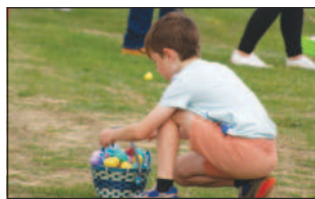


MCCORMICK HOSTS DRIVE THRU FOOD DRIVE PAGE 5



AN EGG-CELLENT OCCASION IN BUDA PAGE 7



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# Hays Free Press

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PHOTO BY ASHLEY KONNIER

## Hays CISD rallies together after bus accident

*'To all the people that are stepping in and supporting. I just want to tell them thank you, from the bottom of my heart.'*

By Brittany Kelley  
brittanyk@haysfreepress.com

**BUDA** — Following the school bus accident that left more than 50 injured and an adult and a student deceased, Hays CISD Superintendent Eric Wright provided a status update on the aftermath of the incident.

At approximately 2:17 p.m. on Friday, March 22, a Tom Green Elementary School bus was returning from a field trip at the Capital of Texas Zoo in Cedar Creek, headed west on Highway 21, when a concrete truck veered into its lane.

"The plan was for [the children] to return to Tom Green from the field trip and then, they would be there at dismissal time to then begin their regular route

home," said Hays CISD Chief Communication Officer Tim Savoy.

Ryan Wallace, 33, of Bastrop, who was following behind the school bus when the accident happened, crashed into the bus and was pronounced dead at the scene.

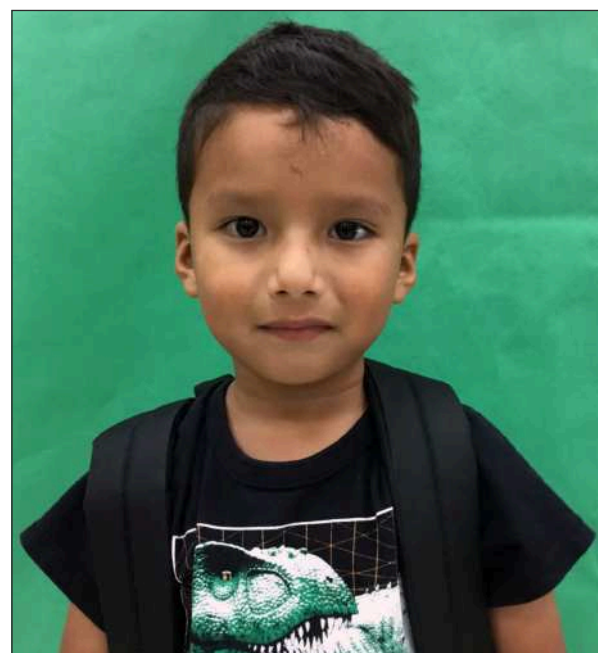
Following the collision, nine emergency agencies responded to the scene, where 53 individuals were evaluated at an on-scene triage. Four individuals were transported by STAR Flight helicopters to hospitals in Austin, while six with serious injuries traveled via ambulance.

More than half of the school's pre-kindergarten students were on the bus — which did not have seatbelts — confirmed Wright, including students from the bilingual class and three

deaf students from the special education classes. There were also 11 teachers and teaching aides on the bus at the time of the crash.

"The adults that were on the bus, even though they sustained injuries, were making sure that the kids were receiving support ... Once the driver was cut out of her seatbelt, she was helping because she was a familiar face to the kids. So, as they were transitioning [off of the bus], she was there to support them, as well. She put the kids above herself and served them during their crisis," said Wright. "It was heroic."

All of the staff members that were on board are heroes, said Savoy, but the bus driver, whose name has not been released by



Ulises Rodriguez Montoya

See ACCIDENT, Page 2

## Kyle community center discussions continue

By Brittany Kelley

**KYLE** — Discussions continue to circulate around the potential multipurpose community center in Kyle, following Assistant City Manager Jesse Elizondo providing a report to the city council at a special meeting on Saturday, March 16.

Beginning with citizen comments, Betty Conley, president of the Kyle Area Senior Zone (KASZ),

stated that 22.22% of the city population is older adults.

"By supporting your seniors, you are also supporting the younger and middle-aged residents who are trying to figure out how to take care of their parents and grandparents. You're giving the seniors a sense of community and purpose," Conley said. "[You can] help make our city a blue zone, which scientifically has been shown to increase the quality and longevity of life. Mr. [Bryan] Langley is aware of the benefits of a true senior center, as he has managed cities that have built and managed them. They are individual buildings, not shared space."

According to the Blue Zone website, a blue zone is an area which is given to regions that have a long life expectancy, which is attributed to diet, exercise, having a life purpose and more.

Cynthia Bentley of KASZ explained that the senior center addresses a lot of things that are not social, so the

upcoming center should not be focused on that. KASZ holds a variety of classes, such as nutrition classes, which teach older adults what a proper diet is, classes on preventing depression, fitness classes, counseling and more. One of the biggest challenges individuals aged 50 and older face is grief, said Bentley, so they regularly hold classes to teach them how to deal with and process the feeling. The center also does a lot of volunteering and donating.

"I don't know you, but I can guarantee you have parents, whether they are here locally or not. If they've ever lost someone, they're lost. They really need a senior center where they know they can go and they can have comfort and they can have friendship and they can begin to live again," emphasized Pam Gibson, general manager of KASZ.

Both prior to and in 2016, community members over the age of 50 have voiced that a senior center was

See COMMUNITY Page 3

## Health insurance approved for council members in 4-3 vote

By Brittany Kelley

**KYLE** — At its March 19 meeting, Kyle City Council approved an ordinance to amend the city's Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget to allow council members access to the health insurance program.

The item also included reallocating funds that are currently used for mileage reimbursement to a \$300 monthly mileage stipend for council members.

Several residents spoke against the item during citizen comments, stating that there is no need for the city to take on this expense.

"You're asking for a benefit that other part-time employees do not have," said Stephanie McDonald, a concerned citizen. "Kyle has got a lot of dire needs and I think that money could be used toward that, like our roads and our water."

According to Assistant City Manager Jesse Elizondo, council requested staff to do a study on council compensation and bring it back. Currently, council members receive \$1,000 per month, while the mayor receives \$1,300, and they also receive a \$500 monthly stipend for expenses. Council members do have access to the city's health insurance through Ordinance 1043, but it is at the full price, which is deducted from their monthly salary.

If council members were to adopt the \$300 mileage stipend, it would be "budget neutral," explained Elizondo, meaning that it will not affect the budget.

Mayor Travis Mitchell began by stating that the argument can be made that council should not be compensated because it should be treated as a part-time job, but he explained that he has worked with two types of council members over the years: those that study for the agenda and show up every other Tuesday and those that put in a lot of effort and are impacted financially because of it.

"I've always felt that council members should be paid in such a way that the amount of compensation that comes to them is never so much that they would run for city council, so that they could be compensated for the money or for the benefits," the mayor said. "I've also felt that council members should never be paid so little that the average resident is prevented from running for council because the sacrifice required to do the job right causes them to struggle to maintain full time employment. At the center of that is health insurance."

Mitchell continued by stating that the job of a council member is unique, due to various meetings being "all over the place. It's morning, noon and night," making it difficult to maintain full-time employment for some. So, he is in support of insurance being provided. He also believes that the stipend is most likely due to the immense amount of paperwork that is required for the mileage reimbursement that staff has to deal with.

Council member Daniela Parsley

See INSURANCE, Page 7

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**'ATTEMPTING TO CIRCUMVENT THE CITY'S CHARTER TO INCREASE COUNCIL COMPENSATION DOES NOT MAKE YOU SMART. IT MAKES YOU A THIEF AMONG THIEVES ...'**  
- YVONNE FLORES-CALE

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# ACC continues to explore College Affordability Plan

*'We're excited about the concept because when you talk to families, college affordability is probably the number one concern they have.'*

By Megan Navarro  
megan@haysfreepress.com

**AUSTIN** — To help reduce the financial burden for students to pursue higher education, the Austin Community College District (ACC) is still in the process of looking at a proposed College Affordability Plan.

The proposed plan has an innovative pilot program that would provide free tuition for members of the class of 2024 who live within the ACC service area, including high school graduates and GED/High School Equivalency completers.

"It's a college affordability plan, which is a pilot study for graduating seniors right now. It's in our entire service area, which is a lot of Central Texas," said ACC Board Chair

Dr. Barbara P. Mink. "Even though our name is ACC, it is the Austin Community College District, and so it's a huge area of Central Texas that we're trying to impact."

All high school students or GED completers who graduate after July 1, 2023, and live in the ACC service area would be eligible for three years of free tuition, according to the proposal. For example, an eligible student graduating from high school in May 2024 will receive free tuition from fall 2024 through summer 2027.

Also, students who complete the initial program would be eligible for an additional two years to obtain a bachelor's degree from the college for a total of five years of free tuition at ACC.

"They don't have to be full-

time. The pilot is focusing on three years, so they'll have three years from the start of the fall to finish their program. Part of our design process, working with families through this and having them give us feedback, the longer it takes a student to get a degree, the less likely they are to get it," explained ACC Chancellor Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart. "If college affordability is the biggest barrier, and we're removing that barrier, we want to incentivize students getting their credential or their degree and either going into the workforce or transferring to the university. That three-year frame is giving them time to be part time, but they could be part-time and go year-round and still get a degree in that timeframe."

Other highlights of the proposed program include students within the service area, but not in the taxing district, would still be responsible for the out-of-district fee and eligible students would be encouraged to apply for additional financial aid and scholarships to support other college and life expenses, including child care, living expenses, food and housing.

The college first began evaluating the proposal after looking at regional data that indicated a significant shift in college enrollment rates in Central Texas. In 2023, 57% of high school graduates didn't enroll in postsecondary education after graduating, according to ACC. Potential ACC students, those who started an application, but

ultimately chose not to enroll, indicated that tuition costs were the overwhelming reason why they were postponing college.

"When we were looking at our regional data and our specific Austin Community College data, there was a really concerning number that popped up. A decade ago, 60% of all regional graduating seniors graduated high school in the spring and enrolled in a postsecondary institution in the fall ... Now, only 43% of our students are graduating high school and then going somewhere. In a decade, we have completely flipped, where from the majority going to a higher education entity to the majority not going anywhere

See ACC Page 7

## ACCIDENT From Page 1

the district, is facing a different battle.

"She's very sore physically, but it's more difficult for her mentally because nobody wants to lose a child," explained Wright. "I told her [that] based on all the evidence we have — with the concrete truck veering over into her lane, her evasive action — saved all the rest of the lives. So, we do consider her to be a hero, but in her mind, she is carrying that heavy burden."

The child lost was 5-year-old Ulises Rodriguez Montoya. The dinosaur-loving boy adored his family, going to school and the color green, said a news release.

"Ulises was a child who was filled with a lot of happiness and he often shared it with others," said his teacher, Naira Solís Shears. "He had a talent for drawing and his favorite thing to draw was dinosaurs. He could almost completely spell the word dinosaur, which demonstrates how smart he was. He always had a dinosaur drawn on all of the assignments he turned in. He liked to tell stories and shared many with his friends and family. Above all — he was a loving child."

Wright, who visited with the family on Monday, March 25, expressed that it has been difficult for them. As of now, the family is beginning their grieving process, waiting for family members to fly in from across the country and planning Ulises' funeral service. A GoFundMe, which can be found at [gofund.me/026b0f7e](https://gofund.me/026b0f7e), is available to alleviate funeral expenses for the Rodriguez Montoya family.

"We just let them know that we're here for them and basically prayed with them and hugged their necks," the superintendent said. "We consider ourselves a family. Anytime I address the district, we refer to it as the Hays CISD family and personally, I feel like I've lost one of my family members."

Currently, there are four individuals still in the hospital, two adults and two children, one of which is expected to be released soon. The adults, on the other hand, have a seemingly long journey ahead of them. Savoy explained that the two staff members sustained very serious injuries that will require a tremendous amount of time to heal,

with extensive physical therapy.

The district is prepared to continue to support both the two staff members who remain in the hospital, as well as every other individual who was affected by the incident. A GoFundMe has been established to aid with the medical bills and other expenses they may face.

The fundraiser, located at [gofund.me/000c1be6](https://gofund.me/000c1be6), has garnered more than \$85,000 at the time of publication. Savoy explained that this is a general fund and will be dispersed to families that were affected.

Since the accident, school districts, government entities, the governor and community members across Texas have expressed their support for the campus.

"We are heartbroken over the loss of a young Tom Green Elementary School student and an adult in another vehicle. The Buda community grieves with you and we pray for healing and comfort for those who are injured and still recovering and processing this tragedy," wrote the city of Buda. "Thank you to the teachers, bus drivers, school administrators, first responders and medical personnel who bravely responded and cared for our precious students following this accident."

"The Capital of Texas Zoo is heartbroken to have learned that not long after leaving the zoo from their field trip this morning, the bus carrying the students from Tom Green Elementary in Buda was involved in a tragic accident," said Michael Hicks of Capital of Texas Zoo. "The staff, parents and students of Tom Green Elementary are in our thoughts and prayers. We extend our deepest condolences to everyone involved. We understand the impact this incident may have on the community and are here to offer support in any way we can during this difficult time."

Governor Greg Abbott expressed his condolences, as well, stating, "Cecilia and I are saddened to hear about this tragic incident and we ask all Texans to join us in prayer for Tom Green Elementary School students and families during this difficult time."

Counselors from across the state have

offered their services, such as bilingual counselors from the Gulf Coast and from Hill Country MHDD, counselors from other school districts and Hays CISD itself. And training will be provided for teachers to learn the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, as well as parents, so they can be connected to resources if they need them.

"The district hopes that the [Department of Public Safety] accident reconstruction investigation will be able to provide more information about whether a seatbelt may have made a difference for the student who died in the accident, but at this time, we just don't know the answer," said Savoy.

As for the future, Savoy explained that they are immediately going to discuss options to replace the buses that do not have seatbelts. There are 109 regular route buses, he said, and 15 of them lack seatbelts. These will soon be replaced with 21 buses that are already in a queue to have GPS and camera equipment installed. Still, there are an additional 87 "spare buses," which are often used for field trips, extracurriculars, etc., without seatbelts. So, the goal is to accelerate the annual replacement of 15-20 buses to replace them all, said Savoy.

Further discussion will be provided in the upcoming months.

School was canceled for TGES on Monday, March 25, to provide specialized crisis and trauma counseling on a voluntary basis, but resumed on Tuesday, as the students were requesting "to see their friends," said Savoy.

"In the days and weeks ahead, we will face a long road of healing and recovery. Let us come together to provide comfort and solace to one another, offering a shoulder to lean on and listening ear for those who need it most. During this time, I encourage each and every one of you to prioritize self-care and seek support if needed," said TGES principal Jennifer Hanna.

"It's nice to be able to put everything else aside and focus on humanity," emphasized Wright. "And so, to all the people that are stepping in and supporting. I just want to tell them thank you, from the bottom of my heart."



PHOTO BY ASHLEY KONTNIER

Tiffany Reyna, right, and her daughter Emma joined in to "Chalk the Walk" at Tom Green Elementary School before students came back to campus on Tuesday.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY KONTNIER

A hand-drawn picture of dinosaurs sits at the base of the school sign in memory of Ulises Rodriguez Montoya.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY KONTNIER

Dressed in green, Cadence Pugh, left, and her mom Crystal Pugh color a rainbow on the sidewalk at Tom Green Elementary School. Community members were asked to wear green on Monday, March 25 as a show of support for the school.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY KONTNIER

Missy Haley and her son, Waylon, write an encouraging note on the front walk of Tom Green Elementary School for the students returning on Tuesday.

**COMMUNITY From Page 1**

important, which is why the city vacated the Krug Activity Center, according to Mayor Travis Mitchell. The wait for the community center has taken so long due to other priorities that have come about, such as the Public Safety Center for the police department and the increasing need for roads within the city. The approach for the center, said Mitchell, has been to wait for the 2024 election to propose a bond because that is when the most voters will be in attendance.

“We want to be ready and what being ready means is that we have to call a bond by August and to call a bond by August means that we have to have some basic numbers. We have to have some basic designs; We have to identify a location [and] we have to figure out what components are going to go into this building and that’s a lot to do,” Mitchell said. “My only plea with the community, with the seniors in particular, is to be patient with us, but also please be adaptable.”

Elizondo began by stating city staff is looking

for input on facility use, funding/timeline and location of the facility, which he estimates will be between 60,000-130,000 square feet.

**FACILITY USE**

Council member Daniela Parsley started the discussion by listing the numerous uses she hopes to gain from the facility, including a library expansion, flexible spaces, room for technological advancements, an indoor basketball court, coffee and food options and more, but also involving the youth, such as the Kyle Area Youth Advisory Council and inquiring what the city is lacking that the youth needs or wants to see.

“There is a huge lack of places for you to take little children that are indoor. So, if we were to be able to have another component that has like a ‘DoSeum,’ [or] ‘MY Museum’ kind of floor, where you have a play and learn environment that is also open for kids that have sensory disabilities, I would like to see that,” said Parsley, adding that this could be in the library.

Agreeing with many sentiments, council member Robert Rizo also stressed that the library provides a safe space for many individuals with families. It is a space for community members to educate themselves and gain resources that they may not have at home, so this is an important factor for the new space, considering the current library is “outgrown.”

Council member Lauralee Harris stated that as a member of KASZ, she knows the difficulties that are arising due to the current facility, so she would like to see this solved with the new center: “One of the things that we truly need is a kitchen and an area sufficient to serve at least 200 people. We turn people away on Tuesday, which is the only day that we are able to provide lunches. We consistently turn people away,” said Harris. “Many of our seniors are food insecure.”

The AARP came out with a livability index a few months ago, where Kyle was listed below average and one of the reasons is because of

the lack of resources for older adults, explained Harris. One fix would be to provide a kitchen, which would be eligible for federal funding, especially because many senior centers provide meals five days a week on a sliding scale, if not free.

Conley spoke up and said that the seniors do not mind sharing a space, as long as they know that they will have priority over the space when the time comes. As it is now, KASZ shares a space with the city and the city always gets top priority whenever they attempt to plan something, explained Conley. To remedy the needs, council member Bear Heiser requested both a list of needs and a list of amenities that would be nice to have from KASZ because this would make it easier for council members to determine what the facility use looks like.

Mitchell said that the more conversations that they have, the less the recreation center becomes a priority due to the upcoming Sportsplex, especially because of the other pressing needs. The mayor’s most important item is a shared meeting space and the ability of hosting large events, so he is willing to sacrifice the recreation center. Although, he acknowledged that the activity center is a big draw for voters, as it appeals to the most community members.

Each council member listed their priorities in order, as follows: Mitchell, seniors, library, recreation; Tobias, seniors, library, recreation; Rizo, seniors, library, recreation; Harris, seniors, recreation, library; Parsley, recreation, seniors, library with a children’s center; and Heiser, library, recreation, seniors.

This list allows city staff to understand that the senior center and library are the top priorities for the upcoming community center.

**FUNDING**

“How do we find a way to take these problems

and try to solve them? We’ve got one shot at this,” said the mayor. “What can we do to maximize the impact that we have on the community through a 2024 bond?”

Council member Michael Tobias said that he has done the research and understands why the center is needed, but “Just like anything else, there’s always going to be a dollar attached to this. Funding is going to be the major issue,” he said. “If we bring this forward to bond, that’s going to be a possible tax increase ... So, we have to be responsible and see where the numbers lie.”

Heiser asked what the maximum amount of money the city is willing to spend on the project is, to which Parsley stated that they should be aiming toward \$115 million.

Although there is no set number, Mitchell gave an example, stating that if the city put in \$75 million at \$750 a square foot, they would get a 100,000 square foot building: “There’s potential to partner with the county, which we need to be engaged with, but in terms of state and federal grant dollars, if we put that into the budget and don’t get it, then it threatens the project,” he said.

“We are the ones, in my opinion, who need to put the guard rails around the consultant or the designer and say, ‘We want you to build within a budget of \$75 million or \$100 million and we want these components in this priority,’” said Mitchell.

“We have lots of visions, lots of wants [and] lots of needs, but we also have bills to pay at the end of the month here in our city,” said Tobias.

**LOCATION**

Tobias reiterated the importance of selecting a location, citing the original location, Linebarger Lake by Tobias Elementary School, which has been deemed unusable. The two locations currently listed as options are Kyle Vista Park by Chapa Middle

School and a chunk of land located next to Kensington Trails. This land is not yet owned, but is in contract to be bought, according to Mitchell, which is the location that he is more fond of.

“I want to focus on the land that we own first,” said Tobias.

Tobias mentioned that the building should be a complex, with the possibility of multiple floors, so the seniors have their own space, but still allows for the possible recreation center.

“Limiting ourselves to just a building is something I don’t want to do. I want to make sure that you have park space, you have adequate parking, you have amenities, safe walking trails, so a little bit of everything. Let’s look at the entire property and see what else we can do. I would love to see y’all have everything and that’s the entire community,” said Rizo.

For Parsley, the location being central to the entire community and allowing space for potential expansion, as the community grows, is important.

Ultimately, the council members kept both locations as possibilities and requested for staff to bring back information dictating which land would be the most viable.

The next steps to take are to create conceptual designs and renderings for both locations with engineering analysis to determine which location will be chosen. Staff will also come back and give more options with specifics to shared spaces, what it could look like, etc. Because of the time limit, there is no time to have requests for qualifications, so staff and council will look at firms to bring back a recommendation for which firm to choose to create a professional services agreement with.

To listen to the discussion, visit bit.ly/43qXIPH.



**Starfire, Female, 1 Year 9 Months, Hound Mix:**

Starfire is a shining example of grace and intelligence. Walking beside her on the leash is a pleasure, as she displays impeccable manners and a natural poise. Her eagerness to learn is matched only by her quick wit, making her an ideal candidate for mastering tricks and commands. She has a gentle and patient approach with children. Additionally, we’ve come to find out that she’s potty trained!



**Lizzie, Female, 7 Months, Domestic Shorthair Mix:**

Hello, I’m Lizzie. I may seem a bit shy at first, but once I get to know you, we’ll be the best of friends. I enjoy my independence, often spending my days exploring or just relaxing in a cozy corner. But don’t let my mellow nature fool you. I also have a playful side. I’d love to find a forever home where I can continue to grow, learn, and love.

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by Linda Thistle

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**ACROSS**

- 1 slang for “athlete”
- 5 vera
- 6 TXism: “suits me to a fare-thee-”
- 7 Metroplex Tex-Mex eatery: “\_ Fenix”
- 8 Madigan of Texas-based 1985 film “Alamo Bay”
- 9 TX Meat Loaf’s first album: “\_ of Hell” (1977)
- 15 San Antonio-based military insur. co.
- 16 TXism: “exciting as a fire at the \_”
- 19 TXism: “jumped from the frying \_ the fire”
- 21 residences for old folks: nursing \_
- 22 1970s male hair style (2 wds.)
- 27 this McEntire was “Ma Tex” in “North”
- 28 cut in half
- 29 TX John Wesley Hardin, e.g.
- 30 TXism: “put on the \_” (eat)
- 32 a shoe width
- 33 TXism: “he rides over everybody”
- 36 TXism for “nonsense” or “lies”: “hog \_”
- 37 Texas-based “Steak and \_”
- 38 where you find sodas in a hotel room
- 39 diet goal: \_ look
- 41 Gulf shrimp snare

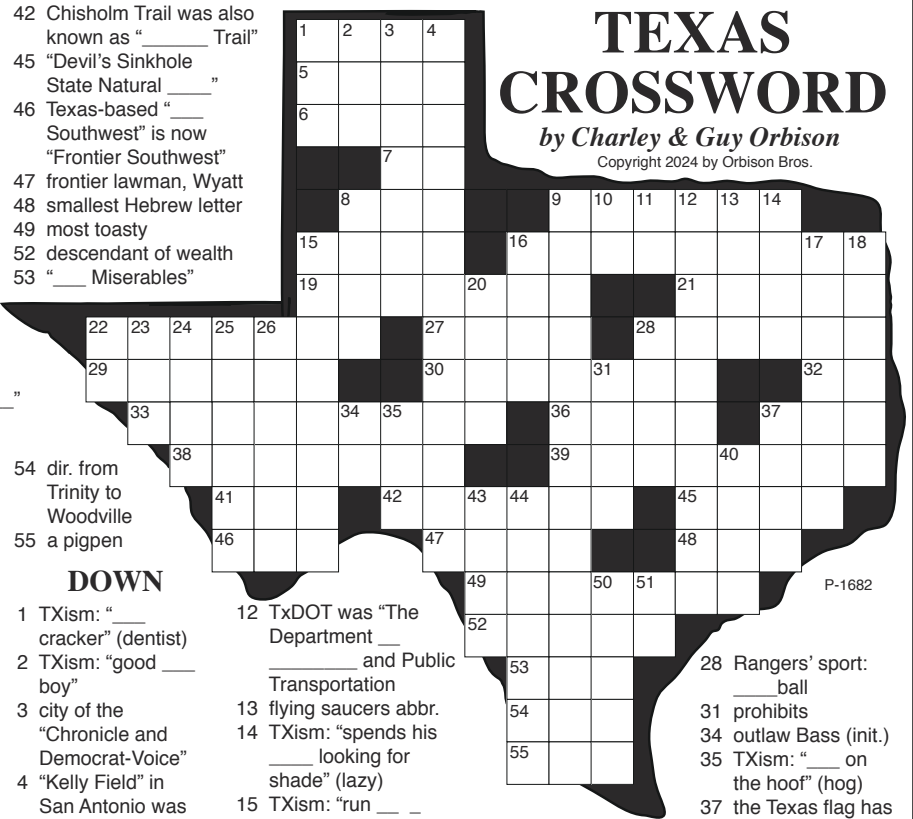
- 42 Chisholm Trail was also known as “\_ Trail”
- 45 “Devil’s Sinkhole State Natural \_”
- 46 Texas-based “\_ Southwest” is now “Frontier Southwest”
- 47 frontier lawman, Wyatt
- 48 smallest Hebrew letter
- 49 most toasty
- 52 descendant of wealth
- 53 “\_ Miserables”

**DOWN**

- 1 TXism: “\_ cracker” (dentist)
- 2 TXism: “good \_ boy”
- 3 city of the “Chronicle and Democrat-Voice”
- 4 “Kelly Field” in San Antonio was formerly “\_ Base”
- 8 TXism: “tough \_ old boot”
- 9 Bing’s role in 1959 film “Say One For Me” with TX Debbie Reynolds (2 wds.)
- 10 TXism: “old \_ dirt”
- 11 TXism: “up \_ snuff”
- 12 TxDOT was “The Department \_ and Public Transportation
- 13 flying saucers abbr.
- 14 TXism: “spends his \_ looking for shade” (lazy)
- 15 TXism: “run \_ \_ flag” (give up)
- 16 Dolly recorded a cover of McCartney’s “Let \_”
- 17 this “Cece” Kizer is a forward for the Houston Dash
- 18 admiration, respect
- 20 \_ville, Texas
- 22 “\_ long” (goodbye)

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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- 23 noted epic 1959 film: “Ben \_”
- 24 abandoned Texas SSC was to be a giant \_ smasher
- 25 repairing a broken vase, e.g.
- 26 TXism: “attracted like steel to a \_”
- 28 Rangers’ sport: \_ ball
- 31 prohibits
- 34 outlaw Bass (init.)
- 35 TXism: “\_ on the hoof” (hog)
- 37 the Texas flag has \_ stripe
- 40 jogging pace
- 43 crow cries
- 44 prophets
- 50 TXism: “\_ on up to the trough” (join in)
- 51 Edward of “Fight Club” with TX Meat Loaf” (init.)

**Hays Free Press**

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## Furious Houston canes his accuser

“Was the late secretary of war removed in consequence of his attempt fraudulently to give to Gov. Houston the contract for the Indian rations?” an Ohio congressman asked on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on Mar. 31, 1832.

Three years had come and gone since Sam Houston resigned as governor of Tennessee following the scandalous breakup of his marriage to a teenaged debutante. During his self-imposed exile among the Cherokees, he lobbied for a contract to feed various tribes on their western relocation under the Indian Removal Act. But the potentially profitable plan hit a snag, when war secretary John Eaton froze the bids.

Houston happened to be in the nation's capital on Apr. 3, 1832, the day a Washington newspaper published the text of Rep. William Stanbery's speech. The former two-term congressman headed straight for the House to confront his accuser, but friend and future president James K.

Polk persuaded him not to go off half-cocked.

Instead, Houston sent a formal note to Stanbery inquiring whether he had been quoted accurately in the press. The Ohioan added insult to injury by refusing to reply and, interpreting the message as the prelude to a duel, armed himself with two pistols and a dagger.

Ten days later on Friday the 13th, Houston was strolling along Pennsylvania Avenue with a senator and a representative, when the later spotted Stanbery and changed course. Houston politely asked the stranger his name and, upon learning he was indeed the character assassin, shouted at the top of his lungs, “Then you are a damned rascal!”

Houston struck the first blow creasing Stanbery's skull with a hickory cane. Only after taking several more licks to the head and shoulder did the lawmaker try to flee, but Houston hopped on his back and pinned him to the ground.

Screaming bloody murder, Stanbery pulled a pistol and shoved

the barrel against his powerful opponent's chest. He squeezed the trigger, but the gun misfired.

Houston tore the weapon from his grasp, jumped to his feet and resumed the thrashing. He continued to cane the congressman even in the presence of police, who ordered him to stop. Houston warned the officers at knifepoint not to interfere explaining he was “whipping a scoundrel who had insulted him but did not intend to kill him.”

Stanberry suffered a severe concussion, broken hand and numerous cuts and bruises in the one-sided encounter. His detailed description of the incident was delivered to Speaker Andrew Stevenson, who in spite of his long association with the assailant had no choice but to put the matter to a vote.

Angered by the violent retaliation against a colleague for an opinion expressed on the floor of the House, members voted 145-25 in favor of arrest. Accompanied by

**THIS WEEK  
IN TEXAS  
HISTORY**

BY BARTEE HAILE



attorney Francis Scott Key, author of “The Star Spangled Banner,” Houston came in person two days later to plead not guilty to a charge of assault.

The sensational trial began in the House on Apr. 19 and brought Capitol Hill to a complete standstill. Chairs had to be placed in the aisles to accommodate the overflow crowd, which packed the chamber for every session.

A week or so into the election-year circus, President Andrew Jackson summoned the defendant to the White House. “It's not you they are after, Sam,” Old Hickory stressed to his protégé. “They wish to injure your old commander.” He gave Houston several gold pieces with instructions to trade his buckskin garb for tailored attire befitting a gentleman.

The night before

Houston spoke on his own behalf, he entertained a few close friends in his hotel room. The guest list included Speaker Stevenson and Polk, “a victim of the use of water as a beverage” who retired at a reasonable hour. The rest, however, drank themselves into the customary stupor.

Before losing consciousness, Houston told a barber to bring him coffee and his “shaving traps” at sunrise. Pointing to a pistol and a stack of coins, he joked, “If the coffee does not stick when I drink it, take the pistol and shoot me and the gold is yours.”

The carouser managed to keep down his third cup, thereby saving his life, and hurried to the House where all Washington was waiting. He was at his oratorical best, despite a head-splitting hangover, and paused often to acknowledge applause from the adoring audience. During an especially enthusiastic ovation, a woman in the gallery tossed a bouquet

at his feet and cried out, “I would rather be Sam Houston in a dungeon than Stanbery on a throne.”

The House debated the case for four days before finding Houston guilty by a vote of 106 to 89. The punishment was the lightest possible – a reprimand from Speaker Stevenson that sounded more like a pat on the back than a slap on the wrist.

Sam Houston frankly admitted years later than the Stanbery Affair was the best thing that could have happened to him. “I was dying out, and had they taken me before a justice of the peace and fined me ten dollars for assault and battery, they would have killed me. But they gave me a national tribunal for a theater and set me up again.”

Choose from “Depression-Era Desperadoes,” “Texas Boomtowns,” “Murder Most Texan,” “Unforgettable Texans” and “Texas Entertainers.” Mail your check for \$24.00 each to Barte Haile, P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

## State immigration law again on hold

The on-again, off-again state immigration law is once more on hold while the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals considers its constitutionality. Senate Bill 4 would allow state and local law enforcement officials to arrest and deport people suspected of entering the state illegally from Mexico,

the Austin American-Statesman reported. The U.S. Supreme Court last Tuesday removed a temporary hold on the law, which allowed it to take effect for several hours before the 5th Circuit court again stopped SB4 from being enforced while it considers its constitutionality.

At issue is whether the law usurps federal power to enforce border laws. A three-judge panel from the appeals court held a hearing last week but made no ruling.

“SB 4 is a modest, but important statute. It's modest because it mirrors federal law,” Texas Solicitor General Aaron Nielson told the judges during Wednesday's hearing. “It's important because it helps to address what even the president has called a border crisis.”

While many law enforcement officials support SB4, major questions persist about how it will be enforced if found constitutional, the Texas Tribune noted.

“There's so much that we don't really know what it's even going to look like. We don't have precedent for a state doing this. It kind of changes the game,” said Jamie Longazel, a political science professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. “Migration is about someone coming from one country into another and so two

national governments deal with the question. Now you're having Texas and Mexico deal with this, potentially.”

### PHELAN ALLY ANNOUNCES RUN FOR HOUSE SPEAKER

A former ally of House Speaker Dade Phelan announced last Thursday that he will run to replace him when lawmakers return to Austin in January for the 2025 legislative session, The Dallas Morning News reported.

“At this point, leadership change is required in the Texas House,” state Rep. Tom Oliverson, R-Cypress, said in a news conference. “The status quo is too dysfunctional to continue, and the change from top to bottom is needed.”

Phelan is locked in a tough runoff battle with David Covey, an oil-and-gas consultant backed by Attorney General Ken Paxton and former President Donald Trump. He was targeted by state Republicans' far-right faction after last year's vote to impeach Paxton, and for continuing the tradition of appointing Democrats to chair some House committees.

Phelan said in a statement Thursday that he was focused on winning his May 28 runoff race and increasing the GOP majority in the House.

“As Speaker, I'm focused on winning these

### Capital Highlights

by Gary Borders



races, getting our team over the finish line and ensuring we start the session united and ready to deliver another banner conservative session for Texans,” Phelan said.

### MEDICAL BOARD UNVEILS DRAFT ABORTION GUIDELINES

The Texas Medical Board on Friday released draft guidelines for administration of the state's near-total abortion ban. Critics said the proposed rules fail to clarify which health conditions must be present for a doctor to legally perform an abortion.

“Putting all the definitions in one place, that's helpful. But it doesn't tell you any more about what you should do or not do,” said Steve Bresnen, whose joint petition with his wife, Amy, spurred the board to act after almost two years of calls by Texas OB-GYNs, pregnant patients, lawmakers, Gov. Greg Abbott and the state's highest court for the agency to issue the guidelines.

Bresnen told the American-Statesman he was “very disappointed” with the board's initial proposal, which it announced during a

meeting attended by hundreds of Texans online and dozens in person. Both abortion rights proponents and those against the procedure acknowledged widespread confusion around medical emergency exceptions.

The abortion ban law allows exceptions when a pregnancy is contributing to a “life-threatening physical condition.” However, physicians have been reluctant to decide whether an emergency abortion is needed, fearing prosecution if it is deemed to be illegal under the new state law.

### GENDER WAGE GAP IN TEXAS AMONG WORST

Texas has one of the worst wage gaps between men and women in the country, with only North Dakota and Alabama ranked worse, according to Forbes Advisor. The San Antonio Express-News reported the Forbes study indicated that women's median earnings in the state are 25% less than men's: \$39,615 versus \$52,823.

The state also has one of the biggest disparities when it comes to making a six-figure income, the study shows, ranking 10th-worst in that category. More than 25.61% of men working full-time make at least \$100,000, compared to just 13.19% of women.

“An abundance of high-paying jobs in male-dominated fields like oil and gas could contribute

to this metric,” the study notes.

### IT'S TORNADO SEASON IN TEXAS

Spring means it is tornado season in Texas, which averages 137 twisters annually, the most of any state in the country, according to the National Weather Service. Perhaps surprisingly, the metropolitan area that experiences the most tornadoes is not in “Tornado Alley” in North Texas, according to the staff meteorologist for the Express-News. Rather it is Harris County, which includes Houston. Harris County has had 247 tornado reports since 1950. Tarrant County, home to Fort Worth, trails far behind, with 110 tornado reports in the same time period.

When it comes to property damage, tornadoes hitting Dallas County have been by far the costliest, causing \$2.55 billion in damage since 1950. Harris County comes in second place with \$526 million, followed by Travis County (Austin) with \$268 million and Tarrant County at \$237 million.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

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### News Tips

If you think it's news, we probably do too!

- Newsroom phone: 512-268-7862
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- Mail: 113 W. Center St., Kyle, TX 78640

### Corrections

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the pages of the Hays Free Press will be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

### Deadlines

- The deadline for display advertising and any contributed news copy is 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication.
- The deadline for Letters to the Editor and classified word advertising is noon Monday the week of publication, though we encourage readers and advertisers to observe the Friday deadline.

### Letters Guidelines

We welcome locally written letters to the editor on timely topics of community interest. We ask that you keep them to about 350 words in length and that you not indulge in personal attacks on private individuals. Letters may be edited for brevity and clarity. All letters should be signed by the author and include a daytime phone number where the author can be contacted for verification. Letter writers are limited to one letter per month. Letters can be emailed to [news@haysfreepress.com](mailto:news@haysfreepress.com).

**OBITUARY**

**Sarah (Sally) McWithey**



Sally McWithey passed away November 27, 2023 at her home in Buda, TX. She was 68 years old. Sally was born in 1955 in Clarksdale, MS, graduated Appalachian St University.

Sally had a passion for teaching, working with children and giving back to the community. Over the years living in Buda Sally served on the Hays HS Band Boosters, and founded the Buda Children's Theatre company. She became a certified CASA volunteer in Hays County in 2007 and served many children and families in the community. She also enjoyed her role as Aunt Sally and hosted many nieces and nephews at home in Buda for summer getaways.

Survived by sister, Victoria Land; niece, Kathryn Land; husband, Richard; son, Preston and daughter, Elizabeth. She was blessed with 4 grandchildren: James, Judson, Henry, and Marshall.

Celebration of Life memorial service will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, 3701 W Slaughter Ln, Austin, TX 78749 on Friday, April 5, 2024, at 11:00AM. Please consider donations in Sally's memory to CASA of Central Texas.

# Kyle plans for 2024 eclipse

By Brittany Kelley

**KYLE** — At approximately 1:30 p.m. on April 8, in the western part of Hays County, a total solar eclipse will appear, leaving Kyle residents to experience a 99.8% occlusion.

According to the National Weather Service, the last time a total solar eclipse occurred in Central Texas was in 1878 and after this year's, the next won't appear until 2317. Due to the immense number of individuals that will flock to the area, the city of Kyle has prepared to maintain the safety of residents.

Kyle expects a range from 250,000 to 1.25 million visitors, based on estimates from the Texas Department of Transportation and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CATRAC). Will Paiz-Tabash, emergency management coordinator for the city of Kyle, noted that they are also gauging this number based on the hotel, Airbnb, RV site bookings, etc. Because of this traffic, city officials encourage community members to gather essential items, but not bulk buying, and ensure that vehicles are properly fueled beforehand.

"While Kyle is not directly in the path of the totality, it is adjacent to the path, leading to an expectation that we will experience a huge surge in traffic moving from

east to west and then returning east after the event. The current expectation is that traffic prior to the event will come in over the course of several days," read the agenda documents. "While [traffic leaving] will occur in the hours after the event, causing the bulk of the impact."

"I[H]-35 has always been a parking lot; it will continue to remain so," said Paiz-Tabash.

The county is assembling resources for the cities and Sun Coast Resources is contracted by the state for emergency fuel.

According to the city, during the last total eclipse in 2017, Kentucky saw an increase in traffic, which estimated 300,000 visitors, while Oregon estimated a million visitors and received nearly 2 million, causing all highways to be brought to a gridlock, the National Guard was activated to help clear roads and calls for 911 service increased, while response times also increased due to the immense amount of traffic. The same event in Tennessee led to fires started due to vehicles idling on dry grass along shoulders and spaces of the highway.

In the event that the cell phone towers get overwhelmed, Paiz-Tabash stated that Kyle has a landline backup and will also be able to maintain emergency communications, which will be all-hands-on-deck.

The Kyle Police Department will be working to ensure traffic flows and the fire department will be staged throughout the city. This is rare, as they typically stay housed at the stations, but in preparation of an emergency, staging will attempt to decrease response time.

"We have been meeting regularly with the county and we've also been having — what I'm calling — tri-city meetings with Buda and San Marcos [to coordinate]," said Paiz-Tabash.

Hays CISD, along with several other school districts in the area, has opted to close schools for the event.

More safety tips include:

- Never look directly at an eclipse without eye protection while the sun is moving into and out of the eclipse, unless using eclipse glasses or viewers
  - Get glasses early, as the event nears, they will be difficult to obtain
  - Sign up for emergency alerts at [www.warncentraltexas.org](http://www.warncentraltexas.org)
  - Prepare for cell service interruption or lack of service
  - Pre-map routes
  - Carry cash in case credit card machines are not working
- For more information, visit [www.cityofkyle.com/communications/2024-solar-eclipse](http://www.cityofkyle.com/communications/2024-solar-eclipse) or [www.haysinformed.com/solareclipse](http://www.haysinformed.com/solareclipse).

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# McCormick hosts food drive

The Hays County Pet Resource Education and Research Center, along with the Central Texas Food Bank and Hays County P.A.S.S. (Positive Alternatives to Shelter Surrender), hosted a drive-up food distribution for people and pets at McCormick Middle School on Saturday, March 23.

PHOTO BY BRITTANY KELLEY



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203 Railroad Street  
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**Sudoku Solution**

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

Sudoku Puzzle, from page 3

**Texas Crossword Solution**

Last Puzzle Solution

Texas Crossword, from page 3

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Sledge Chapel Missionary Baptist Church  
709 Sewell, Kyle  
Southeast Baptist Church  
5020 Turnersville Rd., Creedmoor  
Manchaca Baptist Church  
Lowden Lane & FM 1626  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
4000 E. FM 150, 4 miles east of Kyle  
Center Union Baptist Church  
Goforth Rd., Buda  
Primera Mision Bautista Mexicana  
Kyle  
Baptist Church of Driftwood  
13540 FM 150 W.  
Santa Cruz Catholic Church  
1100 Main Street, Buda  
St. Anthony Marie Claret Church  
801 N. Burselson, Kyle  
St. Michael's Catholic Church  
S. Old Spanish Trail, Umland

**CHRISTIAN**  
First Christian Church  
3105 RR 12, San Marcos  
New Life Christian Church  
2315 FM 967, Buda  
Iglesia Israelita Casa de Dios  
816 Green Pastures Dr., Kyle

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Buda-Kyle Church of Christ  
3.5 miles south of Buda on FM 2770  
Southern Hills Church of Christ  
3740 FM 967, Buda

**EPISCOPAL**  
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725 RR 967, Buda  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
RR 3237 (Wimberley Rd.), Kyle  
St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
11819 IH-35 South  
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses  
FM 2770, Kyle  
Jehovah's Witnesses South  
10802 Manchaca Rd., Manchaca

**LUTHERAN**  
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Redeeming Grace Lutheran LCMS  
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401 FM 967, Buda  
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9865 Camino Real, Umland  
The Well  
Buda

**METHODIST**  
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San Marcos & Elm St., Buda  
Kyle United Methodist Church  
Sledge & Lockhart St., Kyle  
Journey United Methodist  
216 Kirkham Circle, Kyle  
St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
7206 Creedmoor Rd., Creedmoor  
Manchaca United Methodist Church  
FM 1626 & Manchaca Rd., Manchaca  
Driftwood United Methodist Church  
RR 150 at County Road 170

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**  
Monte del Olivar Christian Center  
2400 FM 150 E., Kyle  
The Connection Church  
1235 S. Loop 4, Buda  
Antioch Community Church  
Old Black Colony Rd., Buda  
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Tobias Elementary Cafeteria, FM 150, Kyle  
Kingdom United Christian Church  
100 Madison Way, Buda  
Mission Fellowship Church  
200 San Marcos Street, Buda  
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A Fountain of Life Church  
302 Millenium Dr.  
Kyle  
Fellowship Church at Plum Creek  
160 Grace Street at 2770, Kyle  
Word of Life Christian Faith Center  
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## CLASSIFIED/ PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE OF APPLICANT SPONSORED MEETING

An applicant sponsored meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11th at 6:00 PM at Foundation of Life Worship Center, 302 Millennium Drive, Kyle, TX. The meeting will inform interested parties of the Civitas at Buda manufactured home rental community proposed at Satterwhite Road and Williamson Road (3607 Satterwhite Road) in far east Hays County. Information regarding the application may be obtained from Hays County Development Services 512-393-2150. Project Tracking Number: PLN-2322-MHRC.

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SUBDIVIDE

An application has been filed with HAYS COUNTY to subdivide 9.85 acres of property located at 1601 Springlake Drive, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620. Information regarding the application may be obtained from HAYS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, 512-393-2150, for SPRINGLAKE OAKS SUBDIVISION, PROJECT # PLN-2459-NP.

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Charles Richard Baker, Deceased, were issued on March 20, 2024, in Cause No. 24-0078-P, in the County at Law #3 Sitting in Maters Probate of Hays County, Texas, to: Richard Carl Baker.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Estate of Charles Richard Baker, Deceased  
c/o Richard Carl Baker  
711 Shenandoah  
Richmond, Texas 77469

DATED March 20, 2024.  
Respectfully submitted,  
THE GARZA LAW FIRM,  
PLLC 326 N. LBJ Dr., Ste. 164  
San Marcos, Texas 78666  
Tel: (737) 260-2424  
Ana Marilín "Mari" Garza  
SBN: 24084385  
mari@marigarzalaw.com

## ATTEMPT TO NOTIFY

Will the owner or Lienholder of a homemade trailer with the Vin# of 17142 please contact Quantum Towing @ (512) 295-8697. We are in possession of the above described property, and it is being held at our storage facility VSF#065080 located at 800 Summit Dr. Kyle, TX 78640. The property has been in our possession since 2/26/2024 and has accrued fees of \$915.64 as of 3/16/2024. Storage fees in the amount of \$22.85 + tax will continue to accrue daily until it has been released. The failure of the owner of lienholder to claim the described property with in 30 days of this notice is a waiver of all right, title, and interest in the vehicle and a consent to the sale of the vehicle at a public sale.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## REPLAT OF LOTS 51-68 BLOCK HH AND LOTS 10-18 BLOCK LL

## CROSSWINDS PHASE 3B (ETJ CITY OF KYLE HAYS COUNTY, TX)

## PLN-2454-PC

The replat of Crosswinds Phase 3B is an update of 4.893 acres in the platted 20.392 acre tract located in the ETJ of Kyle, in Hays County and within the Crosswinds Municipal Utility District. The replat alters 27 single-family lots 60 feet in width to 38 single family lots 40 feet in width, totaling 107 lots for Crosswinds 3B. The Crosswinds subdivision takes access off Windy Hill Rd & Goforth Dr.

For Information Contact Hays County Development Services (Project ID: PLN-2454-PC) located at 2171 Yarrington Rd. Suite 100 Kyle, Tx 78640 by Phone (512) 393-2150

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Temporary Administration for the Estate of John T. Gonzales, Deceased, were issued on March 7th, 2024, in Cause No. 23-0549-P, pending in the County Court of Hays County, Texas, to: Dennis Ramirez.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
c/o: Dennis Ramirez  
7151 Office City Drive  
Houston, Texas 77087  
DATED the 27th day of March 2024.

THE GONZALEZ LAW GROUP, PLLC  
7151 Office City Dr., Ste. 200  
Houston, Texas 77087  
Telephone: (832) 530-4070  
Fax: (832) 530-4090

/s/ Karina I Ochoa  
KARINA I. OCHOA  
State Bar No. 24116847  
MARCO GONZALEZ  
State Bar No. 24087601  
YVONNE OLUSI-OGADI  
State Bar No. 24128160  
E-Service: probate@gonzalezlawgroup.net

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Contact info:  
Name: Gayla Milner  
Email: gayla@escobedogroup.com;  
Phone: (512) 312-2673

## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



## NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT

## PROPOSED PERMIT NO. WQ0016475001

**APPLICATION.** Allied Development LLC, 16430 North Scottsdale Road, Suite 210, Scottsdale, Arizona 85254, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for proposed Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0016475001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0145564) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 45,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility will be located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 150 and Ranch Road 12, near the City of Dripping Springs, in Hays County, Texas 78620. The discharge route will be from the plant site to an unnamed tributary, thence to Onion Creek. TCEQ received this application on January 29, 2024. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying Dripping Springs Community Library, 501 Sportsplex Drive, Dripping Springs, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.  
<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-98.067222,30.154166&level=18>

**ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE.** Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>.

**ADDITIONAL NOTICE.** TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application.** The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

**TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.**

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

**MAILING LIST.** If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Allied Development LLC at the address stated above or by calling Mr. David Hill at 602-755-7962.

Issuance Date: March 13, 2024

# An egg-cellent occasion



PHOTO BY ASHLEY KONTNIER

On Saturday, March 23, tens of thousands of eggs laid on the ground at the Buda Sportsplex, waiting for children of all ages to scoop them up at the annual Buda Egg-stravaganza, hosted by the city of Buda. Pictured, the four- to six-year-old group races off the starting line.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY KONTNIER

A little egg hunter in the zero to three age group takes off running with half an egg in each hand.

## INSURANCE From Page 1

added that in regards to the stipend, it seems that the city is attempting to avoid the charter, so they should wait until August 2025 for a new compensation committee to determine if there should be a change in payment.

Council member Miguel Zuniga agreed stating, "It's my opinion, and only my opinion, that I should not be the decision maker on my council compensation, as I believe the charter has established an avenue for that."

"Attempting to circumvent the city's charter to increase council compensation does not make you smart. It makes you a thief among thieves, for which there could be no honor," said former council member Yvonne Flores-Cale during citizen comments.

For health insurance, Parsley suggested a 50% discount because the city should not have the burden of paying the full amount for a council member.

"This was my choice to run for city council. Nobody told me that I had to be forced to do this. It is my choice to stay up late hours receiving phone calls referencing [the health insurance agenda item] being that I work and

am up at four in the morning," said council member Michael Tobias before motioning to deny the item, which failed due to the lack of a second.

In the same light, council member Bear Heiser agreed that it was his choice to run for council and he knew what he was getting into, but he "did it anyway because serving is something I always knew that I wanted to do ... [But] I think of what health insurance would mean for myself and my family and some of the other folks who are sitting up here on this dais. It would mean a lot and make a big impact."

Council member Robert Rizo said that he has three full-time jobs, has health insurance and that he has seen a lot of "crazy things" on the dais. He mentioned that at one point, someone asked for benefits for the mayor because they wanted to run for mayor and other instances, but that this is different. Having health insurance would be great to have for future council members that, eventually, will have to work full-time in order to create success in the city.

The item passed 4-3, with Tobias, Parsley and Zuniga dissenting.

## ACC From Page 2

was a really shocking number," said Lowery-Hart. "It was shocking and concerning because education attainment is such a direct correlation to economic growth and development and we're known as a region with a high educational outcomes and education attainment, but our regional data is showing a shift."

The chancellor added that there is a national conversation surrounding student loan forgiveness and college affordability. Therefore, for those who may be concerned about the proposed pilot program, he reminds those individuals that the cost of tuition and fees can be an obstacle for many who want to attend college.

"When I went to school ... the cost of going to college and university was dramatically different than it is today and in

this region, in particular, the affordability of the region, and not just the cost of tuition and fees, is a barrier for people to live their best life," Lowery-Hart said. "I think this is the conversation that we've been having with our trustees, acknowledging the affordability issues in the region [and] what our students are telling us about the affordability of our tuition and fees and finding a pilot that can test whether removing that barrier actually helps ensure that more students enroll and then finish."

Dr. Mink agreed with the chancellor's statement, saying that this pilot program could help the students graduate and then transition into well-paying jobs in the region, ultimately contributing to the economic viability of Central Texas.

Development of the pilot program has been on an expedited timeline to date. The college first presented a preliminary proposal to the ACC Board of Trustees in January and answered initial follow-up questions during the board's February work session.

A formal proposal was presented to the board for the first time on Monday, March 4. After careful consideration, the ACC Board of Trustees requested more time for due diligence to examine the sustainability and growth of a proposed College Affordability Plan. The board will review updates and new details at its next work session and regular meeting on April 1.

More information on the proposal can be found at [www.austincc.edu/freetuition](http://www.austincc.edu/freetuition).

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## Hays Hawks grounded by Leander Lions

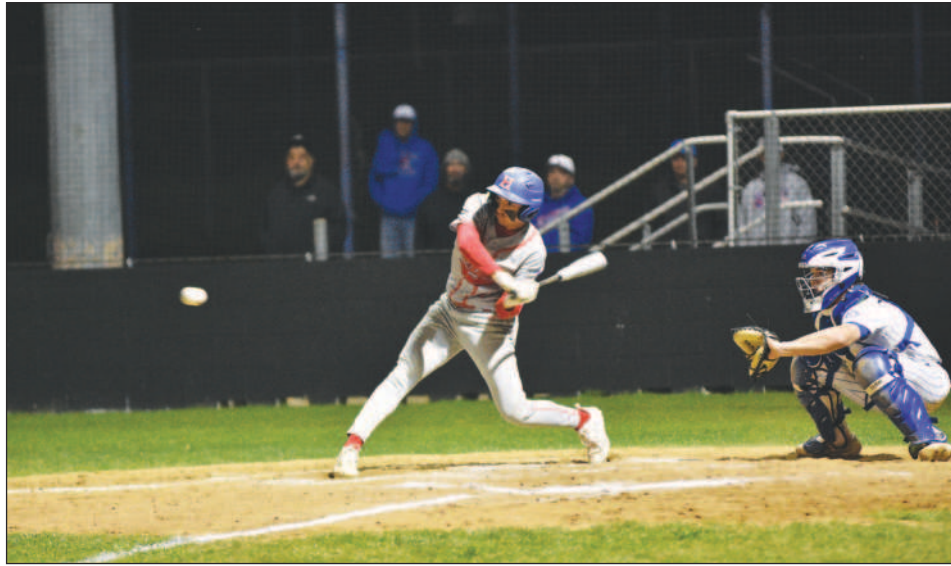


PHOTO BY VICTORIA CARREON

On Tuesday, March 19, the Hays Hawks baseball team traveled to Leander High School to take on the Lions. The Hawks lost the close game, with a final score of Lions 1, Hawks 0. Pictured, Adriano Fernandez prepares to swing as the ball heads his way.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA CARREON

Cullen Lee throws the ball to Holden Catron in attempt to get out the Lion who ventured off the base.

## Lady Jags advance to playoffs



PHOTO BY URSULA ROGERS

The Johnson High School Jaguars girls soccer team faced the Del Valle High School Cardinals on Friday, March 22, and closed off their regular season with a 2-1 win. The Jags also celebrated Senior Night. With the win, the team advanced to the playoffs and will face off against Round Rock High School at press time on Tuesday, March 26. Pictured, the 2024 seniors pose for a photo following their Senior Night recognition.

## Lehman JV falls to Timberwolves

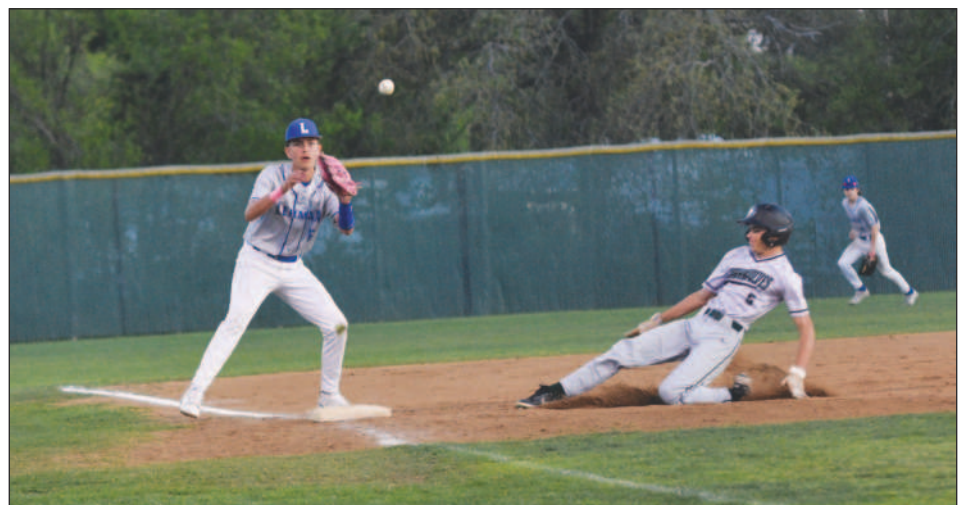


PHOTO BY VICTORIA CARREON

The Lehman High School junior varsity baseball team traveled to Cedar Park on Friday, March 22 to take on the Cedar Park High School Timberwolves. The lobos lost 6-11 in the matchup. Pictured, King Allen (No. 6) attempts to get an out on a sliding Timberwolf player.



PHOTO BY URSULA ROGERS

Annie Rocha (No. 22) and a Del Valle player collide into each other as they fight for the ball.

**Kitchen Open at 8:00a**

### GARAGE SALE

**FRIDAY APRIL 5, 2024**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024**

**8:00AM - 4:00PM**

**TABLE FEE**  
**\$30.00**

**Contact: OCSC Office for information**  
**512-295-3413**

Garage donations will be welcome  
after March 18<sup>th</sup>

Bake sale donations are welcome Friday  
April 5<sup>th</sup> & Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>

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