



San Marcos Daily Record

109TH YEAR NO. 85

\$1.00

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

SANMARCOSRECORD.COM

Workforce Solutions sets kick off for strategic plan

STEPHANIE GATES
STAFF REPORTER

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area (WSRCA) is hosting a kickoff for its strategic workforce plan for Hays and Caldwell counties.

By joining virtually on May 11 at 11 a.m., residents can join the Work-

force Matters Coalition and provide input and guide workforce development efforts locally. The webinar will provide more information about the strategic plan and how it will be put into motion in Hays and Caldwell Counties.

WSRCA says this is an opportunity to empower

the workforce of local industries, and help fuel the economic recovery of the local region.

You can register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BKi2RG8gSL-GtS4shL5ebMg

The WSRCA strategic plan came out in late March, one year after

COVID-19 began, resulting in an increase in unemployment nationwide, including in Hays County.

The strategic plan is focused on enhancing community collaboration around workforce development to amplify the impact of workforce initiatives and programs across the region,

and is tailored to reflect the needs of each distinct economy and workforce.

In Hays County, the industry with the second highest unemployment rate after the pandemic was the food preparation and serving related occupations at 11.8% up from a five year annual average of 3.4%.

The highest industry unemployment rate, and the industry whose jobs were most impacted by the pandemic was the personal care and service occupations at 12.4%, up from a five year annual average of 6.6%

These jobs include animal

SEE PLAN PAGE 2

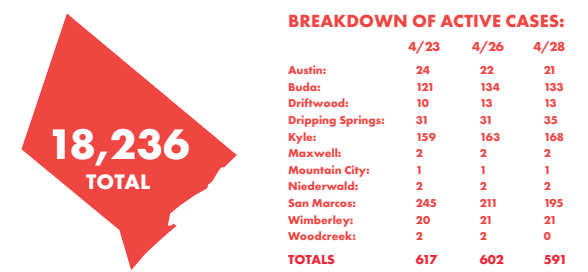
VFW Post 3413 hosts MRE cook-off



The Maurice T Suttles VFW Post 3413 recently hosted a Meal Ready to Eat cooking competition. Contestants were challenged to turn a standard-issued MRE to an edible delight. Above, Pedro Medina, Michael Hernandez and San Marcos City Councilmember Shane Scott served as judges during Saturday's cook-off. Below left, Michael Flores worked to turn his MRE into a delectable treat. Below right, award winners pictured from left to right, Flores received third place, Les Young was named first place and Commander Stephanie Brown earned second place. *Daily Record photos by Lance Winter*



591 CONFIRMED ACTIVE CASES OF COVID-19



There have been 18,236 total cases in Hays County, with 17,406 recoveries and 239 COVID-19 related fatalities, according to the county. Updated 4/28/21

Daily Record infographic by Colton Ashabanner

Hays County records 48 recoveries from COVID-19, 37 new cases Wednesday

NICK CASTILLO
MANAGING EDITOR

The Hays County Local Health Department reported 48 additional recoveries from COVID-19, 37 new lab-confirmed cases, six hospital discharges and two hospitalizations on Wednesday, which included information from April 27-28.

The county considers 591 cases active — 11 fewer than Monday — and there have been 18,236 total cases since the first diagnosis of the virus within its boundaries on March 14, 2020. Hays County has tallied 881 COVID-19 cases over the past 21 days.

There have been 2,004 probable cases spanning from April 2020 through April 28, 2021.

Fourteen county residents are currently hospitalized by COVID-19 and there have been 846 total hospitalizations with the fluctuation in hospitalizations and hospital discharges reported Wednesday. Some patients hospitalized by COVID-19 are in hospitals outside of Hays County but are included in the county's numbers if they reside within Hays County, the local health department said.

There have been 17,406

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SMEU encourages customers to sign up for Renewable Energy Credit Program

STAFF REPORTS

San Marcos residents will be able to sign up for a new Renewable Energy Credit Program, beginning May 1.

The City of San Marcos Electric Utility is encouraging residents to enroll in

the new council-approved program which allows customers to purchase energy metered and verified from renewable resources, including wind and solar power.

The City of San Marcos Electric Utility (SMEU) encourages residents to sign

up for the new city council-approved Renewable Energy Credit Program. Program enrollment will begin May 1 and allows customers to purchase energy that has been metered and verified from renewable sources, including wind

and solar power.

“By purchasing RECs, customers not only power their home or business with renewable energy, but also contribute to renewable energy production and promote sustainability projects,” said Tyler Hjorth,

Assistant Director of Public Services – Electric Utility. “We’re excited to offer this new program to our customers and have already had strong interest from the community to participate.”

According to the city, a Renewable Energy Credit

represents one megawatt hour (MWh) of renewable energy. By purchasing a number of RECs that equal the number of MWh of energy used allows customers to power

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SOCIAL

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GAS PRICES

UNLEADED \$2.32
DIESEL \$2.64

Sam's Club
*as of Wednesday, prices subject to change.

TODAY

Showers, T-storms likely

79°

WEATHER

TONIGHT

Chance of showers, T-storms

64°

Daily Record

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On the Record Sports

Tune in to **On the Record Sports** each week and listen to the latest in local sports from the **San Marcos Daily Record Sports** team. Watch the podcast **LIVE** every Wednesday at 11 a.m. on Twitter at @smdrsports, on **YouTube** at the On the Record Podcasts channel or listen back by searching for On the Record Podcasts on **Spotify** or **iTunes**.

San Marcos Daily Record

OBITUARIES

Elena Franco Duran
January 15, 1966 -
April 21, 2021

Elena Franco Duran, 55, of San Marcos, Texas was welcomed into Heaven on April 21, 2021. Elena was born to Santos and Encarnacion Duran on January 15, 1966 in Midland, Texas into a large and loving family. In 1984, Elena graduated high school from Robert E. Lee Highschool in Midland, Texas. Elena was heavily involved in extracurricular activities and was a proud Lee Rebel. Some of her favorite activities were The Friday Night Lights, school pep rallies and hanging out with her friends.

Elena lived in San Marcos with the love of her life, Carolyn Holesovsky, for many years. Elena passionately served her community as a citizen activist providing a voice to preserve her neighborhood and the character of the city as the Neighborhood Representative from the Hills of Hays on the San Marcos Council



Elena Franco Duran

of Neighborhood Association (CONA). Elena gave her time to many city efforts and was involved in the school outreach Code SMTX project. Elena, was appointed by the San Marcos City Council to serve on its newly formed and official Neighborhood Commission where she would be selected as the Chair by her peers and serve for several terms. Elena was recognized for her civic contributions and was inducted into the San Marcos Women's Hall of Fame in 2013. Elena was

politically active and volunteered on many local, state and federal level campaigns for people she believed shared her servant heart and traditional values.

Elena was a gifted Dental Hygienist and worked for and with Dr. Steve Aycock and Gina Aycock for a number of her career years. Most recently Elena was employed by Dr. Jeff Ault in his practice until she retired in 2020.

Elena loved God, Country, and all of her family; most especially Carolyn, her nieces and nephews, and her furry family members. Elena was an over the top fan of Texas A&M, the Dallas Cowboys, and enjoyed weekends poolside barbecuing.

Elena was preceded in death by parents Santos and Encarnacion Duran. Her brothers Joe Duran and Moises Duran and sisters Dora Duran and Mary Ann Arredondo. Five nephews Joel Duran Martinez, Dondi Duran, Juan Daniel Melendez, Torivio Joe Me-

lendez Jr. and Houston Michael York.

Elena is survived by her wife Carolyn Holesovsky, brothers Abel Duran, Torivio Duran, Santos Duran and Fred Duran. Sisters Lupe Reyes, Encarnacion Duran Amaya, Anita Marin, Carmen Duran, Lurdes DuranWhatley and her beloved nieces and nephews as well as many friends and colleagues.

Visitation and Rosary will be at Legends Funeral Home in San Marcos, Texas on April 30, 2021 from Noon until 2 pm. The family will receive friends for food and fellowship to celebrate Elena's life until 3 pm.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to honor Elena may be made to Lone Star Chapter Lupus Foundation.



Texas Briefly

Alligator, cow delay Houston traffic, turn commute into zoo

HOUSTON (AP) — Some days, Houston area traffic can be a nightmare. Other days, it can be a zoo, literally.

A cow and an alligator caused traffic delays on Wednesday during separate incidents in which the animals took themselves for a spin on Houston area roadways.

At around 8 a.m., the cow was spotted moving along Interstate 10 in east Houston, stopping traffic during morning rush hour. Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez tweeted that a pedestri-

SEE BRIEFLY PAGE 4

PLAN FROM PG. 1

trainers, animal caretakers, ushers, lobby attendants, ticket takers, amusement and recreation attendants, locker room attendants, entertainment attendants, entertainment workers, barbers, hairdressers, cosmetologists, makeup artists, theater performers, manicurists and pedicurists, skincare specialists, concierges, childcare workers, fitness trainers, recreation workers and residential advisors.

Hays County's unemployment

rate rose from 4.9% in December 2020 to 5.7% in February 2021, recovering from a nearly 9 point jump at the beginning of the pandemic when it rose from 3.8% in March 2020 to 12.3% in April 2021.

One key element of the strategic plan is self-sufficient employment. WSR-CA aims to achieve this goal by building greater career awareness and connections between job seekers and employers in the region.

Texas releases \$11 billion of \$18 billion in federal stimulus money for public schools

KATE MCGEE
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas's top state leaders announced Wednesday they are releasing \$11.2 billion out of nearly \$18 billion available in federal pandemic relief funding that has been dedicated for the state's public schools.

The announcement comes as education advocates and Democratic lawmakers have been urging officials in recent weeks to release the money that was set aside by Congress for Texas' public schools to address learning loss and cover pandemic-related education expenses.

It's unclear how the state plans to spend the remaining \$7 billion in stimulus money, which was allocated through multiple aid packages in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. That funding could not be immediately released due to federal requirements, state officials said.

"The State of Texas is ensuring that our public schools have the necessary resources to help Texas students recover from learning loss related to COVID-19," said Gov. Greg Abbott in a press release.

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, criticized

state leaders, calling the announcement "belated."

"State Republicans are hardly justified in patting themselves on the back for ending a blockade that should never have occurred," Doggett said. "After four months, Governor Abbott is still obstructing distribution of the remaining \$5.5 billion, which Congress approved in December. Even today, he has failed to offer any justification for his delay and attempt to divert these funds from our schools. Our children's future is not a place to cut corners and misuse federal aid to education for

non-educational purposes."

State officials had previously argued the reason they hadn't allocated the one-time funding to the schools was because they were awaiting federal government guidance about whether the state would need to increase funding for higher education to make the K-12 funding available.

Last week, the federal government weighed in and clarified the state must maintain both higher education and public education funding at the same proportion to the budget as it was

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 4

Aquifer & Spring Flow conditions

| Area Index | Daily Readings | 10-day Average |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bexar | 649.7 msl | 648.9 msl |
| Uvalde | 864.3 msl | 864.5 msl |
| Comal Springs | 204 cfs | 205 cfs |
| San Marcos Springs | 100 cfs | 100 cfs |

Readings from April 28
edwardsaquifer.org

San Marcos Daily Record

4 DAY WEATHER FORECAST

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| High - 79° Low - 69° Rain - 60% | High - 76° Low - 64° Rain - 30% | High - 75° Low - 61° Rain - 50% | High - 84° Low - 62° Rain - 40% |

weather.gov

SMEU FROM PG. 1

residences or businesses with 100% renewable energy, the city added.

The Public Utility Commission of Texas established the Renewable Energy Credit Program in 1999, which has led to an increase of renewable energy capacity. The city said Texas' renewable energy capacity increased by 10,000 MW statewide, attributable to the program by 2010.

The city stated that

SMEU purchases RECs through the Electric Reliability Council of Texas at market price. Fees are evaluated and adjusted periodically based on the market, and customers are only charged for the amount of energy used.

SMEU customers that enroll in the Renewable Energy Credit Program will see a "Renewable Energy Adder" charge on their monthly bill. The

additional \$5/1,000 kWh charge covers all costs associated with RECs, including transaction and administrative fees for buying, tracking, recording, and retiring the credits. Customers who do not elect to enroll in the Renewable Energy Credit Program will not be charged for costs associated with the program.

To enroll in the program visit connect.sanmarcostx.gov

beginning May 1. SMEU customers will opt-in for a period lasting for one year. Additionally, the city said customers will be contacted prior to the end of the enrollment period with rates for the upcoming year and will be automatically re-enrolled unless they contact SMEU to opt out.

Information provided by the City of San Marcos

SMPD Blotter

April 27

- 8:37 a.m. - Narcotics/information, 1301 Hwy 123, detention juvenile
- 8:57 a.m. - Trespassing/unwanted, 100 Quarry Spring Dr., refer to other agency
- 9:19 a.m. - Building burglary, 405 N. Guadalupe St., report
- 9:41 a.m. - Theft, 417 N. Comanche St., refer to COPR
- 10:31 a.m. - Harassment, 607 Conway Dr., report
- 10:49 a.m. - Public intoxication -

- Other, 1201 Hwy 123, Gabriel Solis, 24, arrested
- 10:52 a.m. - Public intoxication, 900 Bugg Ln., Chun Gumerindo, 40, arrested
- 11:07 a.m. - Minor accident, 440 S. Guadalupe St., report
- 11:08 a.m. - Criminal mischief, 1115 San Marcos Pkwy., report
- 12:54 p.m. - Fraud, 2050 S. I-35, report
- 1:32 p.m. - Violation of city ordinance, Hwy 123/E. Access Rd., citation issued

- 3:10 p.m. - Harassment, SMPD Headquarters, refer to COPR
- 3:48 p.m. - Investigation, SMPD Headquarters, refer to COPR
- 5:51 p.m. - Trespassing/unwanted, 1701 N. I-35, report
- 7:49 p.m. - Violation of order, 1437 N. I-35, warning
- 8:02 p.m. - Minor accident, 928 Hwy 80, citation issued
- 9:24 p.m. - Property - lost/found/imp, SMPD Headquarters, report

Compiled by Nick Castillo

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

San Marcos Daily Record

Published every Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 1910 I 35 South, San Marcos, Texas 78666. Combined with the Hays County Citizen on July 6, 1978. Entered as second class matter June 21, 1973 at the Post Office in San Marcos. Member Texas Daily Press Association and The Associated Press.

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