



San Marcos Daily Record

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SANMARCOSRECORD.COM

HAYS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Court recognizes month-long Juneteenth celebration

ALYSSA GONZALES
STAFF REPORTER

celebration: Mary Kyle Hartson Park, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Juneteenth Unity Walk: Line-up starting at the intersection of LBJ & MLK, 9 a.m.

2022 Juneteenth Charity BBQ Cook Off: Plaza Park on the River, 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration: Buda Amphitheater & City Park, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Juneteenth Weekend Saturday Celebration: The Calaboose African American History Museum, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Above, members of the Juneteenth Charity Foundation, Hays County Commissioners Court and guests pose for a photo during Tuesday's commissioners court meeting. Daily Record photo by Alyssa Gonzales

The Hays County Commissioners Court adopted a proclamation declaring June 2022 as a month-long celebration of Juneteenth in Hays County.

Included in the proclamation were several dates for various Juneteenth events and celebrations around the county including:

Saturday, June 11
City of Kyle Juneteenth Cel-

Friday, June 17
2022 Juneteenth Charity BBQ Cook Off: Plaza Park on the River, 1-9 p.m.

Rose Brooks' Juneteenth Scholarship Cake Auction: San Marcos Activity Center, 6-8 p.m.

Dialogue for Peace and Progress 2022 - Celebrating Juneteenth: Kyle City Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 18

SEE CELEBRATION PAGE 2

LOWER PURGATORY GREENSPACE

Newly installed sign in Lower Purgatory Greenspace explains flood control dam



The San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance, in cooperation with the Upper San Marcos Watershed District, recently installed a sign in the Lower Purgatory Greenspace. Above, Joining Ian Long (second from right) were Upper San Marcos Watershed District board members Kyle Brookshier, Rich Earl, Bill Taylor, and Buell Peavy; SMGA board members Scott Henize and Diane Phalen; and Greg Moore, members of both the SMGA and USMWD boards. Below the new sign at the dam. Photos courtesy of San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance

GREG MOORE
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

The San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance, in cooperation with the Upper San Marcos Watershed District, recently installed a sign in the Lower Purgatory Greenspace. The sign reviews the history of flooding in San Marcos, which led to the creation of the Watershed District, and describes how the dam and spillway function. The sign was designed by SMGA intern Ian Long with technical assistance from Dr. Rich Earl of the Watershed District. The construction of the sign was carried out by Scott Henize and other members of SMGA.

After a devastating flood in 1970, when lives were lost and Travis Elementary School was inundated with students inside, the citizens of San Marcos decided to act. Thanks to the cooperative efforts of local, state, and federal officials, the Upper San Marcos Watershed District was established. Over many years



property and funds were obtained for the construction of the dams. Five dams were constructed on Purgatory Creek and Sink Creek. These dams contain flood waters after heavy rains, releasing the water slowly. Not only does this prevent flooding downstream, but it

also allows more water to enter the Edwards Aquifer. The first dam was completed in 1983, with the final one completed in 1991. These dams have prevented deaths and many millions of dollars of flood damage

SEE SIGN PAGE 4

CITY OF KYLE

Kyle residents invited to apply for boards, commissions, committees

STAFF REPORTS

Kyle residents are invited to apply for openings on the City of Kyle's boards, commissions and committees.

The City of Kyle's application period is open from June 1 until Aug. 31 of each year for consideration of appointment to all boards, committees and commissions, which

includes normal term expiration, reappointments or vacancies. Terms will begin Oct. 1.

The City of Kyle said it "relies on the feedback, advice, expertise and time provided by the civic volunteers who serve on boards, commissions, and committees to keep the city government dy-

SEE KYLE PAGE 2

TRAVEL



Passengers pass by a departure board on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at Dallas Love Field Airport in Dallas. *Shafiqat Anowar/The Dallas Morning News*

As summer arrives, inflation trips up vacationers

KYLE ARNOLD
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

It's not just gasoline prices that are making travelers swoon during this summer vacation season.

From airfare to hotels, airport shuttles to parking, the cost for every aspect of leisure and hospitality is up and forcing vacationers to alter plans just as they look to shake

off two years of pandemic restrictions.

In May, airfare was up nearly 48% from pre-pandemic 2019 and will continue to rise in June with prices over \$400 for a roundtrip ticket on average, according to travel site Hopper.

Hotel rates in May shot up to more than \$200

SEE VACATIONERS PAGE 4

SOCIAL



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INSIDE

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GAS PRICES

UNLEADED \$4.48
DIESEL \$4.95
See's Club
*As of Tuesday, prices subject to change.

WEATHER

TODAY Gradually sunny and hot 100°
TONIGHT Increasing clouds; 10-15 mph wind 74°



\$250 Grand Prize

BATTLE OF THE BEARDS - HAYS COUNTY

Does Your Beard Have What It Takes??

Vote from 8 a.m. June 14th, 2022 until midnight on June 30th, 2022

San Marcos Daily Record
Dripping Springs Century News
The Wimberley View

Submit your photo and information online at www.SanMarcosRecord.com from 8:00 a.m. on June 1st through Midnight on June 13th, 2022

Texas suspends inmate transports after escape left 5 dead

JUAN A. LOZANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas' prison system has temporarily stopped transporting inmates as it investigates how a convicted murderer escaped from a bus last month and later killed a man and his four grandsons.

"The agency is conducting an internal Serious Incident Review and also intends to bring in an outside firm to conduct an independent review to identify factors that may have led to the escape of (Gonzalo) Lopez," the Texas Department of Criminal Justice said in a statement Monday. No timeline was given for how long the internal review would take to complete.

The agency said it must transport an inmate for an emergency medical appointment or for release, it will have more security.

Such additional security measures were in place when a van that was transporting an inmate

from a hospital to a prison in East Texas collided with another vehicle early Tuesday on a freeway north of Houston, according to the prison agency. Three guards were injured but were expected to survive. The inmate was in stable condition.

Lopez, who had killed on behalf of Mexican drug cartels, fled a prison bus on May 12 after breaking free from his restraints and from a caged area of the vehicle. Lopez stabbed and injured the bus driver before escaping into a wooded area near Centerville, which is between Dallas and Houston.

Authorities believe that on Thursday, Lopez killed 66-year-old Mark Collins, and his four grandsons, Waylon Collins, 18; Carson Collins, 16; Hudson Collins, 11; and Bryson Collins, 11. Waylon, Carson and Hudson were brothers and Bryson was their cousin.

Investigators say Lopez stole an AR-15-style rifle and a pistol from the family's ranch near Cen-

terville, as well as a truck that he drove about 220 miles (350 kilometers) to Atascosa County, south of San Antonio, where officers fatally shot him late Thursday.

Texas state Sen. John Whitmire, who had called for a temporary halt in inmate transports, praised the prison agency's change in policy.

"While the investigation continues into exactly what happened with the recent escape and tragic murder of 5 members of the Collins family, we must act swiftly to ensure no other Texan is in danger of losing their life or being harmed by an escaped inmate being transported on Texas roads," Whitmire, a Democrat who chairs the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, said in a written statement.

The committee will likely have a hearing sometime this summer to review what happened and prison system policies related to transporting inmates, said Lara Wendler, a spokes-

woman for Whitmire. The state senator has suggested the Department of Criminal Justice should keep violent offenders in prison units closer to medical facilities or should have medical teams visit the units.

Whitmire also called for additional security during inmate transports, including having another vehicle with armed officers follow close behind.

Funeral services for Mark Collins and his grandsons, who were from the Houston suburb of Tomball, were set for Saturday.

During a service Sunday at the family's church in Houston, Glen Collins, Mark Collins' brother, said his faith was helping him get through this difficult time.

"This is where I find solace and comfort. ... There is a purpose in this, no doubt. ... I lost my best friend. He kept me sharp. But there is a purpose," Glen Collins said.

Texas Briefly

Cisneros requests recount in race against Cuellar

AUSTIN (AP) — Progressive Jessica Cisneros is requesting a recount in her tight runoff election against nine-term Democratic U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar that remained too close to call nearly two weeks later.

Cuellar was leading Cisneros by 187 votes, or 0.4 percentage points, out of 45,429 ballots counted as of Monday night, according to an Associated Press

count. The AP will not declare a winner until the recount is completed.

"Our movement was never just about one politician — it was about taking on an unjust system that rewards corruption and corporate profits at the expense of the needs of working people," Cisneros said in a statement to the Texas Tribune that she reread to her followers. "Our community isn't done fighting, we are filing for a recount."

She added, "I owe it to our community to see this through to the end."

Cisneros, a 29-year-old immigration attorney, forced the runoff

SEE BRIEFLY PAGE 3

KYLE FROM PG. 1

dynamic, responsive and accountable."

The city has more than a dozen boards, commissions, and committees — including the Arts Commission, Board of Adjustment/Sign Control Board, Library Board, Civil Service Commission, Ethics Commission, Kyle Housing Authority, Planning & Zoning Commission, Parks and Recreation Board, Kyle Economic Development and Tourism (ED&T) Board, Kyle Charter Review Commission, Kyle Area Youth Advisory Council and the Uptown TIRZ #2 Board — which strives to reflect the diverse interests and needs of Kyle residents.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for

all boards, committees or commissions that they are willing to serve.

Council will consider all eligible applicants based on applicants' preference for appointment.

Applications will be screened against the city code's basic criteria for membership and all applications that meet city code criteria will be put into a pool for council consideration at a special called meeting that will be held prior to Sept. 30. Applicants are encouraged but not required to attend this special meeting.

For more information about City of Kyle boards, commissions, and committees or to apply, go to cityofkyle.com/bc.

Cornyn says bipartisan gun legislation won't include weapons bans or expanding background checks

ABBY LIVINGSTON
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, the lead GOP negotiator in the Senate's efforts to pass bipartisan gun safety legislation, is managing expectations over what kind of bills he's willing to get behind.

But the answer to that question isn't going to satisfy many Democrats who are pushing for restrictions that include expanded background checks and raising the age to purchase a firearm in the wake of the devastating elementary school shooting in Uvalde. "Targeted reforms, I

think, is the way to get to where we need to go," Cornyn said in a Senate floor speech on Monday.

As a former Senate GOP whip, Cornyn made clear that there are limits to what he and the Senate GOP conference are willing to support. Bringing up the old political maxim of "the art of the possi-

ble," Cornyn said "we are not talking about restricting the rights of current, law-abiding gun owners or citizens."

"What I'm interested in is keeping guns out of the hands of those who, by current law, are not supposed to have them," he

SEE CORNYN PAGE 4

CELEBRATION FROM PG. 1

Sunday, June 19
"Fathers, Family, and Freedom" Juneteenth Celebration: Dunbar Recreation Center, 2-7 p.m.

Monday, June 20
Dunbar Heritage Association Juneteenth Race: Dunbar Park (Corner of MLK & Endicott), 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Representatives from various county and city organizations were present to speak of the events and encourage the community to join and celebrate.

"It is truly going to be a countywide celebration and a full weekend

of activities that we hope everyone in the county will turn out for every event for each day of the weekend, from Friday going all the way into Monday," said Pastor Jonafa Banbury, Secretary of the Dunbar Heritage Association.

During the meeting, the commissioners also recognized the winners of the Hays County Historical Commission 2022 Juneteenth Essay Contest.

Middle and high school students submitted essays that expressed their perspective of the 2022 essay theme: Why is the Celebration of Juneteenth Important in the History of Texas?

Vanessa Westbrook, Chair of the African American Heritage Committee of the Hays County Historical Commission presented the winners, Stephanie Murray of Hays High School and Neveah Veals of Chapa Middle School.

The commissioners also declared June 7, 2022 as Lehman High School Lady Lobos State Champions Day in Hays County.

The court recognized the Powerlifting Individual State Champions and the team's Class 5A State Championship that the team received in May.

This is the team's second straight championship in powerlifting and

third state championship overall. The 10-member team is coached by Fred Rodriguez.

"We have a hard working team, we have two amazing coaches and we are supported by our district and our Athletic Director Lance Mofert is also here to accept this award from all of you guys," Lehman High School Principal Karen Zuniga said.

For the complete meeting and agenda, visit <https://hayscountytexas.com/commissioners-court/court-video/>

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SMPD Blotter

June 6

| | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:25 a.m. - Trespassing/unwanted, 624 E. Hopkins St., warning • 8:05 a.m. - Theft, 328 Barnes Dr., report • 9:03 a.m. - Fraud, 1420 Old Ranch Road 12, report • 9:39 a.m. - Suicidal person, 800 block of River Road, report • 9:52 a.m. - Fraud, SMPD Headquarters, report • 10:10 a.m. - Trespassing/unwanted, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ed, 401 S. Guadalupe St., warning • 10:56 a.m. - Mental health investigation, 1301 Wonder World Dr., report • 10:59 a.m. - Public assist, 1550 N. I-35, report • 11:36 a.m. - Minor accident, Exit 204 N. I-35, report • 1:18 p.m. - Mental health investigation, 1200 N. Bishop St., report • 1:43 p.m. - Major/injury accident, 1507 Post Rd., report • 1:57 p.m. - Theft, 1351 Thorpe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ln., report • 2:09 p.m. - Unknown accident, Hwy 80/Clairewood Dr., report • 2:14 p.m. - Graffiti, 3939 S. I-35, report • 2:20 p.m. - Minor accident, 1800 Clairewood Dr., report • 2:28 p.m. - Property - lost/found/imp, 3939 S. I-35, report • 2:48 p.m. - Assist fire department, 811 S. Guadalupe St., fire call |
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Compiled by Nick Castillo

Full Blotter is also online at: sanmarcosrecord.com/daily-police-blotter

San Marcos Daily Record

4 DAY WEATHER FORECAST

| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| High - 100° Low - 74° Rain - 0% | High - 100° Low - 74° Rain - 0% | High - 102° Low - 74° Rain - 0% | High - 103° Low - 75° Rain - 0% |

weather.gov

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