathering in groups of more than 10 people, people who want to attend the bid opening must do so by telephone (832-856-3756, Conference ID: 579 657 876#).

The projects are located in Brookshire-Katy, Texas. Stalknecht is located north of I-10, east of Stalknecht Road and south of Morton Road. Willow Fork is located south of US-90, north of I-10 and east of Igloo Road.

If the amount of the bid exceeds \$25,000.00, Official Bidder's Bond signed by the Surety and Bidder, Cashier's Check, Certified Check, or letter of credit from a FDIC insured bank in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the greatest amount bid must accompany each proposal, made payable to the Brookshire-Katy Drainage District.

Plans, specifications, and bidding documents are available at www.civcast.com.

ATTENTION: Pursuant to Texas Government Code 2252.908, you must be able to provide the Brookshire-Katy Drainage District (the "District") with a printed, executed and notarized original of a completed Certificate of Interested Parties Form (Form 1295) with executed Contracts. Failure to do so will result in the District not executing the Contract. To complete the disclosure of interested parties form, or for further information, please visit the Texas Ethics Commission's website at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us>.

There will be a pre-bid conference via telephone (832-856-3756, Conference ID: 718 818 543#) at **10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 16, 2020. Attendance is not mandatory.**

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any or all formalities in bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating prices in the proposal, the District reserves the right to adopt the prices written in words or to reject the proposal. No bids may be withdrawn until the expiration of **60 days** from the date bids are opened.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Public Service Announcement:
Fair Housing, It's the Law**

To promote fair housing practices, Waller County encourages potential homeowners and renters to be aware of their rights under the National Fair Housing Law. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market. For more information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the Texas Workforce Commission at (888) 452-4778 or (512) 463-2642 TTY: 512-371-7473.

Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability

Waller County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities. The County Judge has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8).

Citizen Participation & Grievance Procedures Notice

Waller County has adopted complaint and grievance procedures regarding its Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Programs (CDBG-DR). Citizens may obtain a copy of these written procedures at 836 Austin St., Suite 203 Hempstead, TX, 77445 during regular business hours. Citizens may also request the procedures be mailed to them by calling the County Judge, Civil Rights Officer at (979) 826-7700. These procedures outline the steps for a citizen to follow if s/he wishes to file a complaint or grievance about CDBG-DR activities.

A person who has a complaint or grievance about any services or activities with respect to the CDBG-DR project, may during regular business hours submit such complaint or grievance, in writing to the Judge's Assistant, at 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX 77445 or may call (979) 826-7700. Waller County will make every effort to respond fully to such complaints within fifteen (15) working days where practicable.

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

Waller County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

Notice to Section 3 Residents and Business Interests

Waller County has received Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding for a construction project. Waller County invites individuals and businesses to certify themselves as Section 3 eligible by registering with the County Judge, the Section 3 Coordinator. Section 3 Residents must reside in a Public Housing unit, or be a low or very-low income person residing in the area of CDBG-DR funded project and be interested in seeking employment on CDBG-DR funded projects. Businesses may be designated as Section 3 eligible if 51% or more of the business is owned by Section 3 Residents, at least 30% of permanent, full-time employees are or have been Section 3 Residents in the past 3 years, or if business commits to subcontract in excess of 25% of dollar award of all subcontracts to Section 3 business concern. Waller County shall notify registered Section 3 Residents and Business Interests of employment and contracting opportunities related to the CDBG-DR funded projects. Registration and information is available at Waller County, 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX 77445 or by calling (979) 826-7700.

Aviso Publico Vivienda Justa; Es la Ley

Para promover prácticas de equidad de vivienda, Waller County anima a los propietarios e inquilinos potenciales a ser conscientes de sus derechos bajo las leyes nacionales de Vivienda Justa. Título VIII de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1968, como enmendada, prohíbe la discriminación contra cualquier persona por motivos de raza, color, religión, sexo, discapacidad, estado familiar o origen nacional en la venta o renta de unidades en el mercado de la vivienda. Para obtener más información sobre la equidad de vivienda o para informar sobre una posible discriminación de vivienda justa, llame a la Comisión Laboral de Texas al (888) 452-4778 o (512) 463-2642 TTY: 512-371-7473.

Póliza de no Discriminación por Base de Discapacidad

Waller County no discrimina por motivos de discapacidad en la admisión o acceso a, o empleo, en sus programas o actividades que reciben ayuda federal. County Judge ha sido designado para coordinar el cumplimiento de los requisitos de no discriminación contenidos en el Departamento de Vivienda (HUD) y reglamentos de Desarrollo Urbano de aplicación de la Sección 504 (24 CFR Parte 8).

Participación Ciudadana y Procedimientos de Quejas Aviso

Waller County ha adoptado procedimientos para quejas y denuncias con respecto al programa de de recuperación de desastres en asignaciones en bloques de desarrollo comunitario (CDBG-DR). Los ciudadanos pueden obtener una copia de estos procedimientos escritos en 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX, 77445 durante las horas regulares. Los ciudadanos también pueden solicitar los procedimientos por correo al llamar a County Judge, Oficial de Derechos Civiles, en (979) 826-7700. Estos procedimientos describen los pasos que se deben seguir para que un ciudadano pueda, si desea, presentar una queja o reclamo acerca de las actividades del programa CDBG-DR.

Una persona que tiene una queja o reclamación sobre cualquiera de los servicios o actividades en relación con el programa CDBG-DR, lo pueden hacer durante las horas regulares por escrito a la Judge's Assistant, a 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX 77445 o pueden llamar a (979) 826-7700. Waller County hará todo lo posible para responder con plenitud las quejas dentro de los quince (15) días hábiles cuando sea posible.

Declaración de Igualdad de Oportunidades de Empleo

Waller County no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, religión, sexo, orientación sexual, identidad de género u origen nacional.

Aviso a Residentes de Sección 3 e Intereses Comerciales

Waller County ha recibido fondos de recuperación de desastres en asignaciones en bloques de desarrollo comunitario (CDBG-DR) para un proyecto de construcción. Waller County invita a individuos y empresas a certificarse como elegibles para la Sección 3 registrándose con County Judge, el Coordinador de la Sección 3. Los residentes de Sección 3 deben residir en una unidad de vivienda pública, o ser una persona de ingresos bajos o muy bajos que residan en el área del proyecto financiado por CDBG-DR y estar interesados en buscar empleo en proyectos financiados por CDBG-DR. Las empresas pueden ser designadas como elegibles para la Sección 3 si el 51% o más del negocio es propiedad de Residentes de Sección 3, al menos 30% de los empleados permanentes a tiempo completo son o han sido Residentes de Sección 3 en los últimos 3 años, o si la empresa se compromete a subcontratar más del 25% de la adjudicación en dólares de todos los subcontratos a la preocupación comercial de la Sección 3. Waller County notificará a los residentes registrados de la Sección 3 e intereses comerciales sobre las oportunidades de empleo y contratación relacionadas con los proyectos financiados por CDBG-DR. El registro y la información están disponibles en Waller County, 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX 77445 o pueden llamar a (979) 826-7700.

Visit us at KatyTimes.com

Four Roughnecks awarded NFL contracts

By COLE McNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

On March 23 at 9 a.m., NFL teams were allowed to begin offering XFL players contracts after the latter season was canceled just halfway through the regular-season schedule.

In that time, 14 players have signed contracts and the undefeated Houston Roughnecks once again lead the group with four of their now-former players finding NFL homes.

The most notable was quarterback P.J. Walker who took the league by storm, along with wide receiver Cam Phillips, and led the XFL in passing offense among plenty other offensive categories.

The Carolina Panthers awarded the former Temple Owl with a two-

year, \$1.565 million deal to reunite him with his college head coach, Matt Rhule, who took over the reins of the Panthers this offseason.

Altogether, the Houston defense led the XFL in total tackles (321), sacks (15), pass breakups (31), forced and recovered fumbles (5) and overall turnover differential (+8).

The league-leader in interceptions, cornerback Deatrick Nichols, as well as linebackers DeMarquis Gates and Edmond Robinson, earned one-year, \$610,000 deals from the New Orleans Saints, Minnesota Vikings and Atlanta Falcons, respectively, to round out the Roughnecks' signings.

Three New York Guardians, two St. Louis BattleHawks, Dallas Renegades and D.C. Defenders each, as well as a Tampa Bay Viper, all got the call to the NFL.



COURTESY PHOTO

Houston Roughnecks quarterback P.J. Walker signed with the Carolina Panthers, becoming the first of four Roughnecks to find a home in the NFL. He is pictured here in a game against the Dallas Renegades on March 1, at Globe Life Park in Arlington.

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CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY, CONTROL THE SPREAD,
SAVE LIVES

Houston is strong. When confronted with adversity, we band together and overcome. And though this coronavirus pandemic is unprecedented, we face it the same way — together.

Houston Methodist would like to thank our employees, physicians, scientists and all health care workers who are committed to helping the community. Together we can make our city healthy and vibrant again.

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