

Katy Times



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PAGE 5

VOLUME 108, ISSUE 32 THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ katytimes.com THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

Waller issues burn ban

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

The Waller County Commissioners Court has issued a burn ban throughout Waller County at the recommendation of County Fire Marshall Brian Cantrel. The court also approved several measures to put telecom equipment and lines into county facilities that are under renovation or being constructed.

Cantrel said the Keetch-Byram Drought Index – referred to as the KBDI – for the county was improved in the southern portion of the county after the rains of the last week, but elevated in the northern portions of the county which had not received enough rain to mitigate fire risks. The average countywide provided at last week’s commissioners court meeting was 551 out of a possible 800 on the KBDI and this week the average for the southern part of the county was 344 while the northern portion of the county was at 595, setting an average of 517 countywide.

County Judge Trey Duhon said, while the county could set a burn ban for only a portion of the county such as north of FM 529, splitting the county up based on KBDI score set up a situation for confusion and difficult enforcement of any burn ban for county officials.

The vote to institute the burn ban was unanimous, as were all of the votes on other measures taken by the court.

County IT Coordinator Greg Henry presented several information-technology actions that were approved by the court.

A contract with Logix to provide internet services at the Waller County Community Center and Road and Bridge office was cancelled and replaced with a faster internet speed to be provided by Atron Solutions, a company based out of Tomball. Internet speeds will be upgraded at both facilities. The community center will have a 50 MB speed from what was 10MB, while the Road and Bridge department will now have a 100 MB speed, up from 50 MB.

County officials noted the

See **BAN**, page 3

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COURTESY BRANDON SNYDER

Many homes in the Katy area aren’t remaining on the market long, once listed. Brandon Snyder and Mary Snyder sold this home within eight days of it being listed. Short listing times have been characteristic of the market since the pandemic began, they said.

STANDING STRONG

Real estate market still strong with high sales

By JOSELYN HOFER
EDITORIAL INTERN

Although May was a rough period for real estate companies all over Houston, things have started to look up these past two months. In fact, home sales have increased, even surpassing sales in 2019 by at least 1,000, said a Houston Association of Realtors press release. HAR Vice Chair, Jennifer Wauhob, attributes this sudden growth to COVID-19, saying families have more time to consider moving and social distancing at home has led families to believe they need more space.

“First of all, interest rates are really low so if you’re looking to buy a home and you weren’t affected negatively then by all means it’s still a great time to buy. And I think also being forced to be at home more, it’s probably made some people realize “yeah we really do need more space” ... or maybe they were thinking of moving this year anyway, Wauhob said. “When all the other distractions were taken away, people have more time on their hands to do it.”

CATEGORIES	JUNE 2019	JUNE 2020	CHANGE
TOTAL PROPERTY SALES	9,428	11,153	18.3%
TOTAL DOLLAR VOLUME	\$2,899,898,118	\$3,336,758,456	15.1%
TOTAL ACTIVE LISTINGS	44,718	36,901	-17.5%
SINGLE-FAMILY HOME SALES	8,063	9,328	15.7%
SINGLE-FAMILY AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$321,884	\$319,881	-0.6%
SINGLE-FAMILY MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$252,900	\$262,000	3.6%
SINGLE-FAMILY MONTHS INVENTORY*	4.3	3.2	-1.1 mos.
SINGLE-FAMILY PENDING SALES	8,335	11,610	39.3%

* Months inventory estimates the number of months it will take to deplete current active inventory based on the prior 12 months sales activity. This figure is representative of the single-family homes market.

HOUSTON ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Even with almost 20% fewer listings on the market, HAR data reflects an increase of nearly 40% in pending sales in June of this year as compared to the same time last year in Greater Houston. Agents say they expect a perceived need for a larger space during social distancing and low interest rates have pushed home sales forward in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Single family homes priced between \$250,000 and \$500,000 have seen the highest demand with a 28.3% jump year-over-year, according to data from HAR, with single family homes between \$500,000 and \$750,000 coming in second.

“Houses aren’t staying on the market any longer than fourteen days at this point. The housing market just skyrocketed due to COVID,” Katy-area

See **STRONG**, page 3



R. HANS MILLER/GOOGLE MAPS

Katy Junior High School No. 17 is under construction near the intersection of Clay Road and Katy Hockley Road on the north side of the city of Katy.

Jr. High 17 attendance boundaries considered

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Katy ISD is working on its latest campus, Katy Junior High No. 17, which is under construction at 25737 Clay Road, opposite Tequila’s Mexican Grill on the north side of the city of Katy. One of the goals the district has set is to have the new campus relieve pressure at other campuses through an attendance boundary modification to integrate the new junior high into the district’s 16 existing middle school service areas.

“Junior High #17 will provide relief to existing campuses that currently house students in surrounding attendance boundaries,” said KISD Chief of Operations Ted Vierling.

The new campus will more specifically relieve pressure on Katy and Stockdick junior high schools, according to the district’s website. The new school is expected to open in August of 2021 for the 2021-22 school year.

To provide that relief, some students who expected to attend the Katy and Stockdick middle school campuses will need to move over to the new complex. That involves modification of those school’s attendance boundaries in order to create a service area for the new campus.

If left unmodified, Katy Junior High which currently has a campus population of 1,347 is projected to jump up to a population of 1,469 in 2021; and, Stockdick Junior High would take a leap from its current 1,297 middle schoolers to a projected 1,542 – an increase of 245 students by 2021.

Growth is expected in the area with subdivisions being built all along FM 529 such as Newland Community’s Elyson master planned community. Additional developments include expansions to Camillo Lakes and other developments along Katy Hockley Cut Off Road.

See **BOUNDARIES**, page 2

Waller County Sheriff Glenn Smith passes

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Waller County Sheriff R. Glenn Smith died Aug. 1 of an apparent heart attack according to an announcement from Waller County Judge Trey Duhon. Smith, who was 61 years old, had 43 years of law enforcement experience during his life with about 12 years as Waller County Sheriff.

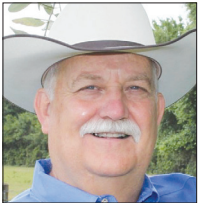
“Sheriff Smith cared deeply for all of the citizens of our County and the employees under his care. This comes as a huge shock to all of us here within the county, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time,” Duhon said.

Smith is survived by his wife Deedee; son Kevin Smith and his wife Jennifer Smith; daughter Baylee Adams and husband Bodie Adams and his grandchildren Rosalind and Connor.

During his time as sheriff, Smith helped WCSO deal with the unfortunate death of Sandra Bland which made national headlines in 2015, and was involved in the planning process for the new Waller County Justice Center which offers improved safety for both detainees and officers. Shortly before passing, Smith said he had created a culture within WCSO that promoted fair and just policing.

“It must always be mandated that everyone be treated the same - with courtesy, fairness and respect,” Smith said during his reelection bid earlier this year.

Smith said in Dec. 2019 that he understood his department’s responsibility for the safety of county residents and the 160,000 people that



R. GLENN SMITH

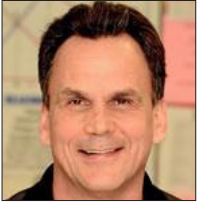
See **SMITH**, page 3



Economics teacher
earns recognition

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Obrah D. Tompkins High School Economics teacher Michael Clark was awarded the Charles Pickitt Secondary School Teacher of the Year Award during the 2020 Association of Texas Professional Educators Summit which was held virtually July 6-10. Clark received the award after a coworker at Tompkins nominated him after admiring his work with his students.



MICHAEL CLARK

“Every student deserves nothing but the best from his/her teacher and despite the extraordinary circumstances, teachers can serve as an inspiration to their students to continue creating a bright future,” Clark said via a Katy ISD press release.

Clark’s award comes with a \$5,000 prize and recognition for innovative capabilities in his field of education.

ATPE is a teachers’ association that advocates for teachers and improvements in education throughout Texas and encourages teachers to innovate and encourage their students.

“Even in these most trying times, it’s great to know that our work is making a difference and being admired by other educators across Texas,” Clark said.

BOUNDARIES

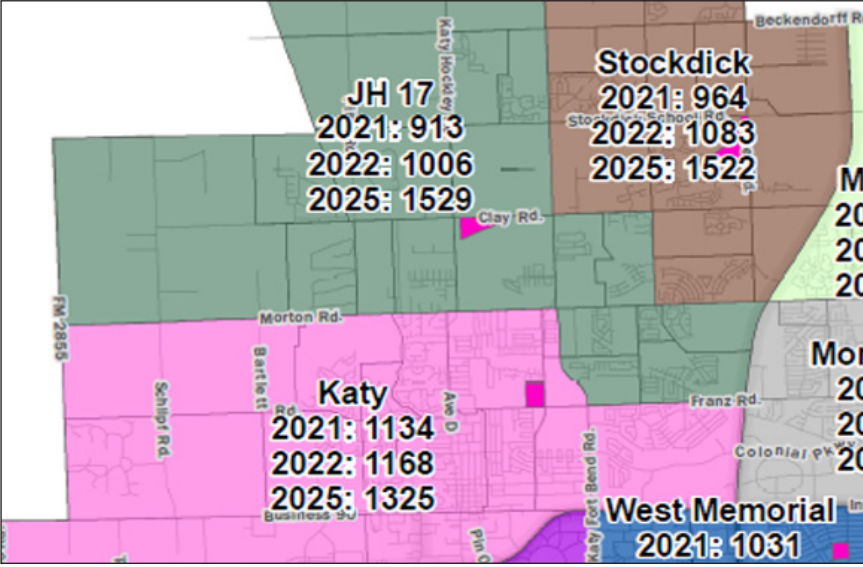
from page 1

Projections with the proposed attendance boundary modifications (see more info online at katyisd.org/abm/pages/abm.aspx) show Katy Junior High School at 1,325 students by 2025 under the newly proposed school service areas. Stockdick Junior High School remains projected at 1,522 students by that same year, approximately equivalent to what would have been the schools’ populations four years earlier without the new campus.

Parents can provide the district with input according to the KISD website. The district will be sending emails to families potentially impacted by the attendance boundary modification through Oct. 13 of this year. Preliminary results of the attendance boundary survey will be delivered at the Katy ISD Board of Trustees meeting Sept. 28 and final results will be presented at the board’s Oct. 26 meeting.

Parents who have not received an email and believe their children may be affected by the attendance boundary modification may reach out to the district via email at ABM@katyisd.org or by calling 281-396-2110.

Meanwhile construction continues on the seventeenth KISD middle school which will help the rapidly growing district serve its population of more than 84,000 students. Attendance boundary modifications are a practice that is familiar to KISD with multiple changes to



The proposed attendance boundary for Katy Junior High School No. 17 (in green) will pull students from Stockdick Junior High School (in brown) and Katy Junior High School (in bright pink) to alleviate possible overpopulation at those two campuses.

campus service boundaries over the last few years as new campuses have been added at all levels.

During those modifications, the district has faced backlashes from parents who are upset that their children will not attend the same schools as friends or will not get to finish elementary, middle or high school at the campus they began that education level on due to attendance boundary modifications. Such modifications, though often necessary, generally disrupt students’ athletic

teams, relationships with teachers and staff as well as other extracurricular factors.

Still, KISD has identified the need for the new campus and is preparing to open Katy Junior High No. 17 next year. It’s simply a matter of identifying which students will attend classes at the new facility.

“Construction has already begun on the new school and we expect its doors to open to students and families on August 2021,” Vierling said.

Jim Baker’s Unified
Theory Of Everything
--- With God’s Help

(JBUTOE-WGH) A new book about Science and God. Revised publish date: late 2020
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This new book will contain a credible “unified theory of everything” that can explain the very basics of science. Albert Einstein predicted that someone “off the street” was going to do this someday. After 53 years (at approx. year 2000), I decided to include God at every step of the process of trying to come up with a scientific “Theory of Everything”. Prior to this, it was about the “only thing” I felt I had not been successful at inventing or figuring out. --- You see, God had already given me the gift of inventing at age 9-10, in His response to my Second Major Prayer. --- By the year 2014, God had allowed me to assemble sufficient knowledge that I felt 95%, of what I needed to figure out, had been accomplished.

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

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

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

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Person of the Week

Ammie Duron



Ammie is our Senior Service Writer. She is a proud mother of three and a eight-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Ammie looks forward to welcoming you To the Tegeler Chevrolet Service Department and making sure that you have the best experience possible. Please give her a call at 979-987-7900 or you can book your appointment through the book now button located on the Tegeler Chevrolet Service Facebook page. Follow Tegeler Chevrolet Service on Facebook and Instagram for savings and valuable information.

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FIND NEW ROADS

This Week’s Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times



SUDOKU

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

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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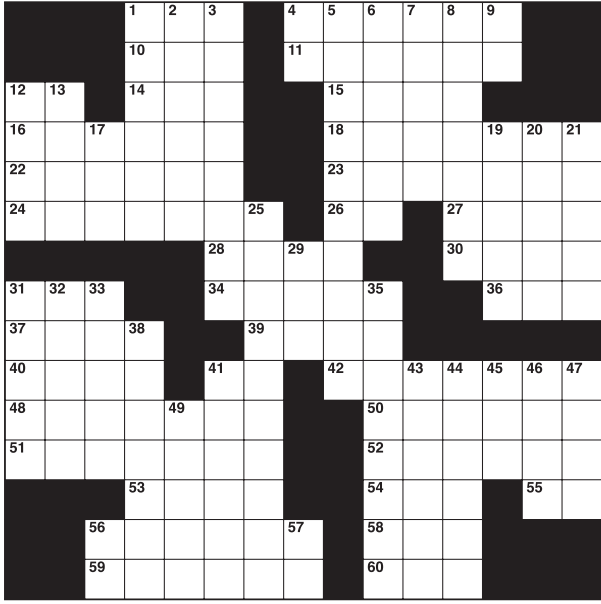
Katy Times



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Opposite of on
- Creator
- No seats available
- About springtime
- Flagship ESPN show (abbr.)
- Automobile
- A matchup
- Porous volcanic rock
- Utter repeatedly
- Not written in any key
- Revolved
- Archrival
- Within
- Smoker’s accessory
- Disfigure
- Primordial matter
- Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- Kisses
- Some is iced
- A way to derive
- Unaccompanied by others
- Discontinued Google app
- Tony B. left his heart there
- Condiment
- Ancient Italian city
- One who distributes payoff money
- Guarantees
- Highly decorative
- Strike with a stick
- Pie ___ mode
- Spanish be
- Glued
- A way to drench
- Part of the body
- Changes the color



CLUES DOWN

- Passerine birds
- Noisy quarrel
- The front arm or leg of an animal
- Early multimedia
- Golden years
- Large mollusk
- Small arm of the sea
- Persian jurisdiction
- Atomic #81
- From end to end
- Adorable
- Ma
- Nearly falling
- Portable conical tent
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Fish with high dorsal fins
- Equal (prefix)
- Aquatic plant genus
- Choppers
- Hand parts
- Region bordering the sea
- Well-liked
- Nap
- It’s used to make beer
- Related on the father’s side
- Senior officer
- Delicacy (archaic)
- Figures
- A way to take away
- Beloved sandwich ___&J
- Symptom typical of withdrawal (abbr.)

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

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STRONG

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realtor, Mary Synder, said. She and her husband, Brandon Snyder, work with Keller Williams Premier Realty and have worked to use social media platforms to promote their Selling With the Snyders brand.

The only problem the real estate market seems to be having is inventory, Brandon said.

"There's less homes hitting the market but our home sales are actually higher. We're desperate for inventory. That's one of the biggest things. Plenty of buyers but less homes hitting the market which is why you're seeing such a short turnaround time on homes," Brandon said.

Even though COVID-19 hasn't caused a negative effect on the real estate market, it has definitely sparked some changes. Ranging from virtual home showings to Zoom meetings with clients, realtors have had to navigate through new online tools.

"Anything we'd normally discuss in-person, we've had to do virtually. Which makes it kind of hard in real estate to be personal with your clients when you can't be with them," Mary said.

Depending on the seller, most potential buyers must view a home virtually whether that be through Facetime or videos realtors send to buyers, said Wauhob. If a seller does allow in-person showings, buyers must wear masks, social distance, and sometimes sign a disclosure agreement.

"We still see a lot of people who

are looking in person and just taking precautions. We have a sort of disclosure now that we have people sign stating whether they've been exposed or if they're feeling bad before they see a home," Wauhob said. "We (also) have virtual open houses, 3-D Matterport tours available for homes, and we're doing a lot of virtual showings as well where we're on Facetime or sending video walk-throughs to our clients who can't physically walk through the home," Wauhob said.

Unfortunately, virtual showings seem to work less effectively than an in-person showing and which can be frustrating for realtors.

"The virtual open houses haven't really proven to be a big success," Brandon said. "You don't get the same type of traction that you would normally. (With) a good open house weekend, you get five, six, seven families come through on a listing but with these virtual open houses, you're lucky if you get one or two people to watch it for longer than five minutes."

Regardless of the frustration of digital interactions, HAR expects the real estate market will hold steady for these next few months and continue to increase in sales, Wauhob said. With the way things are looking right now, the market appears to be steady.

"None of us have really been through a global pandemic so I don't know if there's going to be residual effects down the line, but everything we see right now is just indicating a pretty strong real estate market all the way through the end of 2020," Wauhob said.

BAN

from page 1

improvements will help in the event of the community center being used for emergency purposes and will provide more convenience to community members and groups that utilize the facility. The faster connection at the Road and Bridge office will also help facilitate faster transfer of large files containing design specifications for projects.

Trinicom Communications of Hempstead will provide a fax line for the veteran's fax line at the community center which is necessary for when medical documents need to be faxed for veterans.

Tyler Technologies based out of Plano, Tex. will provide a "Single Vendor Jail Vendor Export" software license as part of their services for the county's new

jail and sheriff's office facility. Approval of this license was a formality and Tyler Technologies will pay for the license as part of their contractual obligations with the county, Henry said.

Upgrades for fiber service to the Precinct 4 Annex building being constructed near Brookshire were also approved and will be provided by Consolidated Communications.

A low-voltage, cellular fire panel provided by Low Voltage Security Solutions was also approved for the community center.

Waller County Construction Manager Danny Rothe also provided an update on the county's library refurbishment and expansion. He said the slab for the expansion and associated walkways had been poured and once steel for walls had arrived the facility would come together quickly.

Some delays had been seen as subcontractors

worked to avoid double trips out to install wiring and other items in the library facility, but Rothe said he had worked those out. The library's staff will be able to begin moving furniture into the completed, refurbished portion of the facility soon and the project is expected to be complete in September, Rothe said.

Commissioners also discussed the possibility of using a portion of the county's \$1.6 million in CARES Act funds to help school districts in the county provide devices and internet connections to disadvantaged students in the county. However, the item was tabled so that it could be placed properly on the court's next agenda and to allow county staff and elected officials to gather more information on what the needs are and what the process for issuing CARES Act funds to school districts would look like.



R. HANS MILLER

R. Glenn Smith (far left) speaks at the 2019 State of the Region event hosted by the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. During his comments, Smith spoke with pride about the advancements law enforcement had taken as a profession during his more than 40 years in the profession and discussed the importance of police building bridges between themselves and the communities they serve.

SMITH

from page 1

travel through it daily and the impact that has on the county's economy. That's why he had worked to develop the justice center which will double the old jail's capacity, he said.

Smith was first elected as Waller County Sheriff in 2009. Smith said during his comments at a State of the Region panel in December that he was proud to see policing develop as a true profession during his time in law enforcement.

Smith was very proud of his officers for the care they provided to Waller County residents and their eagerness to educate those they serve and work toward preventive solutions, including the department's Criminal Activity Target Team. The CATT has helped prevent the incursion of gangs, drugs, sex offenders, burglaries and other crimes in the county on a proactive level, Smith said in a January statement. He was especially proud that the CATT had been developed by its members out of dedication to county residents.

During his tenure, Smith also worked with Crime Stoppers to create a 10 most wanted list, and nine of the 19 people that had been on that list as of December had been captured.

Outside of law enforcement, Smith was active in the community through his memberships in various organizations including Waller Baptist Church, as president of the Hempstead Lions Club, Gideons International, the Waller County Fair Association, the National Rifle Association, the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Smith's education included a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University, additional education from Prairie View A&M University and certification as a master peace officer. He was also a licensed insurance agent.

This was to be Smith's last year in office after he lost a runoff election in June to Republican candidate Troy Guidry.

"We are sending out our prayers to Glenn Smith's family, friends and co-workers. He was a

great man and will be truly missed," Guidry's campaign said in a Facebook post.

An interim sheriff is expected to be appointed soon, Duhon said.

Friends of the Smith family also took to Facebook to offer their condolences.

"I had the honor and privilege of working for Glenn and Deedee at Sabine Insurance for over 15 years! He was truly one of the best! I have a lot of great memories of Glenn that I will cherish forever," said Teresa Neal on social media platform.

Funeral services were held Aug. 5 at 11 a.m. at Community of Faith Church in Hockley with Pastor John Brandt officiating. A private interment for the family is scheduled to be held at the Hemphill Cemetery Aug. 6. The family has asked that donations be made to the Texas Sheriff's Association in lieu of flowers.

"In honor of Sheriff Smith's service to Waller County, I have ordered flags in Waller County to be flown at half-staff for the next 30 days," Duhon said.

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Laughter is the best medicine

I missed it again. So did the rest of America. July 1's unofficial International Joke Day came and went without fanfare.

That's regrettable, because we could all use a good belly laugh right now — which gave me an idea.

The other day, after hearing more doom-and-gloom news while driving, I said to the Apple CarPlay app on my truck's stereo, "Hey, Siri, tell me a joke."

Siri, Apple's voice-activated digital assistant, replied, "My cat ate a ball of yarn. She gave birth to mittens."

That's an awfully corny joke — but I laughed so hard, I accidentally steered my truck onto some roadside gravel.

When you laugh like that, it's impossible to be angry — or to dwell on whatever personal or business challenge may hang over your head

A belly laugh is an antidote to the self-seriousness that's one of the greatest afflictions of modern times. And with a pandemic killing thousands and crippling the economy, plus protests and social unrest, we need belly laughs more than ever. One psychologist suggests practicing laughing with a friend because "utter seriousness can drive us to despair."

Social media gives everyone a platform to share thoughts, which is good. But some self-serious people get awfully huffy with others who disagree with or challenge their thinking. They're so serious and so certain that those who disagree with them are wrong, even evil, that they demonize their detractors.

They don't try to converse, debate or understand differing viewpoints. "OK, boomer" and "OK, Karen" memes offer cases in point.

Humor and laughter, wonderfully infectious, keep us from falling into the trap of self-seriousness, promoting goodwill, thoughtfulness and civility. "Humor is an elixir, a tonic that is good for mind and spirit," says an executive coach.

Laughter's power is incredible — and that power lasts.

One of my favorite family stories dates to the



early 1950s. Freddy, my dad's uncle on his mother's side — a real character — had a neighbor who was among the first in their area to buy a VW Beetle. Behind the neighbor's endless boasting about his Beetle's terrific gas mileage was conceit — essentially, "I'm smarter than you, which is why I'm getting way better gas mileage than you!"

Freddy began sneaking next door at night to fill the VW's gas tank. As he did so, his neighbor's boasts grew louder and more tiresome — the guy was ready to call the Guinness World Records people, as his VW clearly was getting more miles per gallon than any other Beetle on Earth.

After a month, Freddy continued sneaking next door. But now he siphoned gas from the Beetle's tank — to the point where the neighbor thought his VW was getting worse gas mileage than any other Beetle on Earth.

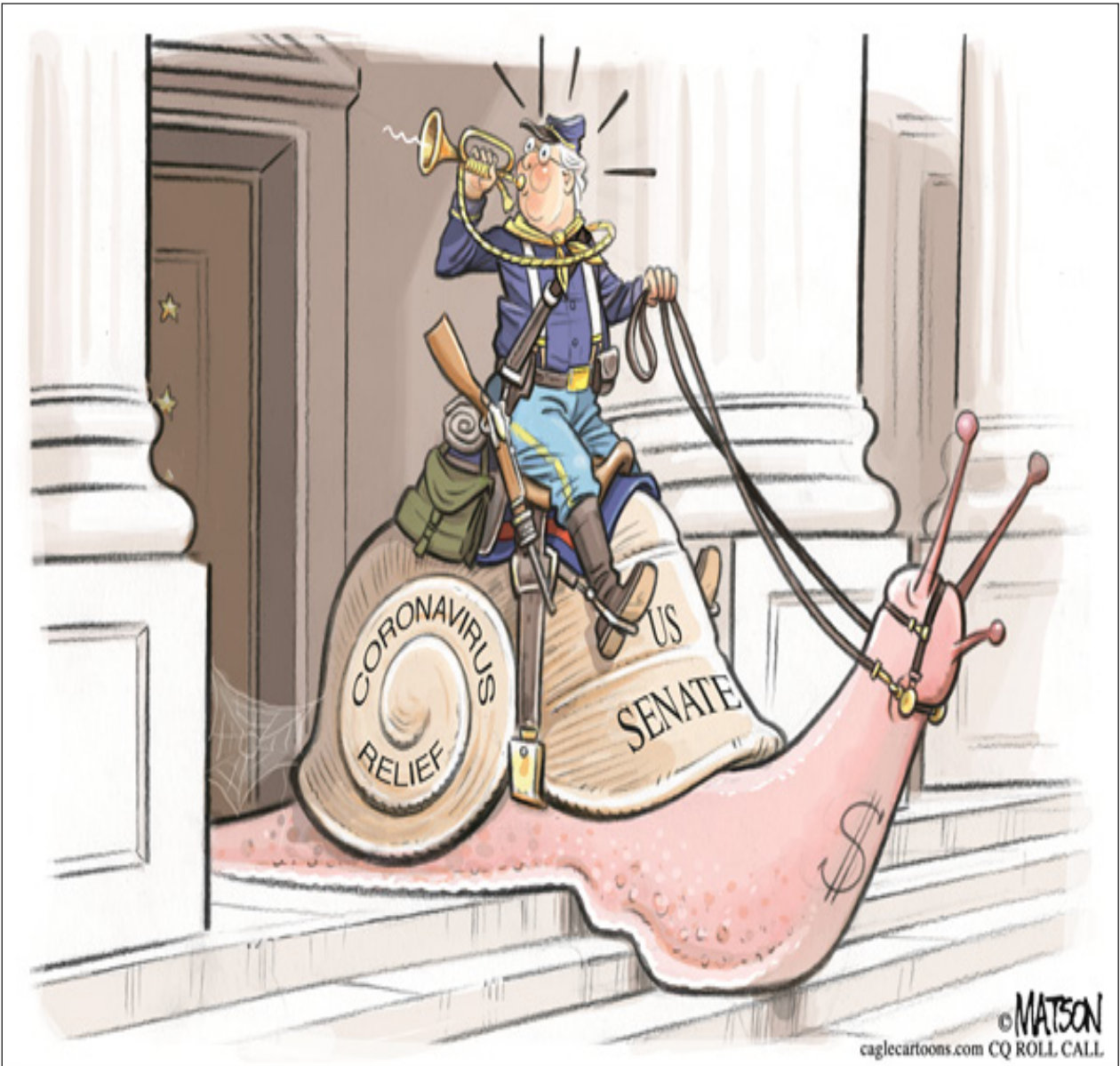
We're still laughing at the braggart neighbor who suddenly stopped bragging.

There's more evidence of the power of laughter. More than 60 years ago, my mother first heard this joke, which she vividly remembers, and still laughs at:

A lady who'd been grocery shopping was walking to her car when she tripped and dropped a paper bag and two eggs fell out of the carton and broke onto the pavement. She was so upset that she started crying. A drunk walked up, surveyed the situation, and told her, "Don't worry, lady. It wouldn't have lived anyway. Its eyes are too far apart."

We all need to laugh more. It really is the best medicine for our current ails.

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.



Riding in SUVs with teenage daughters

Warning! The following column contains what some readers may consider to be objectionable (and absolutely accurate) gender stereotypes! Offended parties should try traveling on a long distance road trip with six female persons — five of whom are deep in the throes of hormone-inflicted teenagehood — and then grow a big, swollen, hairy sense of humor. (Actually, they might want to grow the humor tumor before traveling.)

My wife and I recently accepted this challenge on a trip to the beach with our three teenage daughters and two of their friends. We all needed a change of scenery from the COVID-19 crisis in our hometown so that we could experience it in someone else's hometown. As the sole representative of the dude denomination in an SUV laboring under the strain of enough luggage and snacks to supply the next SpaceX mission, I couldn't help but take a few notes-to-self for future forgetting.

First, when traveling with a group of mature, even-tempered young ladies, you should avoid trying to determine why they are constantly giggling. Giggling is apparently a complex linguistic tool used by groups of teen females to express an array of emotional responses to external stimuli, most of which emanate from a cell phone screen. If you dare to inquire about the exact source of their giggling, your query will be met by a few seconds of stunned silence, followed by an explosive burst of even more frenzied giggling. A suggestion by you that the giggling might be in any way related to the hairy-



legged variety of teenage male will result in acute spasms of convulsive giggling that could require medical attention (for you and the gigglers). In other words, just try to ignore it — and good luck with that!

Another strategy to ensure a more harmonious environment among the travelers is to refrain from insisting that everyone listen to decent music on the vehicle's sound system. For example, a high-quality 1980's music playlist will evoke subtle groaning from most of the teenage passengers, followed by the insertion of expensive wireless earbuds that will allow them to ignore your pleas that everyone join in on a rousing chorus of "Rock Me Amadeus." Instead, it's just best to open your musical horizons to the vapid refrains of current teen heartthrobs like Harry Styles, The Weekend, Shawn Mendes and something called Marshmello. Allowing the teens to control the music will make them more content and responsive, but you may have to resist flinging yourself out of the moving vehicle.

Along with enduring their insufferable music and chronic tittering, travelers with teen girls must prepare themselves for the incessant distract-

tion of self-photography. In addition to abusing their iPhone SIM cards and risking lip sprains from making duck faces, fish gapes and model pouts, teen travelers also take reams of mini "Polaroids" and occasionally break out 35mm digital cameras that cost me more than their orthodontic work. They usually reserve group photo sessions to memorialize special occasions — like gas station restroom stops.

And speaking of restroom stops, there are few things more humiliating than being the only male in the car and requiring the men's room while all six ladies could happily go another 100 miles before they have to "go." Despite trying to limit my intake of Diet Dr Pepper to a gallon or so per trip, I always seem to be the one sprinting into a filthy convenience store for a bathroom break and then fighting the urge to purchase their entire display of jumbo pecan logs.

Once we reached our destination, we had a great time vacationing together, and I'm glad the girls could enjoy an escape from the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic for a few days of rest and relaxation — even if they did have to cover their duck faces with a mask. I'm also proud to say that I didn't buy a single pecan log for the entire trip and made it home with my humor tumor a little bruised, but safely intact.

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

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Katy High baseball honored by ABCA

By COLE McNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The Katy Tiger baseball squad was recently honored by the American Baseball Coaches Association with the team academic excellence award for holding a GPA of 3.0 or above for the entire 2019-20 academic year.

Although their season was cut short before district play, the Tigers started the season on a 12-3-2 clip and had six hitters averaging over .300 at the plate with a minimum of 15 at-bats. On the mound, four pitchers registered double-digit innings pitched and three of them, senior Alec Atkinson, junior Aiden Huerta and sophomore Brayden Powers, recorded more than 20 strikeouts.

All the while, Katy was able to get it done in the classroom as well and finished the year with a 3.52 GPA to be part of a record number of teams being honored by

the national association.

“A record 428 college and high school programs submitted nominations and received this year’s award,” a press release from the ABCA says. “In total, 143 high school teams along with 285 programs from the NCAA Div. I, II, III, NAIA and Junior College levels were recognized.”

The Tigers were one of 13 high school programs from the state of Texas earning a spot on the list.

“In light of the challenges faced by so many programs across the country, we are humbled to be able to honor a record number of teams for their outstanding academic achievements,” ABCA Executive Director Craig Keillitz said in



AMERICAN BASEBALL
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the release. “It is a testament to the leadership of our member coaches and the commitment of their student-athletes who persevered during an unprecedented academic year.”

The 2020 Katy High School baseball roster included Dylan Swanson, Jacob Leskovsky, Caleb Matthews, Adam Maldonado, Blake Bastubee, Jackson Johnson, Dwight Trevino, David Hankins, Hunter Clapp, Conner Muenster, Ryan Brome, Caleb Fields, Alec Atkinson, Aiden Huerta, Brayden Powers, Kyron Tate, Nayden Ramirez, Aidan McKinney, Bryce Nirider, Kaden Godfroy, Parker Kidwell, Judson Ceyanes, Fernando Garza, Tyler Martin and Dominic Melchor.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The *Katy Independent School District* will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m., August 24, 2020 in the Boardroom, Education Support Complex, 6301 South Stadium Lane, Katy, Texas 77494. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.9988 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)				
School Debt Service Tax					
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.3900 / \$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)				
<u>Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget</u>					
The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:					
Maintenance and operations	<u>5.0262</u>	% (increase) or _____ % (decrease)			
Debt service	<u>9.1798</u>	% (increase) or _____ % (decrease)			
Total expenditures	<u>5.7149</u>	% (increase) or _____ % (decrease)			
<u>Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value</u> (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)					
	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year			
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 46,305,197,588	\$ 49,554,167,998			
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 1,320,756,972	\$ 1,997,222,606			
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 41,587,736,488	\$ 45,000,749,456			
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 1,092,722,524	\$ 1,540,382,336			
* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8). ** “New property” is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17). *** “Taxable value” is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).					
<u>Bonded Indebtedness</u>					
Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness*		\$1,888,706,959			
*Outstanding principal.					
<u>Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates</u>					
	<u>Maintenance & Operations</u>	<u>Interest & Sinking Fund*</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local Revenue Per Student</u>	<u>State Revenue Per Student</u>
Last Year’s Rate	\$1.0531	\$0.3900	\$1.4431	\$7,355	\$3,971
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.9740	\$0.3827	\$1.3567	\$6,796	\$4,618
Proposed Rate	\$0.9988	\$0.3900	\$1.3888	\$7,330	\$4,028
* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					
<u>Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence</u>					
	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>This Year</u>		
Average Market Value of Residences	\$	296,883	\$	303,173	
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$	266,137	\$	271,914	
Last Year’s Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$	1.44310	\$	1.38880	
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$	3,841	\$	3,776	
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes				\$	(64)
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.					
Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.42248. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.42248.					
<u>Fund Balances</u>					
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:					
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$269,131,818				
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 59,931,575				
A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.					

TRIO NAMED ALL-REGION



MARK GOODMAN

Tompkins’ Skyler Parker finished her high school soccer career without being able to finish the postseason due to COVID-19 but landed on TopDrawerSoccer’s all-region team for scoring 20 goals and eight assists to help the Lady Falcons finish atop the District 19-6A standings in a shortened regular season. Pictured is Parker in a battle against McAllen during the I-10 Soccer Shootout at Legacy Stadium in Katy.

13 Katy players earn honors

By COLE McNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

A trio of Tompkins soccer players who earned all-district recognition for their spring seasons was also named to TopDrawerSoccer’s all-region team at the end of July.

The overall District 19-6A boys MVP and University of Memphis commit, Danny Espinoza, as well as overall District 19-6A girls MVP and Tyler Junior College commit Skylar Parker and the District 19-6A girls defensive MVP and Sam Houston State commit Avery Burchett all landed on the Texas-south all-region team which includes Austin, Houston, San Antonio and areas south of I-20.

Espinoza and Parker are both recent graduates but Burchett will return for her senior campaign next year to help lead the Falcons who will be in search of their third state tournament appearance in the last five years after this past spring was cut short due to the coronavirus pandemic.

With two games remaining against opponents who had yet to register a win in District 19-6A, the Tompkins girls’ soccer team finished the season with a 17-0-1 overall record and 9-0-1 mark in district play which may have been good enough to secure a second straight district championship.

Parker led the offensive attack with a 20-goal season and contributed eight assists as well while Burchett held down

the defensive end and chipped in a pair of goals. The Falcons’ defense allowed five goals against for the season and never allowed an opponent to score multiple goals. After allowing a goal in the first game of the season, Tompkins went on a nine-game shutout streak which bled into the district slate.

On the boys’ side, Espinoza helped the Falcons to a third-place finish with a 7-3 record in district play. He needed only 16 games to lead the team in scoring, amassing 62 points including 23 goals and 16 assists to earn attention from plenty of schools at the next level.

Espinoza was also named to his second consecutive TDS winter state all-star team alongside teammates in junior defenseman Bryce Robisch, who took home District 19-6A defensive MVP honors, and junior goalkeeper Paulo Valente.

Also representing Katy ISD on the all-star team were recent graduates of Seven Lakes in Santiago Brignone, Juan Pablo Dominguez and Rodrigo Lazo as well as Cinco Ranch freshman Danny Vargas.

Four female soccer players from Katy joined Burchett and Parker on the state all-star team including Taylor’s junior goalkeeper Sydney Blanchard, a University of Texas at Dallas commit, and a pair from Seven Lakes in junior Paige Boucher and recent graduate Arianna Ghafari, who is committed to Baylor University. Tompkins midfielder Juliette Haro, who recently graduated and is committed to the University of Tulsa, rounded out Katy’s selections to the all-star team.

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TRIBUTES

Bruce M. Henderson was born on September 13, 1949 in Brooklyn, New York, to William P. Henderson and Alice R. Volk.

Bruce grew up in Brooklyn, New York and graduated from Long Beach High School in 1967. It was here that Bruce met his beloved bride, Debby, at the age of 15. The two were voted class athletes and class couple at Long Beach High School. Bruce attended Nassau Community College from 1967 to 1969 where he excelled in football and baseball eventually earning his place in the Nassau Community College Hall of Fame. After attending Nassau Community College, Bruce and Debby were married in Point Lookout, New York, on June 8, 1969. Bruce furthered his college education at Long Island University from 1970 to 1972 where he played baseball and was the captain of the team. Bruce was drafted by the New York Mets in 1967; by the Montreal Expos in 1969; and again in 1972 by the St. Louis Cardinals where he signed. He started with the Cardinals Rookie League in Sarasota, Florida and then moved up to the A League in St. Petersburg, Florida. Bruce was then moved to the A League in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After an injury, Bruce was released from the Cardinals.

He moved his family to Middletown, New York to run a small trucking business with his brother Bill. After 3 years and gas prices soaring, the company disbanded and Bruce decided to finish his degree at Long Island University. He graduated in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. At the time, there were no teaching jobs on Long Island, so Bruce moved his family to booming Houston, Texas where there were plenty of teaching jobs. In 1981, Bruce and his family moved to Channelview, Texas. It was here that Bruce taught science and coached football at Alice Johnson



BRUCE M. HENDERSON
1949-2020

Junior High. After one year, Bruce transferred to Channelview High School to coach the varsity football and varsity baseball teams. After 3 years in Channelview, Bruce and his family relocated to Katy, Texas, where he landed a job at Memorial Parkway Junior High in Katy Independent School District. After 1 year, Bruce was transferred to Taylor High School where he taught Chemistry and coached the varsity football and baseball teams for 23 years. Bruce moonlighted as an umpire and a basketball official for 30 years in the Houston area as well.

After Bruce retired in 2006 from Katy ISD, he obtained his dream job of working security as a field supervisor for the Houston Astros at Minute Maid Park. He did this for 10 and a half years. He absolutely loved working at the ballpark and had a special relationship with his co-workers as well as the season ticket holders in section

106 (3rd base line). Bruce was very passionate about loyalty and honesty. He was a hard worker with very strong ethics.

Bruce M. Henderson passed away on Monday, July 20, 2020 in Richmond, Texas at 70 years of age. He is survived by his loving wife, Deborah Marie "Debby" Henderson; his daughters, Julianne M. Berg (Spring, TX) and Jill D. Rives and her husband Mark E. Rives (Richmond, TX); his grandchildren, Carson and Cooper Berg, Addison and Henderson Rives; his brothers, William Henderson (Wrentham, MA) and Patrick J. McNeil (Richmond, TX); as well as numerous other loving family members and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be made to The Petterie Animal Adoption/Rescue at <https://thepetterie.com/donate/> or to the Houston Astros Foundation at <https://www.mlb.com/astros/community/foundation/donate>.

Cara Jo Miller was born on March 29, 1938 in Butler, PA to Raymond Joseph De Mask and Mary Cleola Painter De Mask. Cara was a member of the St. Bartholomew Catholic

Church in Katy. She loved to craft and crochet. Cara also enjoyed to play bingo, shuffleboard, and chicken foot.

Cara Jo Miller passed away on Thursday, July 30, 2020 in Conroe, Texas at 82 years of age.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Edward Miller.

She is survived by her sons, William R. Miller & his wife Donna and Keith Edward Miller & his wife Karen; her daughter, Cheryl Ann Waltman & her husband Kenneth; her grandchildren, Stephen Waltman & Jami Dixon, Melissa Waters, Brandy Peet & Nathan, Holly Koukas & John, Clay Miller, Kami Miller, and Katelyn Miller; her great grandchildren, Cayce Peet, Carter Peet, Vincent Koukas, Della Watters, Luke Watters, Casey Dixon, and Colin Dixon; her brother, Robert J. De Mask; her sister, Barbara Sinz; and by numerous other loving family members and many friends.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2020 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway chapel with John-Vincent Rouse officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be made to the Brookwood Community, 1752 Farm to Market 1489, Brookshire, Texas 77423, <https://www.brookwoodcommunity.org/>

To express condolences, please visit www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net

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



CARA JO MILLER
1938-2020

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When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalms 94:19

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2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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Psalms 94:19

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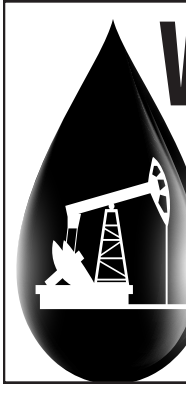
860 WORK WANTED

July 30 Puzzle Answers

3	1	6	2	4	8	7	9	5
9	7	2	5	3	1	4	6	8
4	8	5	6	9	7	2	1	3
8	5	4	9	2	3	1	7	6
2	6	7	4	1	5	3	8	9
1	3	9	8	7	6	5	4	2
7	4	8	3	5	9	6	2	1
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			A	R	T	E	R		N	E	T	

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Telecommunications Facility
Eco-Site, Inc. has submitted a request to the FCC to register a proposed approx. 150' tall monopole telecommunications tower with no marking or lighting system to be located at 5364 Franz Rd in Katy, TX 77493; coordinates of 29-48-11.67 N, 95-48-44.79 W. Interested parties may review the application by going to the FCC's Antennae Structure Registration (ASR) website and entering the ASR application #A1171103. Members of the public may raise environmental concerns about the proposed structure by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the FCC. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file such requests online and instructions to do so can be found on the FCC's Environmental Request page (<http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest>) or send to: Ramon Williams, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554. Requests should also be sent to: FDH Infrastructure Services, ATTN: Richard Brainerd, 6521 Meridian Drive, Raleigh, NC 27616. In order for your comments to receive full and timely consideration, they should be received at the addresses above within 30 days of the date of this notice and reference FCC ASR file #A1171103.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals for **Hauling Sludge and Landfill Disposal – 2020** will be received at City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **2:00 p.m., Thursday, August 20, 2020.**
The Owner is the City Of Katy, Texas
The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter into a contract with the Owner.
A Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable, without recourse, to the Owner or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a contract and execute bonds in forms provided as outlined in the Contract Documents. Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Maintenance Bond, in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required.
For public projects, not less than the minimum wage rates as prescribed in the General Conditions must be paid.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities in bids.
Bonded general contractor may obtain one set of bid documents for this project at the office of the Engineer, **Clay & Leyendecker, Inc., 1350 Avenue D, Katy, Texas 77493, (281) 391-0173.**

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Nielsen steps into Harris GOP leadership

By PATRICK SVITEK
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Keith Nielsen has taken office as the chairman of the Harris County GOP, despite saying he would not do so earlier this summer after facing backlash to an image he posted on Facebook juxtaposing a Martin Luther King Jr. quote with a banana.

Nielsen, elected in March, was set to automatically take over as the party leader in Texas’ biggest county, home to Houston, at 12 a.m. Monday. To forfeit the office, he would have had to notify the party



KEITH NIELSEN

secretary prior to midnight, which he did not do, according to party spokeswoman Genevieve Carter.

By Sunday night, over 120 precinct chairs had signed on to a statement reminding Nielsen of his early June “declination to take the office.”

In recent weeks, all signs pointed to Nielsen reneging on his promise to not take office. He showed up to a meeting with state Senate district chairs last month and left the impression that he was reversing himself, and last week, he announced an Aug. 18 meeting with precinct chairs in an email that he signed as the “chairman-elect.”

Nielsen never publicly confirmed his intentions as questions mounted about whether he was going back on his word. Meanwhile, some of the prominent GOP

officials who had initially pressured him to step aside reiterated their calls. The group included Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, of Conroe.

“A bigot whose word is no good,” Brady tweeted Tuesday. “This is not what the party of Lincoln stands for. He needs to be removed. Now.”

It was not immediately clear how Nielsen could be ousted.

The statement from the precinct chairs does not criticize Nielsen but favorably notes his June 6 statement that he would not take office.

“This difficult decision rightfully put our party over personal interest,” the precinct chairs’ statement says. “This allows the Republican Party to move forward towards victory in November.”

Nonetheless, Nielsen’s reversal is another

headache for Texas Republicans as they prepare for a tough November election, especially in Harris County, a onetime battleground that has trended Democratic in recent election cycles.

Nielsen had faced wide-ranging condemnation for the Facebook graphic. The juxtaposition of the quote and the banana can be read as an allusion to equating Black people with monkeys, a well-worn racist trope.

Nielsen initially said the graphic was being misinterpreted and declined to give up the job. Days later, though, he changed his mind, saying that he “must step aside as Chairman-elect ... and will not be taking office on Aug. 3rd.”

The party had initially scheduled an Aug. 8 meeting to pick Nielsen’s replacement but scrapped it as it became clear he would not be giving up the post after all.

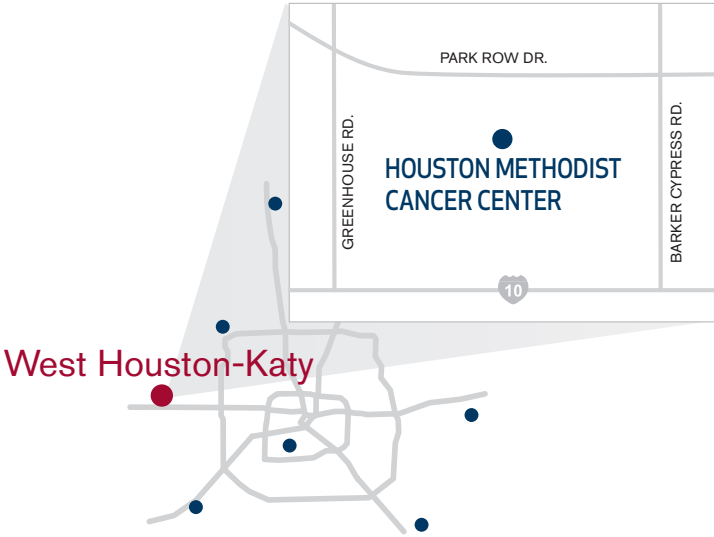


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