

# Katy Times

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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

## Texas works to reduce spread

By ED STERLING  
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Testing, sanitizing and emergency food benefits increased as Texas entered its third month of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notably, Gov. Greg Abbott released a statement concerning an outbreak of the deadly coronavirus in Amarillo, where more than 700 cases were reported on May 16. The report came after the governor's Surge Response Teams conducted site surveys and testing in high-risk areas, including meat-packing facilities in the Amarillo area. Two more weeks of testing would be conducted in high-risk areas, Abbott said.

Abbott on May 13 announced that Texas National Guard disinfection teams operating in coordination with the Texas Department of State Health Services have been deployed to help limit the spread of the deadly coronavirus in nursing homes.

Major Gen. Tracy R. Norris, adjutant general of Texas National Guard, said each of the six teams on duty across the state received training from the Texas Military Department's 6th Civil Support Team, which specializes in manmade and natural disaster assessment and rapid response in hazardous environments.

The Texas National Guard also fights the COVID-19 pandemic by providing personal protective equipment manufacturing support, food bank support, mobile COVID-19 testing and points of distribution for essential items.

Last week, as more Texans increased public activities, official data showed COVID-19 is not contained. On May 17, cumulative figures posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed that some 47,784 people in Texas had been



ED STERLING

See **RAISED**, page 3

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May 21, 2020  
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## Groff gives virtual address

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

Fulshear Mayor Aaron Groff took to the city's YouTube channel to give his annual State of the City address. During the nearly ten-minute video Groff covered the city's economy

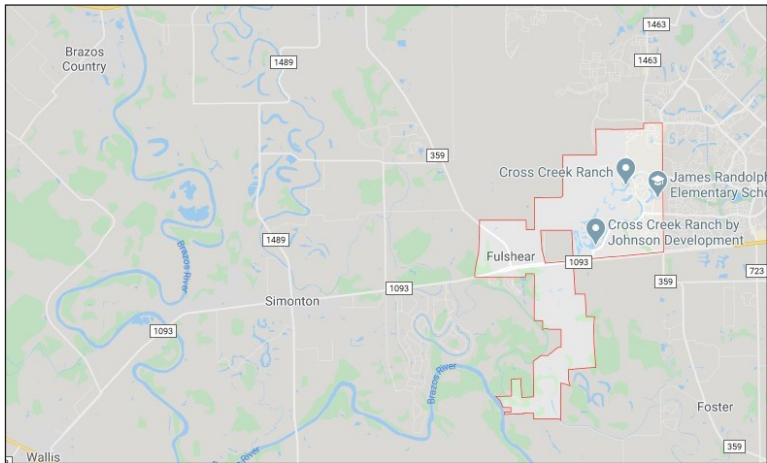
"Usually we would love to do this in person but given the circumstances this is the best that we're going to be able to do at this time," Groff said.

Groff said that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the city's economy remains strong. Economic strength includes the development of a number of tracts in the city. Strong development includes development agreements with the Blackburn family and Lou Waters for development on their properties and another agreement is being conducted with the owners of the former Fulshear Farms for the new Cross Creek West development. There is also



AARON GROFF

See **ADDRESS**, page 3



MAP OF FULSHEAR

Fulshear is growing rapidly from a population of 813 in 2010 to a projected October 2020 population of slightly more than 16,000. Mayor Aaron Groff discussed how the city is working to address that growth through mobility, water infrastructure and other projects.

## REMEMBERED

### Former Katy Mayor Ward Stanberry honored by community

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

Family and close friends met May 15 at Katy Magnolia Cemetery to honor former Katy Mayor Ward Stanberry, but for most, they weren't honoring him for his actions as mayor. They were honoring him for being their family, friend and a pillar of the community that was always there to help solve problems and bring people together with humility and grace.

"He united the city," long-time friend David Frishman said. "We were having some problems. Some people thought we weren't being fair (and that) started to get a Republican-Democrat separation."

Frishman said Stanberry had been more than just mayor. After serving in World War II and coming moving to Katy, Stanberry had married his high school sweetheart, Marilyn Stockdick. He served his community for years on Katy City Council and in various organizations throughout the community, Frishman said. Stanberry was a founding member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 in Katy, served on Katy's Home Rule Charter Commission and ran a successful insurance company in town for many years, Frishman said.

Frishman said Stanberry had always been eager to serve his community and his country. As a boy, Stanberry had tried to enlist in the military after hearing Theodore Roosevelt's call to arms speech given Dec. 7, 1941. Stanberry wasn't old enough to join at the time and the recruiter told him to finish high school and come back. In 1942, Stanberry joined the U.S. Navy, Frishman said.

Stanberry was always active in the community, Katy Mayor Bill Hastings said.

"I know that he has always been a big part of whatever was taking place in the city. He started back in the early 60s as a councilman and then as Mayor Pro Tem," Hastings said.



The Katy Heritage Society took to Facebook to express the organization's sense of loss caused by Stanberry's passing and to express condolences to his family and the community at large. Stanberry was a longtime supporter of community organizations such as the Katy Heritage Society, his friend David Frishman said.

See **REMEMBERED**, page 5

## Brookshire Bros locations raising funds

By R. HANS MILLER  
TIMES SENIOR REPORTER

Brookshire Brothers has announced that the store will be matching donations up to \$100,000 that shoppers donate to help those negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic – either through health outcomes or economic effects, the company announced Thursday.

"The money customers give in each Brookshire Brothers or David's store, as well as the company's matching funds, will be distributed in that town to nonprofits or food pantries that do hunger relief," said Brookshire Brothers Senior Director of Marketing and Public Relations Sally Alvis in a press release.

Both Katy and Brookshire have Brookshire Brothers locations. The Katy location is located at 5249 Franz Road just across from Katy Junior High School. The Brookshire location can be found at 3523 South Front Street in Brookshire.

The program was developed after speaking with community partners and realizing a need for residents to be able to support their communities and after getting



R. HANS MILLER

The Brookshire Brothers store in Katy is raising money to assist Katy Christian Ministries while the Brookshire location is raising funds to help the Brookshire Pattison Food Pantry.

See **FUNDS**, page 5





BOOK REVIEW

The other plot to kill the president

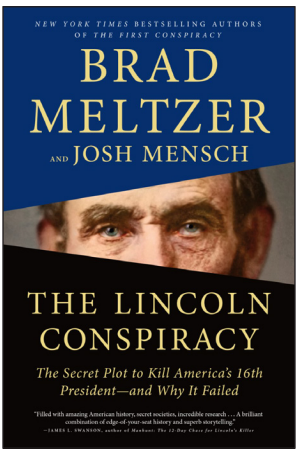
By JOE SOUTHERN  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Anyone who has ever studied United States history in school knows about John Wilkes Booth and the plot to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

What most people don't know is that wasn't the first time there was an attempt on Lincoln's life. In "The Lincoln Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill America's 16th President – and Why It Failed" by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch details the tumultuous election of 1860 and the plot by a secret society of Southern slaveholders to murder the president-elect on his way to his own inauguration.

Although the end of the story is obvious – the plot is foiled and Lincoln goes on to become one of the greatest presidents the country has ever known – it's the journey that Lincoln and the reader take to get there that becomes a spellbinding ride.

"We all know the end of the story, but this is the



beginning," Meltzer said in a phone interview with The Sealy News.

The book follows the same flashback fashion that Meltzer and Mensch used in last year's "The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington." We get snippets of current events reinforced by flashes of the past to further enhance our understanding of the significance of what's happening now.

"The story is told in the present tense," Meltzer said,

explaining that he wants the reader to experience events the same way they unfolded in real life 160 years ago.

The book begins at the climax of the story where Abraham Lincoln is being secreted in the dead of night on a train bound for Washington, D.C., through Maryland and the deadly trap that awaits him. He is escorted by Kate Warne, the country's first female private detective and a member of Allan Pinkerton's famed detective agency. Meltzer then peels back the pages of history and gives us an unblemished look at Lincoln's hardscrabble beginnings and the crushing losses of loved ones he experienced early in life. Meltzer and Mensch take us on a journey through Lincoln's life, his self-education, and his acceptance of who he is despite his tall, gangly, and roughhewn exterior, shaped by hard labor and extreme poverty.

"This is the story of the American Dream," Meltzer said.

This is also the second

time Meltzer has delved into Lincoln's early years. In 2014 he published the children's book "I am Abraham Lincoln" as part of his Ordinary People Change the World series. In the series, Meltzer delves into the lives of real heroes and explores the ordinary events that shaped them into the world-changers they became.

"They help us become better versions of ourselves," Meltzer said.

Meltzer noted there are many parallels between what happened in the election of 1860 and the political climate of 2020. The country is sharply divided, and the president is the lightning rod.

"The one thing the country can agree on right now is Abraham Lincoln," he said.

In Lincoln's time, the issue was slavery and Americans were sharply divided over the subject. It was tearing the country apart.

"Whatever side you are on you hated the other people ... sound familiar?" Meltzer said.

Meltzer is the nation's nooks and crannies historian who dumpster dives into the dustbin of history and tells thrilling tales around obscure people and events. It's what he does in his fictional thrillers and it's what he's doing now in his nonfiction presidential conspiracy books. He and Mensch began working together on Meltzer's television shows "Decoded" and "Lost History" and they continued their relationship into print. Mensch is a documentary television producer and is well versed in the art of historic research. Meltzer said they hold a general discussion about the story they want to tell and then Mensch takes it from there.

"Josh always does the first draft and then I come in and read and re-write," he said.

After unraveling plots against Washington and Lincoln, Meltzer said they are contemplating another presidential mystery, but he is not ready to say what that will be just yet. In the meantime he is promoting his newest children's books about Benjamin Franklin and Anne Frank and putting the finishing touches on his next thriller, a sequel to "The Escape Artist."

Several ways to prevent summer learning loss

Summer vacation presents an opportunity for students to enjoy an extended break from the classroom. While this respite from routine may be a welcome change to youngsters, teachers frequently lament that valuable educational lessons seem to be forgotten each summer. Educators then face tougher hurdles when students return to school in the fall.

Such a phenomenon is dubbed "summer learning loss," but it can occur during any extended break from school. Scholars have realized for some time that students' rate of academic development declines during summer vacation. Oxford Learning, a tutoring and education training group, offers these eye-opening statistics.

- Over the summer, students tend to lose 2.6 months of math skills and two months of reading skills.

- Summer learning loss can be seen in students as young as six.
- It can take up to two months from the first day of school to get students' brain development back on course.

Summer learning loss, sometimes called "brain drain," can be prevented. Proponents of year-round schooling at The National Association for Year-Round Education recommend a more balanced school year, where summer vacation lasts only 30 days and other school breaks are lengthened. In this scenario, the school year would still last about 180 days, but without the lengthy breaks.

Parents may prefer the status quo, and those who do can take several steps to prevent summer learning loss from affecting their children.

- Encourage more reading. Schools recommend summer reading lists, but students

should also learn to read for pleasure. Research from the National Literary Trust indicates reading for pleasure can improve reading attainment and writing, as well as one's general knowledge. Children can bring books to the beach that they can read between frolicking sessions in the waves.

- Enjoy family game nights. Games can be customized to highlight certain skills that require reinforcement. For example, math-centered games that require counting or addition can strengthen generalized math skills. Problem-solving board games may help children become better critical thinkers.

- Make vacations educational. Add travel to historical sites or other places of interest to help history come alive. When visiting new towns and cities, read the placards that explain important moments in history that took place in each town or city, making sure to include some thought-provoking areas of interest on your itinerary.

- Look for science moments. Trips to the seaside, parks and much more present myriad opportunities to learn about science. Children can stage their own experiments with items they find in nature, such as learning about tides, wind and water flow by sailing homemade boats.

- Teach kids through daily tasks. Barbecuing, making a cake, building a raised garden bed, seeding the lawn. Each of these moments present educational opportunities for parents who want to keep their kids' minds sharp during summer.

Children need not fall victim to summer learning loss when their days are filled with educational but fun activities.

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Katy Times

SUDOKU

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

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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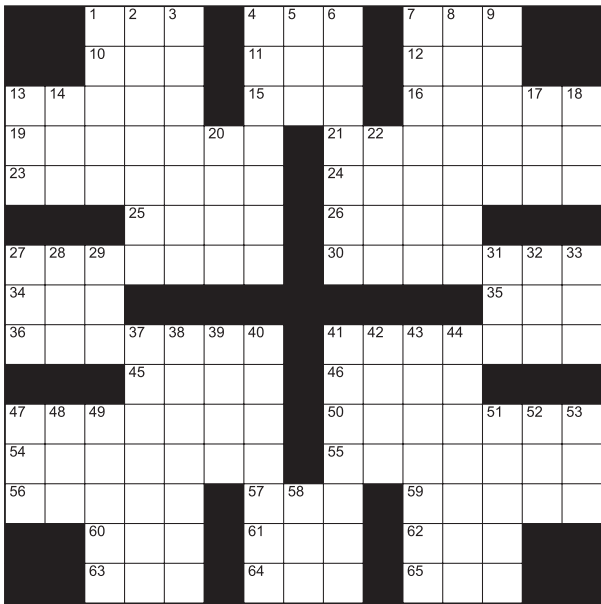
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. It's now called Experian
4. You can draw it
7. Very fast aircraft
10. Go quickly
11. Fifth note of a major scale
12. Biochemical abbreviation
13. Make somebody laugh
15. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
16. City in NE Morocco
19. Colorless gas
21. NE football player
23. A snake is one
24. Small spot
25. Inform
26. Republic of Ireland
27. Large statues
30. Documents about an individual
34. Helps little firms
35. Namibia's former name
36. Large insects
41. Thirsty
45. A well-defined track or path
46. One who utilizes
47. Plant-eating mammals
50. Not in tip-top shape
54. Alternate names
55. A part of a broadcast serial
56. City in central Italy
57. LOTR actor McKellen
59. Trees provide it
60. Men's fashion accessory
61. Type of screen
62. Snakelike fish
63. Possesses
64. When you aim to get there
65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

1. Hit heavily



2. Italian rice dish
3. Some are cocktail
4. A citizen of Israel
5. Read-only memory
6. Passed by
7. Northern diving ducks
8. References
9. Iranian language
13. Swiss river
14. Woman (French)
17. Gov't department (abbr.)
18. Consumed
20. Ailments
22. Balkan Jewish appetizer
27. Reciprocal of a sine
28. Skywalker mentor \_\_-Wan
29. Resinous secretion of insects
31. Similar
32. Female sheep
33. Cool!
37. Borders the Adriatic Sea
38. Flowers
39. It's sometimes upped
40. Immobility
41. Female body parts
42. Common request
43. Made a second thrust
44. Fell into deep sleep
47. Subway resident
48. Brew
49. The event of being born
51. Aspirations
52. Doctor of Education
53. Punk musician \_\_ Dee Ramone
58. A subdivision of a play

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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## ADDRESS

from page 1

a development on the Hatcher tract, which is in the final stages, he said.

Groff said the development agreements were coming up due to the growth the city continues to see.

"And we do our very best to manage that growth in light of all that's happening, in fact, even during COVID-19 we are seeing inspections that are exceeding at times 100 a day," Groff said.

That number is steady when compared to the timeframe right before the new coronavirus pandemic, Groff said.

Fulshear remains fiscally strong, Groff said. Sales tax returns for March were up more than 10% compared to March 2019. However, Groff said the city does not anticipate that same situation for the Month of April because some businesses in the city turn in sales tax proceeds quarterly and that was reflected in the March reports.

"We do remain cautiously optimistic that things continue to stay strong in the city of Fulshear," Groff said. "It's been a monumental year here as development not only continues as we manage that growth, but as (residents) know (FM 1093) ... is completed."

Groff said the city was excited about the added mobility the completed roadway brings and thanked Fort Bend County Commissioner for Precinct 3 Andy Meyers for his efforts to push the project to completion.

The Fulshear City Council understand the city needs additional mobility and is working to extend Huggins Drive from Charger Way near Fulshear High School to FM 359 and possibly to Wallis.

"That Huggins project really should begin to see some momentum and movement in the next few days as the (development agreements) get finalized, as right-of-way acquisition is finalized and the county begins work on the Huggins (Drive) extension," Groff said.

Texas Heritage Parkway – a planned roadway spanning from FM 1093 near Fulshear to the intersection of I-10 and Pedersen Road near Katy – should break ground soon as well after Fulshear City Council approved its portion of the agreement for developing the roadway in March, Groff said.

Katy City Council approved its agreement related to Texas Heritage Parkway during its last meeting, with Katy's funding in the amount of \$6 million coming from the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County which must be used for mobility projects.

The project will occur in three sections which will be built simultaneously, Groff said, giving the area a

northwest corridor with access to I-10 in seven to eight minutes.

Groff said the city has also been able to renegotiate the agreements with the Cross Creek Ranch and Fulbrook on Fulshear Creek municipal utility districts. The agreements allow the city financial flexibility to better manage development, Groff said.

The city is moving forward with its Water and Wastewater Master Plan, Groff said. The plan includes partnering with the Gulf Coast Water Authority and with the Gulf Coast Authority to bring a wastewater treatment plant south of Fulshear. Design on the facility is currently underway, Groff said, and he expects the long-term impact of the overall project to be a boon to the area.

Water and wastewater lines have been installed along FM 359, Groff said.

"Those now extend past Rogers Road and will continue to facilitate much-needed infrastructure throughout our city," Groff said.

City Council and city staff are also in the final stages of reviewing the city's regulations, Groff said. They believe that, had COVID-19 not hit the area, the city would have been completed with the project, he said. Public meetings are one of the last steps in finalizing the project.

The first phase of the Primrose Park project is done and a ribbon cutting should happen soon to open the park up to the public, Groff said.

"As we continue to move forward, manage the growth and do the best that we can for our citizens, I want you to know that I'm going to continue to push for legislation that holds the (Fort Bend County Appraisal District) accountable in the coming years as property values continue to rise," Groff said.

Groff said Fulshear's property tax rate is the lowest in Fort Bend County other than Stafford which doesn't have a property tax. Groff has said he has already asked the appraisal district to reevaluate their plan to reevaluate property values throughout the city because he believes it is an unfair tax burden for residents.

The city's tax rate is 0.218510 per \$100 valuation according to the Fort Bend County Tax Assessor/Collector's website.

As part of his legislative efforts, Groff said he is trying to push to allow a Fulshear representative to sit on the managing board for the Fort Bend County Subsidence District as well.

"We're excited about what's happening in Fulshear and in this season I ask that you continue to stay safe and to stay strong," Groff said. "I look forward to seeing you all in person very very soon."

Note: To view the full address, visit <https://youtu.be/bJsYankV-SY>.



A debate regarding whether to expand mail-in voting has mostly split along party lines throughout the state with Democrats in favor in expansion due to COVID-19 concerns and Republicans maintaining a position against in-person voting due to legal requirements for mail-in voting has made its way to the Texas Supreme Court.

## RAISED

from page 1

diagnosed with COVID-19 and 1,336 deaths resulting from the influenza-like virus had been confirmed.

### Order: Test nursing homes

Gov. Abbott on May 11 directed the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Texas Department of State Health Services to test 100% of residents and staff in Texas nursing homes. The collaboration of those agencies, Abbott said, would "ensure that any potential clusters of COVID-19 cases in nursing homes are quickly detected and contained."

### Food benefits announced

Gov. Abbott on May 12 announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide more than \$1 billion in food benefits through the federal Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program to families with children who have temporarily lost access to free or discounted school meals due to COVID-19-related school closures.

The program, to be administered through the state health department, the Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas Education Agency, provides a one-time benefit of \$285 per child. The benefit can be used in the same way as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits to pay for groceries. Visit [www.hhs.texas.gov/pebt](http://www.hhs.texas.gov/pebt) to learn more.

### Hospitals receive antiviral

The Texas Department of State Health Services, with FDA approval, on May 12 distributed 1,200 vials of the antiviral drug remdesivir to hospitals to treat patients with COVID-19.

Clinical trials of the antiviral drug reportedly have sped up by several days the recovery time of COVID-19 patients. Remdesivir was provided to the DSHS by the federal

government from a supply donated by Gilead, the manufacturer.

Hospitals in these cities received shipments of remdesivir: Amarillo, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Laredo, Lubbock, McAllen, Odessa, San Antonio, Tyler and Waco.

### Mail-in ballots thwarted

Texans who wanted to vote by mail to reduce their exposure to COVID-19 still must go to their polling place if they plan to cast an election ballot, pursuant to a stay granted by the Texas Supreme Court on May 15.

In effect, the stay accepts an argument lodged by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who said Texas law prohibits a registered voter who is not disabled, not over age 65 and not an absentee from voting by mail-in ballot. Paxton said Texans should not be allowed to vote by mail merely because they fear contracting the deadly coronavirus if they must vote in person.

Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa issued a statement in response to the high court's action, saying, "This is a dark day for our democracy. The Republican Texas Supreme Court is wrong to force the people of Texas to choose between their health and their right to vote. They would have Texans die, just so they can hold on to power."

### Sales tax holidays set

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar last week promoted the state's Water-Efficient Products and ENERGY STAR® sales tax holidays, May 23-25.


"Inefficient appliances and outdated water systems put a tremendous strain on our power grids and water supplies," Hegar said. "Even in these uncertain times, Texans can take advantage of this sales tax holiday to buy more energy-efficient items, support local businesses and save money. You can practice social distancing and other precautionary measures when shopping in person or shop online. Qualifying products are tax free."

More information regarding sales tax holidays is available at [www.comptroller.texas.gov](http://www.comptroller.texas.gov).

## KATY TIMES

## PET OF THE WEEK

### MEET ROUX



Roux came in with his brother Leo at 11 months old. He enjoys lounging in the sun and cuddles.

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# Invasion of the murder hornets

The murder hornets don't stand a chance. We're still amid a pandemic that has dragged on way too long, producing far too many bizarre, exaggerated doomsday scenarios on social media.

Some of our political leaders are enjoying absolute power a little too absolutely.

Conspiracy theorists claim Bill Gates, who's probably an extraterrestrial, purposely spread COVID-19 because he wants to implant computer chips in us – or something like that.

And now the murder hornets are coming?

Also called Asian giant hornets, these ghastly bugs look like creatures from a 1950s horror flick.

Approximately 2 inches long, they slaughter honeybees by ripping their heads off, and their menacing yellow-orange noggins make them look like extraterrestrials – the way Bill Gates' real head looks when he removes his human mask at home every night.

So far, these giant icky bugs have been spotted in Washington state and Canada. Now that the scariest coronavirus stories are losing their edge, the murder hornets' murderous ways offer a fresh round of stories, true and false, to scare the bejesus out of us.

These stories will surely be featured in the news soon:

"Actual murderers are offended that entomologists are demeaning their life's work by naming a foreign bug after their profession."

"The Council of Global Bug Integration accuses federal officials of jingoistic propaganda and creating antipathy for people from a particular region of the world by referring to America's newest hornet as the 'Asian giant hornet.'"

"The murder hornet can fly 20 mph and kill more than 50 people every year, but when it's pan-fried and seared, it makes a tasty dinner – one with the potential to positively impact the effects of climate change in America and the world."

There was once great hope that in the age of digitization and incredible computing power, human beings, with access to limitless sources



TOM PURCELL  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

of knowledge, would become smarter – that our judgment would be improved by factual information, science and sound reasoning.

That hope fell to pieces faster than the 1970s killer bee scare, which terrorized my otherwise placid childhood.

There was once hope that this pandemic would bring us together – that we'd collaborate more, and quibble less, to do what we can to address this great challenge.

But the polar opposite has happened. The pandemic has done more to illustrate our deep divisions than to heal them. Many have used our powerful technology platforms to scare and misinform their fellow human beings, rather than to enlighten them.

It's regrettable, but it's so.

After two months under lockdown, we're tired of worrying, tired of our politicians posturing, and eager to get back to normal.

I'd give anything to visit an Irish pub for a pint and some camaraderie. I long for a conversation about the meaning of life, car tires and how bad the Pirates' losing record will be this year.

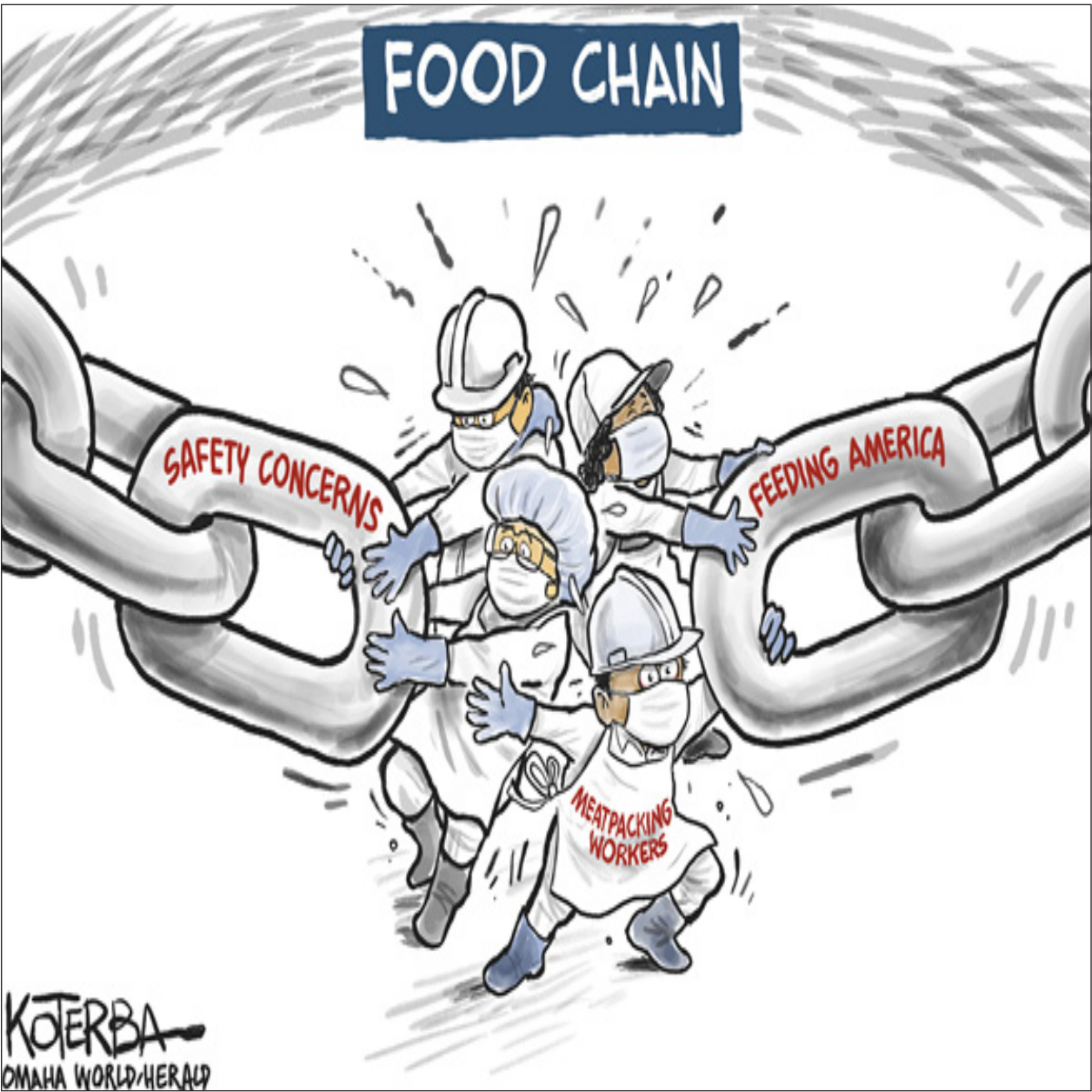
So I feel bad for the murder hornets.

You have the stuff of greatness, my homicidal wasp friends – your terrifying faces, your enormous size, your ridiculously direct name – but your timing is way off.

As states begin to reopen, our news outlets and social media fanatics are firing off new rounds of scary pandemic material.

If I were you, murder hornets, I'd hire a better publicist, fly back home and sit out your invasion for another year.

Tom Purcell, author of "Misadventures of a 1970's Childhood," a humorous memoir available at amazon.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Send comments to Tom at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



# Are you a terrible conversationalist?

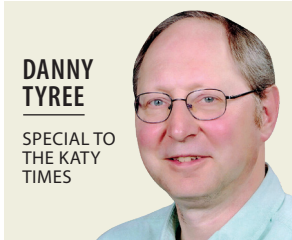
One of my biggest pet peeves: people who can't hold up their end of a conversation.

Oh, I'm not saying that every single human being is obligated to bring jaw-dropping factoids, whimsical quips and provocative perspectives to every mundane conversation.

But listeners could at least honor speakers with something more interactive than banal "filler" material like "Uh huh," "Well, I'll be!" and "How do ya like that?"

If you reveal, "I lost my wallet on vacation, but a former U.S. president volunteered to pay for my meal," people with an adequate number of neurons should have a few logical FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS, not "I guess sometimes things happen that way."

"Really?" grates on my nerves. If I announce, "A cop just gave me a citation because I had a defective brake light," don't blurt out, "Really?" ("Okay – a cop METAPHORICALLY gave me a citation because I had a defective brake light. The new police chief had



DANNY TYREE  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

a double major of Law Enforcement and English, so the siren has been replaced by an officer sitting on the squad car reciting SON-NETS...")

When I get fired up about a topic, I want my audience to share the similar life experiences that help them empathize with me. A colloquial "I hear ya" doesn't cut it. ("You hear me? Good! The auditory portion of the exam is concluded. Now turn your head and COUGH, Mr. Personality!")

If I bring you a reasonably plausible icebreaker (like "I finally changed chiropractors"), let the exchange follow a logical progression. I don't need to hear "No kidding?" ("Yes, I'm kidding you. It's all a

practice run for perpetrating a hoax on Col. Klink and helping those French resistance fighters escape from Stalag 13! Remember: loose lips sink ships!")

Don't think you can impress me by interjecting, "Don't that beat all!" ("Don't it beat all? Well, the Angel of Death with a royal flush would probably come closer to beating all, but we're here to talk about anti-vaxxers instead of theology...")

Poor conversationalists suck all the joy out of good news. If I announce receiving a 50-cent raise, I want to hear, "You deserve it, for your hard work on that big project" or "Hey, maybe we can afford that road trip now." It just falls with a thud when I get a response of "Huh! Is that right?" ("Is it right? Well, it's TRUE. As to whether it's RIGHT, now you've got me questioning everything. I WAS going to thank my boss, but now I'll just bulldoze the place down and give the land back to the Native Americans.")

Apparently, some conversations invite the old-timey exclamation "Well, did you ever?" (Picture a matronly Southern lady like Aunt Bee.) Example: You tell a friend that, according to "Discover" magazine, some quantum physicists think humans are on the verge of achieving time travel. "Well, did you ever?" ("Me? Obviously not. Because if I had, I'd be off visiting Napoleon or Marie Curie instead of tolerating this conversation.")

Finally, courts have ruled that "Imagine that!" constitutes fighting words. If I tell you, "I've cut my fingertip off with a skill saw," don't say, "Imagine that!" ("I don't have to IMAGINE it, you chowderhead! It's right here in this paper napkin! Get me to the emergency room! And don't stop for the police – even if they're firing allegories at us!")

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

# Katy Times

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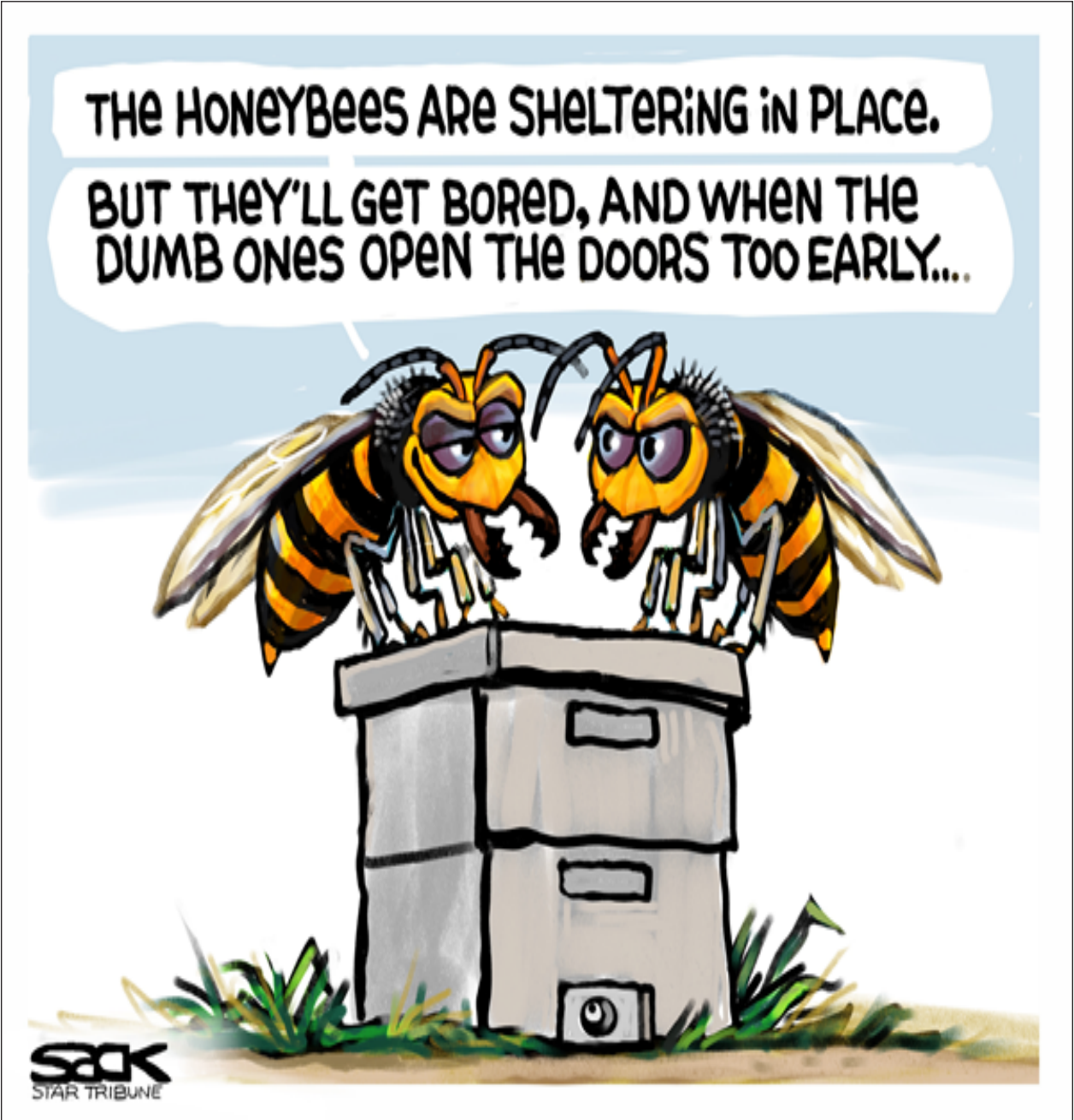
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REMEMBERED

from page 1

According to his family, Stenberry served three terms on city council, beginning in 1961. Stanberry served his last council term as Mayor Pro Tem. He then served on the Home Rule Charter Commission, the Charter Review Commission and the city's Flood Control Committee and several others.

He served as mayor from 1988 to 1991 and owned an insurance company in town, Hastings said.

Frishman and Hastings both praised Stanberry for his passion for helping others.

Hastings fondly remembered Stanberry taking bike rides on an old-fashioned bike morning and evening prior to his health beginning to decline. He said Stanberry was always there with advice and a friendly smile whenever one encountered him.

Frishman said he remembered his friend regularly stepping in to help folks. whether it was to solve some dispute that had arisen in the community or to help someone with financial problems, Stanberry



COURTESY DAVID FRISHMAN

Stanberry served on the Katy Home Rule Charter Committee in the late 1970s as Katy grew into the city it is today. He also served as a city council member and mayor pro tem while operating his own insurance company.

always wanted to lift others up, Frishman said.

“If somebody had problems, Ward would be behind the scenes helping out and he never wanted credit for it,” Frishman said.

Former Katy Mayor Chuck Brawner said that while he didn’t work a great deal with Stanberry, he knew him as a part of the group of former mayors that serves as its backbone in preserving the city’s heritage.



COURTESY DAVID FRISHMAN

Former Katy Mayor Ward Stanberry was a Rotarian for many years and served in at least two officer’s positions during his tenure with the Rotary Club of Katy. He was also a World War II veteran and one of the founding members of the local VFW post.

“He seemed like a very fair and honorable person that really cared for the city,” Brawner said.

Hastings agreed and said Stanberry was always there for the community and was a very loved mayor and businessman.

“He had a deep love for Katy,

Texas and never met anyone that was a stranger to him,” Hastings said. “He was a great, great man and he will be terribly missed by a whole lot of people.”

To find out more about Stanberry, see his obituary on page A7.

FUNDS

from page 1

feedback that local food pantries might have a hard time getting federal funds when competing with regional food pantries such as the Houston Food Bank, Brookshire Brothers Marketing Project Manager Adam Lowther said. He added that part of the inspiration from the program came from the Brown Bags for Hope program Brookshire Brothers has operated for some time now in order to meet the needs of the communities its stores serve.

Proceeds from the Brookshire location will be going directly to the Brookshire Pattison Food Pantry, Lowther said. Funds raised at the Katy location will be going to Katy Christian Ministries, he said.

“It does bring hope to our social services team and the organization as a whole because I know that we have a long road

ahead of us helping those families affected by the pandemic,” said Katy Christian Ministries Executive Director Deysi Crespo.

Crespo said that, since the pandemic began, KCM has received more than 3,000 calls asking for food and financial assistance to help make ends meet.

Crespo said she appreciated KCM’s partnership with Brookshire Brothers which helps the ministry meet the needs of the community which is KCM’s primary goal.

When the topic of the Brookshire Brothers donation was brought up, Crespo said she was very excited about what it meant for the community.

“That’s amazing. That is just beautiful,” Crespo said. “That to me in itself speaks to the heart of our whole community that we care for one another and it’s that compassion that in times of need that allows us to rely on our faith to move forward on our own resiliency and on our community.”



KCM PHOTO

Katy Christian Ministries volunteers and staff are set up to distribute food to community members in need while still practicing social distancing during the new coronavirus pandemic. Food pantries across the region have said they are seeing a much higher than normal demand for services.



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## Tompkins sweeps 19-6A soccer MVPs

By COLE McNANNA  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The spring sports season was cut short due to the new coronavirus pandemic and the soccer postseason was just about ready to start with the final two regular-season games to be played after spring break.

Instead, the UIL canceled remaining activities in mid-April but district coaches have continued honoring all-district selections and released the 19-6A soccer all-district teams.

The girls' all-district teams were highlighted by the district-leading Tompkins Lady Falcons who had nine student-athletes make an all-district team as well as the overall MVP and defensive MVP.

Tompkins senior Skylar Parker was voted as the overall District 19-6A MVP and junior teammate Avery Burchett was awarded Defensive MVP honors for the Lady Falcons who finished the shortened season atop the standings with a 9-0-1 record in district play. Six Tompkins student-athletes earned all-district first-team honors and three more earned a spot on the all-district second team.

The second-place Seven Lakes Lady Spartans (8-1-2 in District 19-6A) led the group with the most all-district selections with 12, half of which were first-team selections and three each were first team and honorable mention.

Fourth-place Taylor (3-5-2 in District 19-6A) might have had the lowest amount of all-district selections with eight but Mustang junior Sydney Blanchard was awarded Goalkeeper of the Year and head coach Mike Agiannidis took home Coach of the Year honors for clinching a postseason berth for the first time in three years.

Cinco Ranch finished in third with a 4-3-3 record while Katy (2-4-4), Morton Ranch (3-7-1) and Mayde Creek (0-9-1) sat outside the playoff picture although all schools had nine representatives make an all-district list.

The Tompkins boys' soccer team similarly led the district with the overall and defensive MVPs and had seven student-athletes earn all-district recognition after a third-place finish and 7-3 record in District 19-6A. Danny Espinoza represented the Falcons by being named the overall MVP and Naval Academy commit Bryce Robisch took home Defensive Player of the Year honors with another year left for the Tompkins football club.

The top two boys' teams in the group were Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch who tied atop the standings with 8-1-1 records although it was Seven Lakes who led the district with 10 all-district selections. Both the Spartans and Cougars were named co-district champions following the district executive committee's decision. The two teams also had representatives earn Offensive Player of the Year (Seven Lakes' Thomas Murray) and the Newcomer of the Year (Cinco Ranch's Danny Vargas).

Taylor (4-5-1 in District 19-6A) had the final playoff spot wrapped up and first-year head coach Julio Rivas was awarded the Coach of the Year for his efforts, sweeping the distinction for the Mustangs.

Morton Ranch (3-8-0) and Mayde Creek (2-6-2) similarly had eight all-district representatives although both were outside of the playoff picture. Katy (0-9-1) rounded out the district and had six student-athletes honored with all-district honors.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tompkins junior defender Bryce Robisch was awarded with 19-6A's Defensive MVP of the district following a coronavirus-shortened regular season. Robisch is committed to play soccer at the United States Naval Academy.



MARK GOODMAN

Seven Lakes' Lexi Peterson (3) was one of 12 Lady Spartans earning all-district recognition after a 9-0-1 season in District 19-6A although the regular season was cut short due to the new coronavirus pandemic. Pictured is Peterson making a pass during the I-10 Soccer Shootout in a match between Seven Lakes and George Ranch at Legacy Stadium in Katy on Jan. 11, 2020.

### 19-6A BOYS' ALL-DISTRICT SOCCER TEAM

#### FIRST TEAM

**SEVEN LAKES:** JP Dominguez; Santiago Brignone; Nico Garcia; Rodrigo Lazo; Diego Lazo  
**CINCO RANCH:** Roger Sanguinetti; Jack Taylor; Andre Liendo; Khalil Khenayzir  
**TOMPKINS:** David Montes; Steven Ndong; Jose Maria Ojeda; Paulo Valente  
**TAYLOR:** Chance Arney; Nathan Casazza; Andrey Millan  
**MAYDE CREEK:** Kobe Perlaza; Ever Alvarado  
**MORTON RANCH:** Syed Zain; Kevin Sanchez  
**KATY:** Samuel Sanchez

#### SECOND TEAM

**SEVEN LAKES:** Luciano Torres; Vicente Garcia; Ty Koc.  
**CINCO RANCH:** Nicolaus Poulus; Sebastian Rodriguez  
**TOMPKINS:** Rafa Gonzales-Socas  
**TAYLOR:** Oliver Cedillo; Enoch Adegbola; Niilo Hanninen  
**MAYDE CREEK:** Achraf Bnider; Marvin Sura; Ronaldo Fuentes; Elias Cruz  
**MORTON RANCH:** Andrew Hernandez; Sam Parra; Enrique Salazar; Kevin Resendez  
**KATY:** Jacob Smith; Zach Guerra; Tyler Morgan

#### HONORABLE MENTION

**SEVEN LAKES:** Javier Ranz; Sebastian Bortolin  
**CINCO RANCH:** Andrew Popkowski; Hunter Cane  
**TOMPKINS:** Arlen Oni; Charles Nyampfumba  
**TAYLOR:** David Cedillo; Vian Janse  
**MAYDE CREEK:** Fawaz Ajiteru; Brandon Gasca  
**MORTON RANCH:** Mehmed Ibisevuc; Victor Depetris  
**KATY:** Nemanja Lazic; Fuller Shurtz

### 19-6A GIRLS' ALL-DISTRICT SOCCER TEAM

#### FIRST TEAM

**CINCO RANCH:** Ashley Bencivengo; Lindsay Moore; McKenzie Chew  
**Katy:** Yamila Lara; Grace Hunter; Sarah Pattillo  
**MAYDE CREEK:** Kirsten Baxa; Emma Arroyo  
**MORTON RANCH:** Victoria Ruvalcaba; Sommone Sesay; Ashley Martinez  
**SEVEN LAKES:** Peyton Guidry; Phoebe Harpole; Paige Boucher; Maddie Rich; Macie Nguyen; Katie Fitzpatrick  
**TAYLOR:** Alexa Blake; Camille Robinson  
**TOMPKINS:** Lauryn Wild; Valeria Gomez; Felicia Hernandez; Jules Haro; Terin Graham; Sofie Wolf

#### SECOND TEAM

**CINCO RANCH:** Trinity Schaffer; Izzy Rodriguez; Gaby Vanegas  
**KATY:** Alison Spavale; Jocelyn Espinosa; Ally Spicker  
**MAYDE CREEK:** Yaisa Reyes; Alexsa Rivera; Queila Jimenez; Sujeyli Rocha  
**MORTON RANCH:** Andrea Rivas; Samantha Copeland; Nathalie Flores  
**SEVEN LAKES:** Abby Nowak; Cassie Trevino; Lexi Peterson  
**TAYLOR:** Mara Ramazanoglu; Lillyanna Ash; Gabby Magana  
**TOMPKINS:** Alyssa Garcia; Gabriela Rodriguez; Jennifer Pham

#### HONORABLE MENTION

**CINCO RANCH:** Junel Quintero; Alex Cupples; Lauren White  
**KATY:** Rebecca Partyka; Angelina Hamberlin; Ashley Alborno  
**MAYDE CREEK:** Tiffanie De La Cruz; Stephanie De La Cruz; Alicia Loera  
**MORTON RANCH:** Ashlyn Duty; Daisani Acevedo; Betsy Alfaro  
**SEVEN LAKES:** Kacey Lawson; Beth Salak; Isabella Castro  
**TAYLOR:** Ellie Cardner; Heather Foster; Summer Calles

## UIL aiming for June 8 to start team conditioning

By COLE McNANNA  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The University Interscholastic League acknowledged Tex. Gov. Greg Abbott's May 18 press conference where sporting events can return on May 31 without fans and released an update that will allow team activities to resume on a limited basis.

"UIL is aware of Gov. Abbott's May 18 announcement and is actively working with appropriate state officials to allow schools to



begin limited summer strength and conditioning and marching band activities on June 8," a tweet

from the UIL account said Tuesday afternoon.

UIL Director of Athletics Susan Eliza also released a statement to athletic directors and head coaches saying communication with more details will be coming, hopefully in the next few days.

"As soon as we have the details of that plan, we will release them to schools to allow time to plan and prepare for bringing students back to campus for these purposes," said Elza later Tuesday afternoon. "We hope to have

those details released to you this week."

The UIL previously canceled all remaining spring activities and winter championships on April 17 and have said they have been working diligently toward a resumption plan. The next UIL Legislative Council meeting will be held on June 16 and 17 via zoom and live streamed on the UIL YouTube page.

Tompkins head football coach/athletic coordinator Todd McVey said he felt encouraged by the

UIL's announcement but remains cautious until the rest of the plan is released.

"All I heard today was they'll look at it and now we wait on the details," McVey said in a May 19 interview. "I'm not making any plans until we get some details and tell us what we can do, because then you'll just start overthinking things. We've been patient for how many months now? We can be patient a little longer and get the details and make sure we're doing right by the kids."

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Ward Allen Stanberry was born on August 12, 1924 in Needles, California to Orville O. and Gladys Viets Stanberry. He graduated from Chalker High School in Southington, Ohio in 1942. In December, 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He graduated and was commissioned from Columbia University Midshipman's School. He served as a lieutenant in the Pacific having shipboard assignments as well as staff on several islands. In 1946, he was released to inactive service after honorably and proudly serving his country during World War II. He then attended Western Michigan University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in June, 1948. One month later, he moved to Katy, Texas, where his parents were living and went to work in the insurance industry as an auditor.

On August 14, 1949, he married Marilyn Stockdick, the daughter of Elmer and Pleasant Garrett Stockdick, of Katy, Texas. This event was the renewal and culmination of a romance that had its beginning when Marilyn was still in high school and Ward was in the Navy.

He was active in the insurance business until January, 1993, when he merged



**WARD ALLEN STANBERRY**  
1924-2020

his insurance agency into Katy Insurance Agency. For several years he was also a licensed real estate agent.

Ward involved himself in civic and city affairs by serving as Election Judge and as Draft Registrar for several years. In 1961, he was elected to the Katy City Council and served three terms – the last as Mayor Pro Tem. He was twice elected Mayor of the City of Katy and served from 1988 to 1991. He was Chairman of the Home Rule Charter Commission from 1979 to 1980 and chaired several subsequent Charter Review Commissions. He was Chairman of the Flood Control Committee for several years, a member of the Zoning Commission in

1983, and Chairman of the Sign Ordinance Revision Committee in 1987.

Ward was a co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Katy Savings and Loan Association as well as a director of Houston Savings Association. He served as chairman of the board of trustees of Katy Medical Center for fourteen years.

In 1957, Ward became a member of the Katy Rotary Club and served as president in 1963. He was a life member and Past Post Commander of Katy V.F.W. Post 9182.

Ward was a member and served on the Board of Trinity Apostolic Faith Church, in Katy. He was co-founder and general manager of Green Meadows Golf Course until July, 2008, when it was sold.

Ward had many interests, foremost being his family and his church. The family took long trips together preferring to drive and see the country up close. An avid reader, he preferred history and history based fiction. Fishing and water skiing were supplanted by golf and snow skiing after Green Meadows was built in 1965. He recorded five holes-in-one and several scores lower than his age. After his retirement and into

his 90's, Ward enjoyed growing beautiful flowers and mowing his oversized yard. He had his family holding their breath as he rode his bicycle several miles every week without the benefit of helmet or reflective vest.

He enjoyed a full and happy life, often observing that, "Any complaints I might make would be out of order."

Ward Allen Stanberry passed away on Monday, May 11, 2020 at his home in Katy, Texas at the age of 95 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn Stanberry, on February 10, 2008.

A graveside service with full military honors and with social distancing in mind was held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, May 15 at Katy Magnolia Cemetery with Rev. Ron Martin and Rev. Phillip Clements officiating.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the Katy V.F.W. Post 9182, P.O. Box 37, Katy, Texas 77492 or to Trinity Apostolic Faith Church, 5900 Tenth Street, Katy, Texas 77493, [www.katyffc.org](http://www.katyffc.org).

Funeral services under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1508 East Avenue in Katy, Texas. They can be reached at 281-391-2424.

## Memorial Day is Monday

By ELISEO "AL" CANTU, JR.  
TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION



Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is a day for Americans to offer tribute and honor to the heroes who laid down their lives to preserve our freedoms.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War. It was not until after World War I, that the day was expanded to honor those service men and women who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was officially declared a national holiday by an act of Congress.

While visiting American graves at Suresnes American Cemetery in France on May 30, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson stated, "The Americans who went to Europe to die are a unique breed.... (They) crossed the seas to a foreign land to fight for a cause which they did not pretend was peculiarly their own, which they knew was the cause of humanity and mankind. These Americans gave the greatest of all gifts, the gift of life and the gift of spirit."

Our commemorative events this year may differ from the past due to the need for health precautions. Though flags may still be placed at graves, traditional gatherings such as parades and reunions may not take place in the same way. Still, we can keep the tradition of Memorial Day with virtual and online events showing our appreciation of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

On this Memorial Day, I ask you to unite with family and friends in a national moment of remembrance at 3:00 p.m. (CDT) to reflect on the sacrifices made in defense of our values and to remember our service members lost in service to our nation.

Today, let us appreciate our freedom, reflect on our history and remember those who gallantly fought and died for each one of us. Their courage and sacrifice will always be honored across this great state, this great nation and most importantly, in our hearts.

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Psalms 94:19

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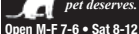
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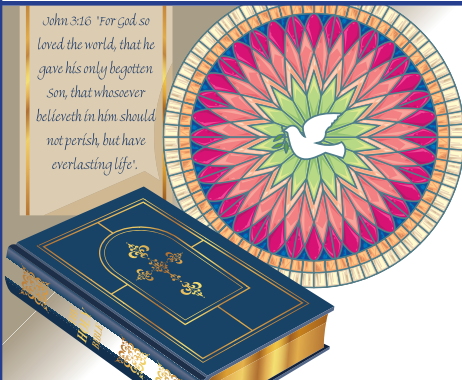


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**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

*When the cares  
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are many,  
your consolations  
cheer my soul.*  
**Psalms 94:19**

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Isaiah 40:31

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

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

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

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**



*When the cares  
of my heart  
are many,  
your consolations  
cheer my soul.*  
**Psalms 94:19**

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*Believe*



# First responders honor doctors, nurses

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

First responders from throughout the Katy area showed up en-masse to show their support for caregivers at Memorial Hermann Katy. Community members joined firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical services professionals for their dedication in fighting for the lives and wellbeing of COVID-19 patients.

The photos here are just a few highlights of that event which Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital Senior Vice President and Chief Executive Officer Heath Rushing called a touching and truly amazing event.

"We recognize the effort and coordination it took to pull off an event like this, and we cannot thank the community enough for coming together to show appreciation to our employees. Our staff is proud to serve this community, and this display of admiration from our first responders and Katy residents truly shows the connection and partnership the community has with us as well. Through both tears and cheers, we at Memorial Hermann Katy were truly moved," Rushing said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HARRIS COUNTY ESD 48



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## May 14 Puzzle Answers

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

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE**  
The Monday, May 25, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Has Been Cancelled In Observance Of Memorial Day.  
By Order Of Mayor and City Council  
City Of Katy, Texas  
April 27, 2020

## Public Notice

Eco-Site II LLC, proposes to construct a 170-foot Monopole telecommunications tower within a 1,800 SF fenced equipment compound with a 14,729 SF access and utility easement located at latitude 29° 48' 11.67" N and longitude 95° 48' 44.79" W, at 5300 Block Franz Road, Katy, in Harris County, Texas 77493. Eco-Site is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Parties interested in commenting on this Federal undertaking or with questions on the proposed facility should contact, Ingrid Sullivan, 1010 Sync St., Suite 575, Morrisville, NC 27560, (919) 246-8639, [ISullivan@eco-site.com](mailto:ISullivan@eco-site.com). Please provide comments within 30 days of the publication date.

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS WALLER COUNTY, TX

WALLER COUNTY intends to participate in the Texas Flood Infrastructure Fund program with funding from the Texas Water Development Board. We are soliciting qualifications from Texas-registered engineers to provide engineering services related to this program. Submittals for these services will be accepted until 2:00 PM on JUNE 8, 2020 at 836 AUSTIN ST., SUITE 221, Attn: ALAN YOUNTS-COUNTY AUDITOR. WALLER COUNTY reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, including Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals. WALLER COUNTY is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a mixed beverage permit by WOB Katy, LLC dba World of Beer located at 2643 Commercial Center Blvd Suite B390, Katy, TX 77494. Managers of WOB Katy, LLC are Paul E. Avery and Benjamin P. Novello.

## MISC.

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# Meatpacking plants sprout 700 positive tests

By JUAN PABLO GARNHAM  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

More than 700 new coronavirus cases were reported in the Amarillo region May 16, as results from targeted testing at meatpacking plants came in.

According to the office of the governor, a surge response team was deployed in Amarillo on May 4 to survey high-risk locations and test workers at meatpacking plants. The Texas Panhandle, where a workforce of Hispanics and immigrants power several meatpacking plants, is home to the highest rates of infection in the state.

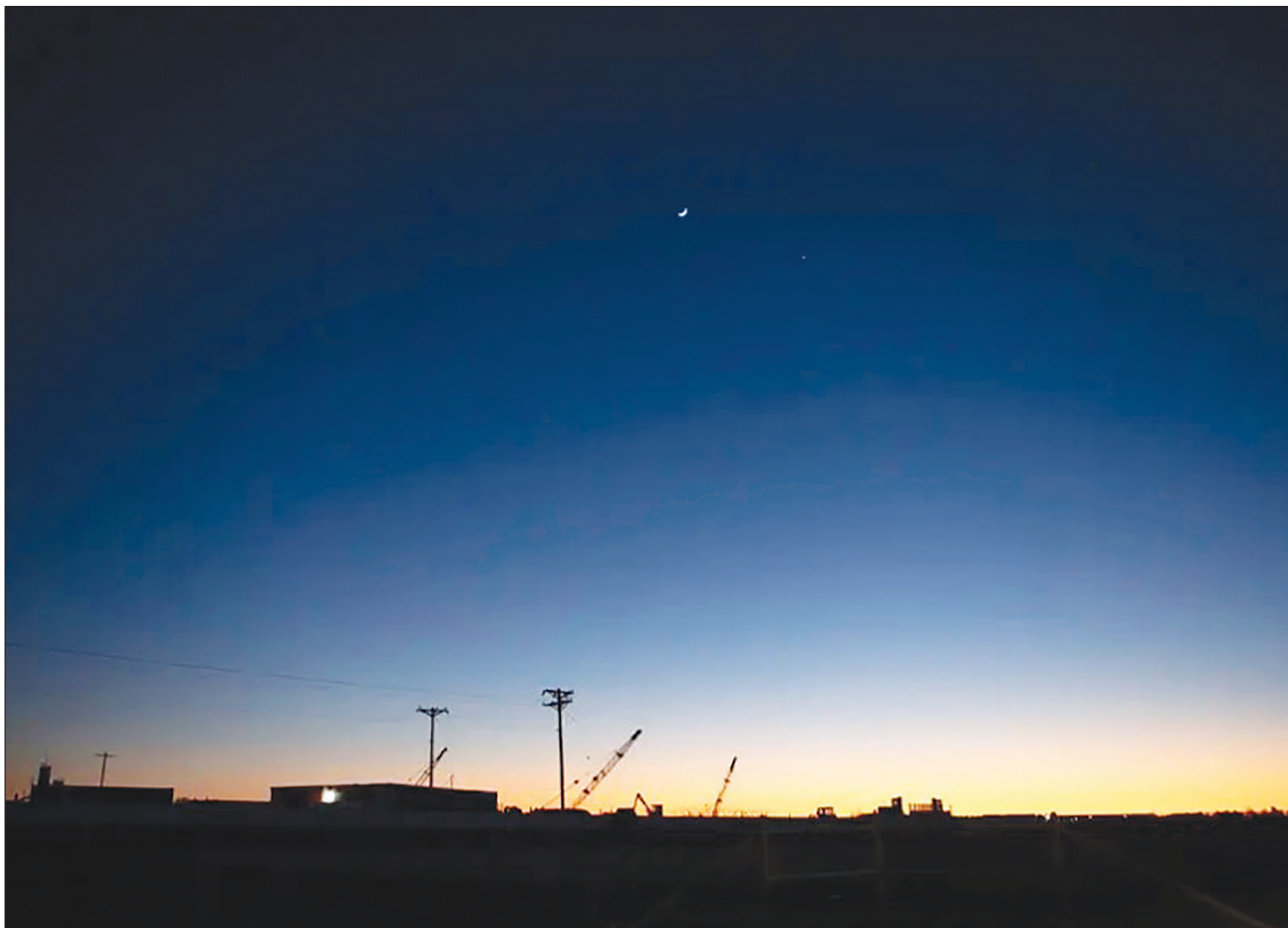
"As Texas continues ramping up its testing capabilities, there will be an increase in positive cases as the state targets the most high-risk areas: nursing homes, meatpacking plants and jails," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement. "By immediately deploying resources and supplies to these high risk areas, we will identify the positive cases, isolate the individuals and ensure any outbreak is quickly contained."

In a press release Saturday, the governor's office indicated plants with widespread outbreaks have temporarily shut down for thorough disinfection.

At a Tyson Foods plant just outside of Amarillo, all 3,587 employees were tested, according to High Plains Public Radio. The plant is "undergoing additional sanitation and cleaning" during the weekend and plans to operate on Monday, according to the company.

The Amarillo region includes two counties. Potter County reported 618 new cases on Saturday bringing its total to 2,080, while Randall County reported 116 new cases for a total of 593. Moore County, which has the highest rate of cases per 1,000 residents in Texas and is north of Amarillo, added 4 new cases on Saturday. In total, the three counties accounted for 738 of the 1,801 new cases reported on Saturday.

Across the country, the coronavirus has spread easily



MIGUEL GUTIERREZ JR. | THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The coronavirus has spread in the Texas Panhandle, where a workforce of Hispanics and immigrants power several meatpacking plants.

in meatpacking plants, where workers typically stand shoulder to shoulder on fast-moving butchering lines. More than a dozen have been forced to shut down temporarily after surges in infections and deaths tied to those facilities. The processing plants, including those in Texas, have scrambled to ramp up health and safety precautions, providing masks and eye protection to workers and placing plastic dividers in some areas.

In Moore County, a JBS Beef plant has seen several cases and

one death. On Wednesday, the company reversed course and accepted the offer from the state to test employees in their facilities.

Workers at JBS and family members of JBS employees who have been infected previously told The Texas Tribune that plant management was slow to acknowledge when workers began testing positive, and those who come in contact with the sick are not always informed of their exposure.

Alexa Ura contributed to this report.

***"As Texas continues ramping up its testing capabilities, there will be an increase in positive cases as the state targets the most high-risk areas: nursing homes, meatpacking plants and jails."***

— TEX. GOV. GREG ABBOTT



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## Texas' next phase of reopening scheduled

By **PATRICK SVITEK**  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday announced his next wave of reopenings designed to restart the Texas economy during the coronavirus pandemic, saying child care facilities can reopen immediately, bars can open Friday with limited capacity and sporting events can return without fans at the end of the month.

Abbott also said he would permit restaurants to operate at 50% capacity starting Friday, up from 25% that's allowed now.

At the same time, Abbott exempted two hotspots — Amarillo and El Paso — from his latest decisions, saying they would need to wait a week.

Abbott's news conference came 18 days after he started a phased

reopening of the state, starting with letting restaurants, stores, movie theaters and malls open up at 25% capacity. He then allowed barber-shops and salons to reopen May 8 under certain restrictions. Monday was the first day gyms were allowed to open up, also under restrictions.

Abbott's news conference Monday came a day after the total coronavirus cases in Texas increased to at least 47,784, including 1,336 deaths, according to the latest data from the state Department of Health Services. Out of Texas' 254 counties, 222 are reporting cases.

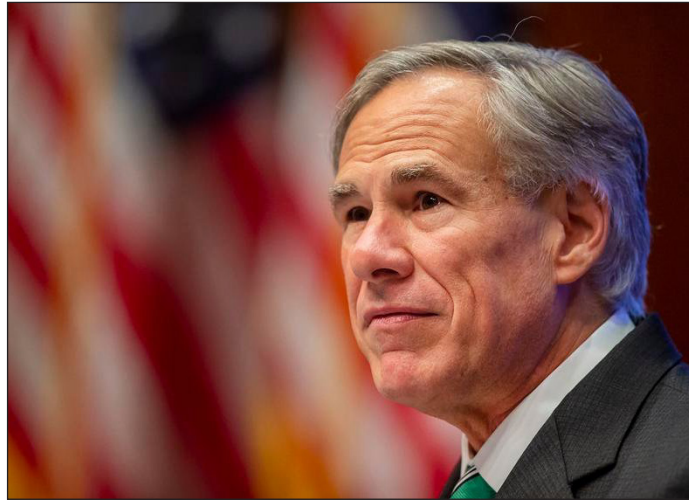
The number of cases — and deaths — keeps rising in Texas, though the testing tally has also gone up, reaching 693,276 as of Sunday. Abbott, meanwhile, continues to highlight the relatively stable number

of hospitalizations and declining infection rate.

While testing has ramped up, it is still failing to regularly reach Abbott's own goal of 30,000 tests a day. Over the last week, the state averaged 25,614 tests per day.

However, in recent days, it was revealed that the state is including an unknown quantity of antibody tests in its testing total, casting uncertainty over the reliability of that data for the time being.

Amarillo has been a hotspot due to outbreaks at its meatpacking plants, and earlier this month, the state dispatched one of its Surge Response Teams to the city to try to get things under control. Of the 1,801 new cases that Texas reported Saturday, over 700 were linked to the Amarillo meatpacking plants, according to Abbott's office.



RICARDO B. BRAZZIELL/AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN VIA REUTERS

Tex. Gov. Greg Abbott announced on Monday that child care opens immediately, bars can open Friday and sports will be allowed to return at the end of the month, without fans.

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**Valedictorian**  
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**MAJOR:** Computer Science  
**GPA:** 4.8438

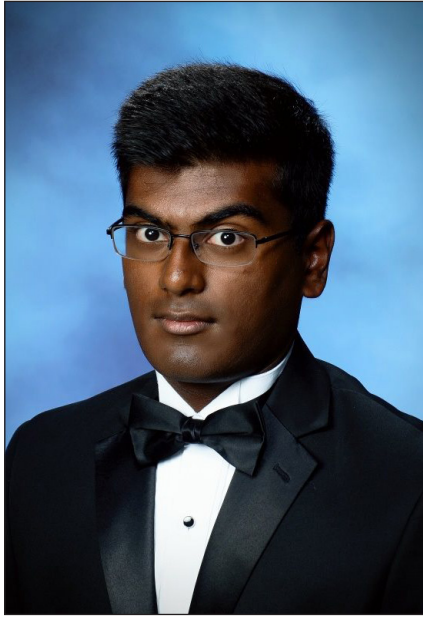


**Edward Peihua Lu**  
**Salutatorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:** Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology (MIT)  
**MAJOR:** Math and Computer Science  
**GPA:** 4.8095

KATY HIGH SCHOOL



**Maverick Anderson**  
**Valedictorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:**  
University of Texas in Austin  
**MAJOR:** Chemical Engineering  
**GPA:** 4.8281



**David Wu**  
**Salutatorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:**  
University of Waterloo in Canada  
**MAJOR:** Computer Science  
**GPA:** 4.8125

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**Thuan Thi My Doan**  
**Valedictorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:**  
University of Texas in Austin  
**MAJOR:** Biochemistry  
**GPA:** 4.7857



**Juliet Dhanie Meas**  
**Salutatorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:**  
University of Texas in Austin  
**MAJOR:** Finance  
**GPA:** 4.7857

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**Valedictorian**  
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**MAJOR:** Computer Science  
**GPA:** 4.8



**Matthew Marin**  
**Salutatorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:**  
Texas A&M University  
**MAJOR:** Chemical Engineering  
**GPA:** 4.7586

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**Valedictorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:** University of Houston  
**MAJOR:** Engineering  
**GPA:** 4.7077



**Daniela Maria Macias**  
**Salutatorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:** University of Houston  
**MAJOR:** Strategic Communications  
**GPA:** 4.6441

SEVEN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL



**Vineet Paidisetty**  
**Valedictorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:** Baylor University  
**MAJOR:** Biochemistry  
**GPA:** 4.8594

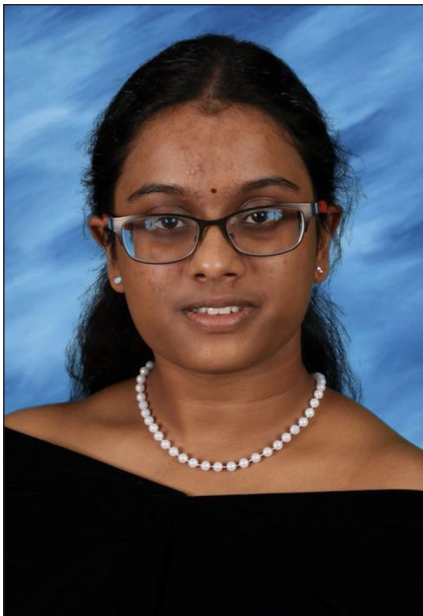


**Sriya Kakarla**  
**Salutatorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:** Rice University  
**MAJOR:** Psychology and Neuroscience  
**GPA:** 4.8451

TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL



**Michelle Mengfan Li**  
**Valedictorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:**  
University of Pennsylvania  
**MAJOR:** Finance  
**GPA:** 4.8676

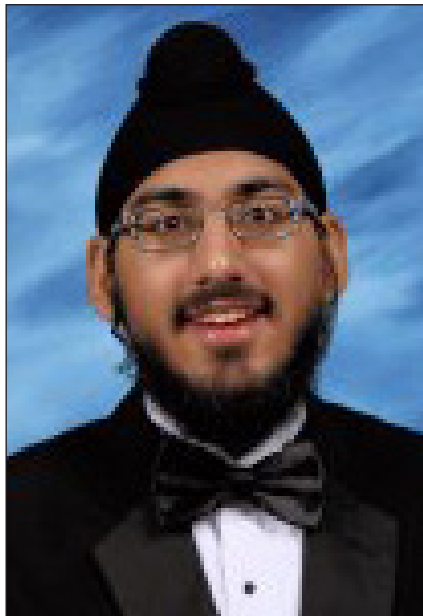


**Gabriela Cortes Arias**  
**Salutatorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:**  
Stanford University  
**MAJOR:** Aerospace Engineering  
**GPA:** 4.8507

TOMPKINS HIGH SCHOOL



**Nicolas Matthew Kao**  
**Valedictorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:**  
University of Texas in Austin  
**MAJOR:** Business  
**GPA:** 4.8545



**Ramandeep Singh Sethi**  
**Salutatorian**  
**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:**  
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**MAJOR:** Finance  
**GPA:** 4.8472

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