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**INSIDE TODAY'S ISSUE**  
*2021 Elgin Livestock Show & Youth Fair*  
*Special Edition*  
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**Inside Today's EDITION**



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**Wildcats soccer win two, lose two**  
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**Wildcats defeated in overtime to Bastrop Bears**  
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**Obituaries**  
James Cain  
Lurlene Constance  
Kenneth Allen Hunter  
Larry Jackson  
Billie Irene Milburn  
Lessie Lee Prescott  
Julia Thomas  
Carl David Torn Jr.  
Junior Wray Serl  
John Wesley White

**New Subscribers**  
Bastrop County Extension Office  
Richard & Vicki Dawson  
Adele Sanders  
Andrew Reed  
Jon Garcia  
Michael O'Farrell (Gift from Carol Von Arx)  
Thomas Ibis  
Frances Nesslbeck  
Roy Hodge  
Steven Ward  
Ruth Jansa



## Council extends face covering ordinance

By Julianne Hodges  
julianne.hodges@elgincourier.com

The Elgin City Council renewed the city's face covering ordinance through March 24 at its most recent meeting on January 19. The emergency ordinance expires within 60 days; the ordinance was last re-passed in November, so it would have expired on January 23. The ordinance requires all commercial entities in the city to post a notice that

employees and visitors are required to wear face coverings when six feet of separation from others is not feasible. Some exceptions apply, such as when eating or drinking. City manager Thomas Mattis said the city is not using the police to directly enforce the face covering requirement. However, businesses are required to post the rules and require face coverings. If someone does not follow the rule, the business owner or man-

agement can call the police to ask for assistance. "We continue to have the vast majority of folks in town cooperate and are trying their best," Mattis said. The council passed the ordinance unanimously. For more COVID-19 news this week, visit www.elgincourier.com. **COVID-19 cases: 574 active, 4,087 recovered** As of Monday morning, Bastrop County reported

a total of 3,526 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and 1,193 probable cases, according to the county's dashboard. So far, 4,087 people have recovered from the illness in Bastrop County, leaving 574 active cases. At the same time last week, the county's total number of confirmed cases was 2,977 and the total number of probable cases was 839, with 3,281 total recoveries and 488 active cases.

The dashboard reports three more COVID-19 fatalities, bringing the number of deaths in Bastrop County due to the illness to 58. At the same time last week, the county's total number of confirmed cases was 3,356 and the total number of probable cases was 1,006, with 3,688 total recoveries and 619 active cases. As of Monday, 2,415

See COVID, Page 3A

## GIRL SCOUTS adapt cookie sales



Elgin Girl Scout Janelle J. advertises cookies on Harris Street.



A drive-through cookie booth is set up on Harris Street near Highway 290.



Mercy Johnson sells a couple of boxes of cookies at the drive-through booth.



Girl Scout Janelle J. and her drive-through booth.

Photos by Julianne Hodges

## School board hears security options

By Julianne Hodges  
julianne.hodges@elgincourier.com

During a special meeting right before January 11's regular meeting, the Elgin ISD school board was presented with the options available for on-campus security. "We have been working with the Elgin Police Department and have had (school resource officers) for a very long time," Elgin ISD Superintendent Dr. Duron said. "As we continue to grow, we are looking at options that might be better suited for us. ... As we've done our research, we found several options that we could entertain as we are going through this growing phase." The presentation was delivered by Matthew West, the director of safety and risk management for Elgin ISD with 21 years of law enforcement experience. According to state education law, a school board can employ armed or unarmed security personnel, enter into an agreement with a local law enforcement agency for school resource officers (SROs) or develop a district police department with its own peace officers.

See BOARD, Page 3A

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"Service and Compassion from a Family that Genuinely Cares"

## Kenneth Allen Hunter

Kenneth Allen Hunter, age 59, went to be with the Lord on January 21, 2021. Kenneth was born February 9, 1961 in Fort Worth, Texas. He grew up in Elgin Texas, where he graduated High School in 1979. Using his artistic talents, he studied architectural drafting in college. He had several occupations but enjoyed his time as a security guard the most.

Kenneth will be remembered for his upbeat personality, telling silly jokes and sharing funny stories. He regularly called to check on loved ones, making sure they were doing well. He enjoyed watching comedy shows, sports and wearing a cap from his favorite football team, the Dallas Cowboys.

Kenneth is survived by his parents Jimmy and Dorothy Campbell, sister Kathryn Turner, brother in law Mike Turner, sister Laura Campbell and her fiancé Brian Hall, five nieces, two great nieces and four great nephews.



Kenneth is preceded in death by his biological father Dudley Hunter as well as his maternal grandparents Ruby and Robert Pharis.

A visitation will be held 1:00-2:00 PM Tuesday, January 26, 2021, Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home with Graveside services following at the Speir Cemetery at 2:30PM.

Arrangements are Entrusted to Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home

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## Billie Irene Milburn



Billie was a good daughter who later invited her Mother into her home and cared for her for a number of years.

Family was everything to Billie. Billie remained especially close to her siblings Linnie Moses, Gay Williams, Lena Mae Parker, Sylvia Smith, and Don Solomon.



Billie was a friendly and caring person with immense generosity. If you were down, she was a kind friend with a listening ear. She passed judgement on no one. She was a fabulous cook, thrifty at garage selling, loved to wear pretty clothes. She was a woman confident in her own skin.

When the scale of life is weighed, Billie's good far outweighs any flaws. Her's was a life well lived. Goodbye Mother, Goodbye Grandma. You are forever loved and never forgotten. You have gone not to dust, but to glory.

Graveside services were held 2:30 Sunday, January 24, 2021, Youngs Prairie Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the Family requests donations be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, 815 Market St., Galveston, Texas 77550.

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## Junior Wray Serl

Junior Wray Serl, age 51, of Elgin, Texas passed away Saturday, January 23, 2021. Services are currently pending.

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dence-Jones Family Funeral Home

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## John Wesley White

John Wesley White, age 88, of Bastrop, Texas passed away Sunday January 24, 2021.

Services are currently pending.

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## Julia Thomas

Julia Thomas, 72, of Austin, Texas, passed away Sunday morning, January 24, 2021. She will lie in state Friday, January 29th from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM at Elgin Funeral Home. A Home-Going Celebration will be held at the Elgin Funeral Home, Saturday January 30th at 11:00 AM. Interment will follow at Elgin Latin Cemetery. Arrangements and care entrusted to:





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## Lessie Lee Prescott

Lessie Lee Prescott, age 90, of Elgin, passed away Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

A Celebration of Lessie's Life will be held 11:00

A.M. Saturday, January 30, 2021. Interment to follow at Elgin Latin Cemetery.

Arrangements entrusted to Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home.

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## Lurlene Constance

Lurlene Constance, 92, of Elgin, Texas, passed away Thursday afternoon, January 21, 2021.

Her funeral services will be held in Mansfield, Ohio. Arrangements and care entrusted to:



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## James Cain

James Cain, 61, of Elgin, Texas, passed away Tuesday afternoon, January 19, 2021. Services will be private. Arrangements and care entrusted to:



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## Larry Jackson

Larry Jackson, 72, of Elgin, Texas, passed away Monday morning, January 25, 2021. Services are currently pending. Arrangements and care entrusted to:





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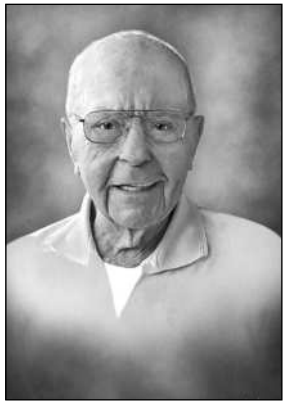
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## Carl David Torn Jr.



Carl David Torn Jr., of Elgin, Texas, passed away Monday, January 18, 2021 at the age of 90 years and 51 days.

Carl was born on November 28, 1930 in Austin, Texas to Carl Sr., and Mary Torn. He was married to Helen Bell Peterson on October 15, 1955 until her passing on December 14, 2004. Carl later married Carolyn Sanders on June 7, 2008.

Carl graduated from Manor High School in 1949. After graduating he worked in Road Maintenance for Travis County. Later he served in the National Guard for seventeen years. In 1964 Carl opened Torn's Gulf Station in Manor, Texas. Carl also held the office of Manor ISD Tax Assessor Collector and served on the School Board in his community. Upon retirement his many jobs included: working

at Department of Public Safety, A-Line Auto Parts, Bastrop County Assisted Services, and doing odd jobs for his family.

Carl's hobby was work and providing for his family. He was a man who could not sit down and loved his sweets, especially Blue Bell Ice Cream.

Carl is preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Helen, his brothers Roy and Bobby and his grandson Bradley.

Carl is survived by his wife Carolyn, his sons

Gary Torn and wife Lucy of Lexington, Russell Torn and wife Shannon of McGregor, daughter Joyce Ann Herzog and husband Terry of Manor and Nina Nygard and husband Mark. He is also survived by his sister Mary Ann Parker and husband Doug of Manor, grandchildren Dylan Torn, Jeffrey Torn and wife Michelle, Lacey Torn, Samantha Herzog, Jana Torn, Jessica Herzog, Cody, Colt and Clint Nygard, and great grandchildren Nola, Easton, Kason, Ryker, Ollie, Layla, Kallum, Willa and Tex Nygard, and other extended family and friends who he loved very much.

Daddy was a unique individual with many fine qualities. He loved to help those he met along the way. He was willing to talk to anyone. He was tough and gentle too. You could catch him often

humming a tune that none of us really knew where it came from. We are going to miss him greatly, but his legacy will live on through his family and his friends.

A Visitation will be held 6:00-8:00 P.M. Thursday, January 21, 2021 Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home. A Celebration of Carl's Life will be held 10:00 A.M. Friday, January 22, 2021 Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home. Interment will follow at the Manor Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to Manor United Methodist Church or Blue United Methodist Church.

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# Local students named to fall honor lists at Temple College

Temple College has announced its honor lists for fall 2020.

To be named to the President's Honor List, a student must take at least nine se-

mester credit hours and earn at least a 4.0 grade point average.

To be named to the Vice President's Honor List, a student must take at least

nine semester credit hours and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average.

Riley Krenek and Hannah Reyes from Elgin and Laura Mikulec from

Smithville were named to the President's Honor List. Dylan MacKay from Elgin and Kenneth Walker from Bastrop were named to the Vice President's Honor List.

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COVID ...

From Page 1A

residents of Bastrop County have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 264 of those people had received their second dose to become fully vaccinated, according to another dashboard from DSHS, found at dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm. Last week, 1,844 people had received their first dose of a vaccine, and 183 of those people had received a second dose.

According to the Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) weekly update last Tuesday, the county's community testing site in Bastrop performed 317 tests between January 12 and January 18.

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 across the 11-county Trauma Service Area O, which includes Bastrop and Travis counties, was at 16.59% as of last Tuesday, a decrease from 19.35% from the previous week.

For the latest update, posted each Tuesday, visit @BastropCountyOEM on Facebook.

According to the City of Austin's COVID-19 dashboard, found at www.austintexas.gov/covid19, the portion of the 78621 zip code in Travis County has reported 280 cases. Last week, this number was 273.

The City of Austin dashboard also includes information about hospitalized patients in the five-county Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), in addition to the case numbers for Austin and Travis County. The MSA includes Bastrop,

Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson County.

As of Monday afternoon, the MSA has 577 inpatients in the region's hospitals and an additional 28 patients hospitalized at an alternative care site, with 157 patients in the intensive care units (ICU) and 90 ventilators in use.

Last week, 591 people were in the hospital as inpatients due to COVID-19, 176 patients were in the ICU and 105 ventilators were in use.

In early September, Elgin ISD launched a school district dashboard of daily reported COVID-19 cases by campus, found online at www.elginisd.net/Page/6358.

As of Monday afternoon, 19 students and staff members have been reported as positive for COVID-19 since last Monday. This includes two cases at Booker T. Washington Elementary School, three cases at Neidig Elementary School, two cases at Elgin Intermediate School, two cases at Elgin Middle School, nine cases at Elgin High School or Phoenix High School and one case at a non-campus facility.

Elgin ISD reported 32 cases earlier in the month, meaning a total of 51 cases have been reported so far this month.

According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons website, www.bop.gov/coronavirus, the federal correctional institution in Bastrop has nine inmates and 30 staff members with active cases of COVID-19 as of Monday afternoon. Last week, five inmates and 130 staff members had active cases. One inmate has died of COVID-19, and 454 inmates and six staff members have recovered so far.

Elgin student among 227 students honored for academic success at HPU in Fall 2020

Howard Payne University recognized 227 students for academic success during the fall 2020 semester, including David Jaramillo-Alejo,

who was named to the Dean's List. Students must earn a 4.0 grade point average to be named to the President's List, a 3.65-3.99

grade point average to be named to the Dean's List and a 3.5-3.64 grade point average to be named to the Honor Roll. To be eligible, stu-

dents must be enrolled in 12 or more semester credit hours and have no grade of Fail, No Grade or Incomplete Grade for all courses attempted.

BOARD ...

From Page 1A

SROs are employed by a city police department, sheriff's office or constable's office and require a memorandum of understanding between the school district and the law enforcement agency supplying the officers. SROs must be licensed through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) and have completed the TCOLE courses for school-based law enforcement and active shooter response. SROs are overseen by the local law enforcement agency of which the SROs are full- or part-time employees.

"There is no difference between the patrol officer you see patrolling the streets and the patrol officers that are assigned as school resource officers," West said. "They pull them a lot of times to work weekends or summertime to supplement their regular patrol force."

An SRO through EPD costs about \$116,262 per year. EPD increased the fee by three percent for 2021, and K9 services are no longer available. Elgin ISD pays just 71% of the cost for

the officers who work as SROs, since those officers return to regular patrol duties during the summer.

The school district can also hire armed or unarmed uniformed security officers.

Armed school security officers would need to be commissioned by a law enforcement agency and would also require a memorandum of understanding with that agency. Similar to SROs, they would also be licensed by TCOLE and would be required to take certain courses about school-based law enforcement and active shooter response.

"If they are not conditioned by a law enforcement agency, they would not have any authorization to carry a weapon," West said. "The district also has the option of creating an unarmed security force. The closest thing would be like mall security, where they're wearing a uniform, but they have no arrest authority and they have no weapons."

Some districts use unarmed security to respond to alarms, and if properly trained, these officers can also teach certain safety courses to students.

The security officers would be employees of the district. ISD security officers would require equipment, which may include uniforms, duty gear and vehicles, which may or may not be a traditional police car.

Hiring one director and three officers as armed security would cost about \$424,112 in the first year and about \$315,392 per year afterwards. This includes the cost of uniforms, equipment, vehicles, technology and the salaries of one department director and three officers.

Finally, the school district could create its own police department. Its officers must meet all TCOLE standards and also complete courses on school-based law enforcement and active shooter response.

The new department must apply to be a police agency, comply with other record-keeping and reporting requirements and create an agreement with agencies with overlapping jurisdictions. If there is no in-house dispatch department, the district must have a contract with another agency to handle dispatch services.

The cost to start an ISD police department would be an es-

timated \$634,984 in the first year; recurring costs would be about \$405,844 per year. This includes uniforms, equipment, vehicles and vehicle maintenance, technology, a contract with police dispatch and the salaries for a police chief, an administrative assistant and three officers. This startup cost estimate assumes that the vehicles and equipment would be new, but the school district may be able to get surplus equipment and used vehicles, West said.

Duron said the district is not making any decisions at that meeting, but wanted to present the options to the board. Instead of just two, as in the past, the district is looking at potentially having three officers: one for the middle school, one for the high school and one to rotate between the elementary schools.

"Simply because of the size we are, I don't believe that we are ready for a full-blown police department," Duron said. "As we continue to grow, I think that is going to be an option and will probably be the direction the district wants to go. I think the next step for us will be looking at armed security officers."



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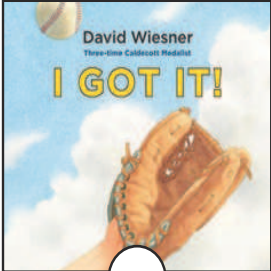


AN INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

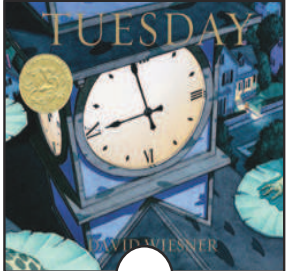
# DAVID WIESNER

David Wiesner has illustrated more than 20 award-winning books and has won the Caldecott Medal three times. Many of his books have no words but the highly creative illustrations spark the imagination and take readers on amazing adventures. **Can you number these David Wiesner books in alphabetical order?**

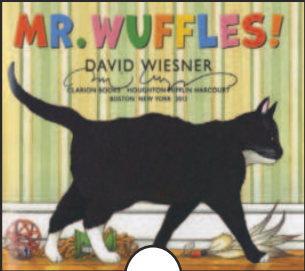
*I Got It!*




*Tuesdays*



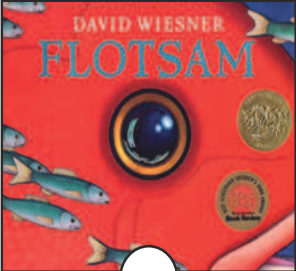
*Mr. Wuffles*




*Free Fall*



*Flotsam*






**Q: Is the story *Hurricane* based on your childhood? Did you have a cat named Hannibal?**

**A:** Yes, *Hurricane* is the only one of my stories that actually happened to me. Playing on that tree was the best! I had a cat, but her name was Fuzzy (really). I changed the name to fit in with the adventuring nature of the kids.

To make the pictures, I used old photos of my house, cat, yard, bedroom, etc. for reference. So, what you see in the book is where I lived and grew up. The kids are not me or my brother, although I used our names. I used the kids of some friends as my models.

**Q: After reading *Sector 7*, I wanted to know if you grew up in New York City?**

**A:** I grew up in New Jersey, not too far from New York. I really enjoyed going into the city. I loved the architecture—especially the Empire State Building. It was great to be able to use it in my story. I designed the *Sector 7* factory in the sky by looking at a lot of New York City buildings. I then created a place with bits of many of them all together.



**Q: Why do you draw fish in many of your stories? Is it your favorite animal?**

**A:** I don't have any fish for pets. I like the way fish look and I like to draw and paint them. They appeal to me visually. They are very strange and fantastical looking, so I use them a lot when I make pictures and stories.

**Q: How do you come up with the ideas for your picture books?**

**A:** *Tuesday* came about because I was asked to create a painting for the cover of a magazine for kids. I was told that I could do whatever I wanted, but they let me know that there were a lot of articles about frogs in this issue. Frogs are very cool looking—soft, round, lumpy, and really goofy-looking. I wanted to draw them.



I got out my sketchbook and began to draw frogs. I then drew one on a lily pad.

The shape they made together, the round blob of the frog on top of the circular, saucer-like bottom, made me think of something else that had the same shape—a flying saucer. And then I thought, “why not make the frog and lily pad fly around, like a flying saucer?”

For the cover, I showed a group of frogs rising up out of a swamp, heading off to some kind of mischief. I liked the frogs as characters. They had distinct personalities. I wondered what happened before and after this scene. I then began to create the story that would become my book *Tuesday*.

**Q: Why do *Tuesday* and *Sector 7* have very few words and almost all pictures?**

**A:** A wordless book offers a different kind of an experience from one with text, for both the author and the reader. There is no author's voice telling the story. Each viewer reads the book in his or her own way. The reader is an integral part of the storytelling process. As a result, there are as many versions of *Tuesday*, *Sector 7*, *Free Fall*, and *Mr. Wuffles*, as there are readers. As the author of a wordless book, I don't have to concern myself about whether the reader's interpretation of each and every detail is the same as mine. My own view has no more, and no less, validity than that of any other viewer.



**Q: What is your favorite movie and what makes it your favorite?**

**A:** 2001: A Space Odyssey is my favorite movie. It is a very complex story and it is told almost entirely with images. I learned a lot about telling stories visually from that movie.

**Kid Scoop** thanks David Wiesner and the students at Bahia Vista Elementary School in San Rafael, CA who came up with these great questions for Mr. Wiesner.


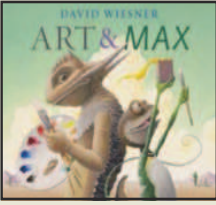
**Picture Story**

Cut out a photo from today's newspaper. Cut out the photo only—no caption or words. Glue the photo to a piece of paper and then make up and write a story to go with the photo.

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple, written directions.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

In David Wiesner's book *Art & Max*, two lizards have a crazy adventure of drawing and painting each other. Draw a picture of your best friend in the space below, and use lots of colors to create some wild art!




## Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

HURRICANE	S P D R O H T U A A
CALDECOTT	W O R D S U F R S S
WIESNER	F T A K E R I S T E
TUESDAY	U N W S O R S M O L
WUFFLES	Z I D G A I H G R F
AUTHOR	Z A S I N C I T Y F
FROGS	Y P A T L A D E M U
WORDS	I W I E S N E R O W
FUZZY	N T T O C E D L A C
MEDAL	
STORY	
PAINT	
FISH	
DRAW	
CITY	

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE  LESSON LIBRARY

## Picture This

Find a photo in the newspaper. Write about what you think happened before the photo was taken and what might have happened after. Read the story to see if you were right.

**Standards Link:** Writing Applications: Students write phrases that describe concepts.


A I O E U

Is there a word that contains all the vowels?

ANSWER: Unquestionably!

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ELGIN COURIER

# BASTROP COUNTY

I · N · S · I · D · E · R

Section B • Page 1  
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021

Your Guide to Bastrop County  
News • Shopping • Entertainment

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## Virtual concert raises thousands for monument relocation

By Julianne Hodges  
julianne.hodges@elgincourier.com

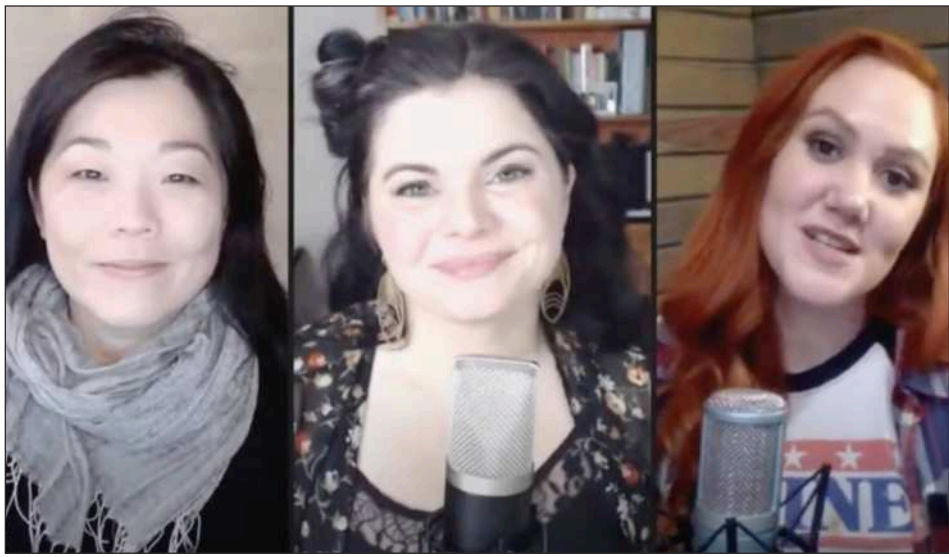
Musicians from near and far lent their performances for a virtual concert, Move Forward Fest, to raise money to relocate Bastrop's Confederate monuments, livestreamed on the evening of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Last summer, the Bastrop County Commissioners Court approved the relocation of two Confederate monuments at the county courthouse and appointed a committee of community members to coordinate their relocation. The committee's duties include finding a new location for the monuments and raising the funds to do so from private sources.

The cost to move the monuments is estimated at \$50,000. Before the virtual concert, the committee had raised over \$30,000.

Cheryl Lee, a co-chair of the county-appointed committee and one of the original people to push for their relocation last year, introduced and closed out the virtual concert.

"In November of 2019, I stood on the courthouse grounds and declared to the world that 'I'm going to remove the Confederate monuments in 2020,'" Lee said. "What does



From left to right: BettySoo, Rebecca Loebe and Grace Pettis from Austin-based band Nobody's Girl talk about setting up the virtual concert.

that look like? I have absolutely no idea, but I'm going to do it."

Lee worked with Grace Pettis, an Austin-based musician and a member of the band Nobody's Girl, to put together the virtual concert fundraiser. Pettis and fellow band members Rebecca Loebe and BettySoo were among the performers.

"It's such a wonderful reminder that, even when things seem immovable and difficult, things can change, and the right kind of work and the right kind of focus can make really difficult things possible," BettySoo said.

The concert featured performances and music videos from a number of other musicians, many of which are based in the

Austin area. The musical lineup included Ruthie Foster, James McMurtry, David Ramirez, Eliza Gilkyson, Dar Williams, Akina Adderley, Ron DeShay, Tom Prasada-Rao, Rachael Sage, Crys Matthews & Heather Mae, Ray Prim, Robert A. Kraft, Jackie Venson and Max Gomez.

The virtual concert included a video from Martie Maguire, a member of the well-known band The Chicks, in support of the relocation of the Bastrop County monuments. Following was the music video for their song, March March.

"We are so proud and happy to be supporting Move Forward Fest," Maguire said. "It means relocating Confederate monuments and creating

more welcoming and inclusive public spaces in our state."

Ryan Holiday, an author and a \$10,000-donor to the relocation fund, spoke in a video for the concert about removing the monuments from the courthouse.

"The (Confederate battle) flag that this monument right down the street from here is adorned with, it's saying that we should not forget it," Holiday said. "I think that's right, we shouldn't forget it. It should be a thing that we're all aware of, that we all know about and that we study from and we learn from. But what we absolutely should not do with our tax dollars and with our public spaces and with the monuments we put



Ruthie Foster performs her song, Brand New Day. Images from Move Forward Fest

up, is to celebrate that flag, because we know what it is a symbol of and we know what it actually is about and what it actually represents."

Holiday also shared a video in the virtual concert from his YouTube channel, Daily Stoic, which explores the ancient Greek philosophy of Stoicism, which teaches that ethics and virtue is informed by logic and knowledge. The video, titled "This Is Why Statues Mattered So Much to the Stoics," spoke about putting up statues and monuments "that reflect the kind of society we want to become" instead of Confederate monuments.

According to the initiative's Facebook page, Monument Relocation

Bastrop, the fundraiser hit \$8,000 by 8:37 p.m., about two hours after the video began.

After the virtual concert was over, Lee provided an update via Facebook Live, announcing that Move Forward Fest had raised \$9,419. In addition, the donations from Move Forward Fest were matched up to \$10,000.

"When Grace (Pettis) and I started talking about this, I was like, we might get four or five artists and raise \$1,000," Lee said. "This is beyond what I could have ever thought it was going to be."

A link to the entire two-and-a-half hour video can be found on the Facebook page @MonumentRelocationBastrop.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOTE: Due to health concerns and restrictions regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus, many events county-wide have been canceled and postponed. For the latest status on these events, please check online.

### JANUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 5

#### VOLUNTEER AT DOWN HOME RANCH GREENHOUSES

The planting of 25,000 spring color plants is a huge task, and Down Home Ranch has a great need for help in their greenhouses. This opportunity is wonderful for groups and individuals, young and old. If you would like to come get your hands dirty for a good cause, please email stefaniel@downhomeranch.org to sign up! Around 20 volunteers are needed per day, and morning and afternoon shifts are available Mondays through Fridays from January 4 through February 5; Saturday dates are also available upon inquiring. For more information, visit [www.downhomeranch.org/ways-to-give/volunteer](http://www.downhomeranch.org/ways-to-give/volunteer).

### JANUARY 28

#### RIVER REFLECTIONS: BIRDS OF THE TEXAS COLORADO RIVER

From the Great Plains to the Gulf, birds play an important role in our river's ecosystems. Join the Colorado River Alliance on Thursday, January 28 at noon on Facebook Live to learn about birds who call the Texas Colorado home. Guest speakers include Dr. Kevin M. Anderson, coordinator of the Austin Water Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend, and Robert Friedrichs, Texas Master Naturalist with the Midcoast Chapter, conservationist and avid birder.

See CALENDAR, Page 5B

### JANUARY 16 - APRIL 24

#### MASTER GARDENER CLASSES

The Bastrop County Master Gardeners will begin their next Master Gardener class series on January 16, 2021. The classes will take place every Saturday through April 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will consist of a combination of virtual, outside and socially-distanced in-person classes. The Texas Master Gardener training program is designed to prepare members to volunteer in the community and offers a minimum of 50 hours of instruction taught by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension specialists and other experts. For more information and to apply, visit [txmg.org/bastropcounty](http://txmg.org/bastropcounty) or email [bcmga78602@gmail.com](mailto:bcmga78602@gmail.com).

### FEBRUARY 2 & 16

#### OPEN RIDE DAY AT MAYFEST PARK

Giddy up! Open Ride Days are every first and third Tuesday at Mayfest Park, 25 American Legion Drive in Bastrop, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. This month's dates are February 2 and 16. No deposit or fee is required. For more information visit the Parks & Recreation page at [www.cityofbastrop.org](http://www.cityofbastrop.org) or call 512-332-8922.

### FEBRUARY 6

#### ELGIN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Elgin Cemetery Association will meet on Saturday, February 6 at 9:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall, 216 West 3rd Street in Elgin. All are welcome to attend.



# Opinion

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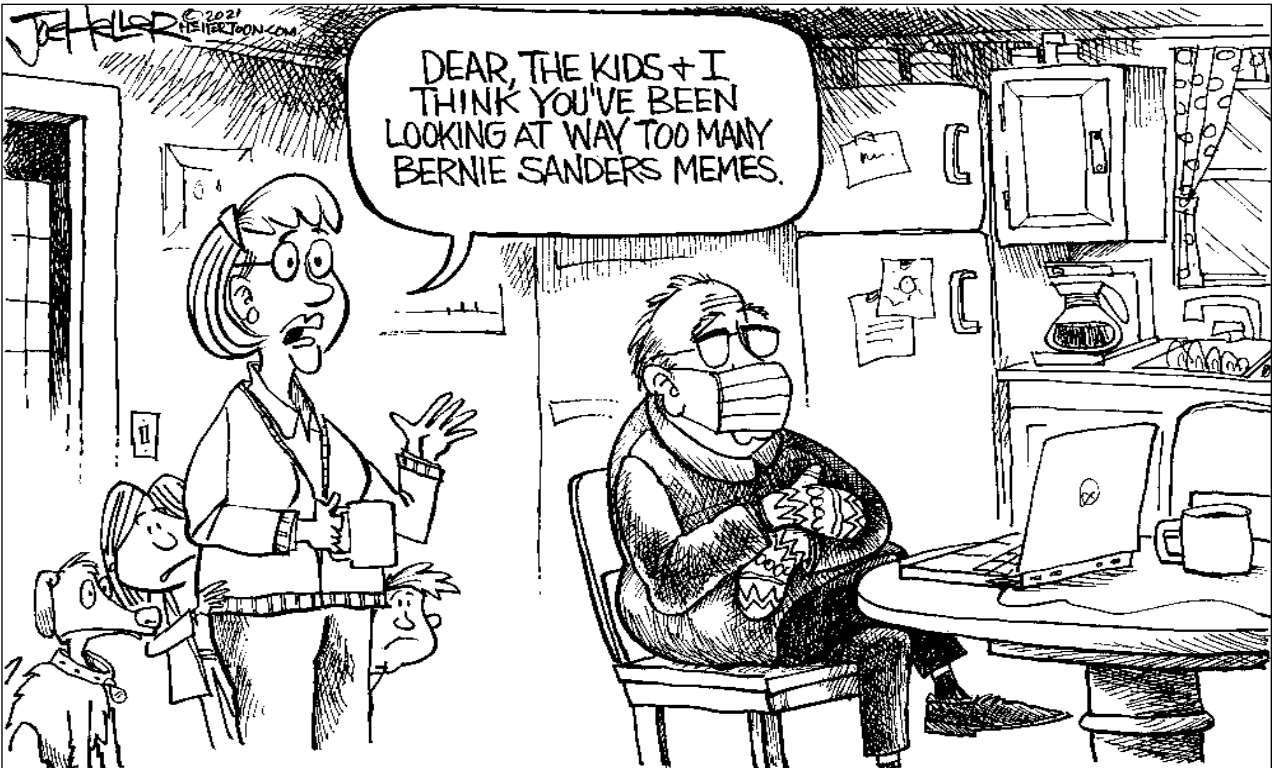
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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**Which on-campus security option do you think Elgin ISD should take: school resource officers through a law enforcement agency, armed or unarmed security officers hired by the school district, or a new district police department?**  
*Comment your response on our weekly question posted to Facebook @ElginCourier.*

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## OPINION POLICY

The Elgin Courier Letters to the Editor column is an open forum offering opportunities to the public to comment on issues of interest or concern to the community. They should refrain from making personal attacks on the individuals, and comments which in the opinion of the editors are potentially libelous or in bad taste will not be printed. Letters should be brief, 300 words or less, if possible. We solicit and encourage such comment. The deadline for Letters to the Editor is Friday at noon. It is our policy not to print letters with political opinions, ideals or views after early voting begins. All letters must be signed and include the address and phone number of the author. The Courier will not withhold the name of letter writers and anonymous letters will be discarded. Send e-mails to publisher@elgincourier.com. Website is www.elgincourier.com. Call 512-285-3333. News and ad copy deadline is Friday at 5 p.m. Letters to Editor deadline is Friday at noon.

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## Connecting rural Texas

Texas House and Senate leaders appear to agree on their proposed budgets. Next, they just have to figure out how to cut \$7.2 billion.

Senate Finance Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, worked with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to propose a state budget of \$119.7 billion in general funds. House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, proposed the same budget figure, indicating a collaborative spirit at the start of the 87th session.

That spirit will be tested as legislators try to meet Comptroller Glen Hegar's budgeted revenue forecast of \$112.5 billion. "We have many tools available to balance this budget, which will require us to re-establish our priorities, stretch every dollar and find more efficient ways to deliver services," Nelson said in a statement.

Among the priorities she set:

Maintaining the education funding increases and teacher pay raises established in 2019, including \$3.1 billion to fund enrollment growth for public education and \$1 billion in additional state aid related to property tax compression in the 2022-23 biennium.

\$5 billion for payroll growth and continued reforms to the Teacher Retirement System passed last session.

\$8.1 billion to fund higher education institution formulas.

Combined projected funding of \$8 billion for mental health across 24 state agencies, including an increase of \$19.5 million to maintain operations for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium; more than \$1 million in new funding to create a peer-to-peer



Chris COBLER

Capital Highlights

counseling network and increase access to licensed mental health providers for Texas Law Enforcement Officers; and \$145 million to continue community mental health grant programs.

\$352.6 million for women's health programs, including the continuation of the Healthy Texas Women program's enhanced postpartum care services implemented by the Legislature last session.

\$57.6 million to continue fighting human trafficking through prevention, detection, victim services and the justice system.

\$1.3 million to perform necessary maintenance on the Texas Election Administration Management System, which manages voter registration in Texas.

\$39.1 million in new appropriations to fortify security at the Texas Capitol, including additional troopers and enhanced safety measures.

\$30.4 billion to the Texas Department of Transportation to address the state's transportation needs, including \$26.4 billion dedicated for highway planning, design, construction and maintenance.

Phelan's statement indicated the same support for public education and also included an appropriation of \$74.2 billion for the Texas Medicaid program, including \$27.4 billion in general revenue. The House version includes an additional \$920 million to address projected caseload growth.

"The decisions we make

**"We have many tools available to balance this budget, which will require us to re-establish our priorities, stretch every dollar and find more efficient ways to deliver services."**

— Senate Finance Chair Jane Nelson

during the 87th legislative session will have lasting effects on the future of our state, which is why the House will work to improve our business climate, foster economic prosperity, and do what's right for our students," Phelan said.

## Strawberry fields forever

You don't find many strawberry fields in Texas, but that could change if a seed planted by the Texas Department of Agriculture takes root.

The department has awarded a second grant to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to research and test how the state's farmers can make more money growing strawberries.

Leading the project is AgriLife extension's Russ Wallace, a horticulturist in Lubbock. You might call him the John Lennon of Texas strawberries.

"We're extremely excited about what we've learned thus far to successfully grow strawberries in Texas and increase profitability," Wallace said in an AgriLife news release. "This is the next step in our ongoing research where we'll be doing more work with shading trials, fine-tuning fertilization and additional work with herbicides."

Strawberries have some juicy potential as a specialty crop because consumers have shown an increasing hunger for lo-

cally grown produce, ag experts say, although they don't often use bad puns.

One of the research sites is Atascosa County's Poteet, the self-proclaimed strawberry capital of Texas. Poteet Strawberry Festival organizers recently announced the event will go on April 9-11.

Some readers of the festival's Facebook page criticized the move as having the potential to spread COVID-19 faster than jam on toast. Festival organizers responded that "we've been working and hoping for a blessing that we can continue, within allowable restrictions or capabilities, but still continuing as possible. We hope all goes well."

With your permission, gentle readers, we'll close here with this Beatles' opening stanza and try to leave you with a song in your heart:

Let me take you down  
'Cause I'm going to Strawberry Fields  
Nothing is real  
And nothing to get hung about  
Strawberry Fields forever

*Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texaspress.com. Veteran journalist Gary Borders will be taking over the "Capital Highlights" column starting next week as Cobler embarks on a new challenge.*

## CORRECTION

In a letter to the editor in the January 20 edition of the Elgin Courier, "No longer supporting Cloud after Capitol attack," the writer stated that U.S. Rep. Michael Cloud (R-TX) signed a letter by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, as well as Paxton's lawsuit to the Supreme Court, Texas v. Pennsylvania, seeking to overturn election results in certain states. However, Rep. Cloud signed onto U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson's amicus brief in support of Paxton's lawsuit, not the lawsuit itself or a letter from Paxton. We apologize for the error.

# The Beat

## BASTROP COUNTY JAIL LOG



### December 12

Johnson Ann Aubrey—Driving while intoxicated.  
January Davis—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram.  
Ronald Todd Hendricks—Driving while intoxicated.  
Barbara Renee Jones—Prohibited substance/item in correctional/civil commitment facility; theft of property.  
Angelina Justice Whitaker—Assault causes bodily injury, family violence.

### December 13

Jasmin Chavez—Driving while intoxicated.  
Jonathan Jason Contatore—Possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia.  
Darell Dee Dougherty—Display expired license plates/registration insignia; driving while license invalid; fail to maintain financial responsibility.  
Braulio Hernandez—Driving while intoxicated; ICE detainee.  
Jose Hernandez—Burglary of habitation.  
Ruben Lozano-Nieto—Driving while intoxicated; ICE detainee.  
Jonathan Lee Pena—Driving while intoxicated; possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia.  
Cheryl Lynne Trimm—Operation of vehicle with expired license plates; license required; driving while license invalid; requirement of financial responsibility.

### December 14

Paul Michael Blackmer—Driving with license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution; driving while license invalid; no motor vehicle liability insurance; ran red light.

Andre Samuel Davis—Interfere with public duties.  
Steven Craig Durgey—Evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.  
Xavier Douglass McCradic-Thomas—Resist arrest, search or transport; silent abusive call/electronic communication to 911 service.  
Jair Oliveros—Driving while intoxicated.  
Kenneth Pennington—Evading arrest or detention with a vehicle; theft of firearm; theft shoplifting.  
Patricia Ann Thomas—Interfere with public duties.

### December 15

Lawrence C Caldwell—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram.  
Jacob James Chambers—Fail to identify, fugitive intent, give false information; no driver's license; robbery; theft of firearm.  
Doris Wallace Jones King—Criminal trespass.  
Austin Franklin Keeble—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram.  
Jonathan Rutherford—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams.  
Gina Nicole Yurchak—Driving while intoxicated, blood alcohol concentration greater than or equal to 0.15.

### December 16

Julio Cesar Anzora Ochoa—ICE detainee; license required.  
Nicky Joseph Fernandez—False drug test falsification device.  
Thomas Anthony Fontenot—Driving while license invalid.  
Addison Leamon-Young—Criminal trespass.  
Ivonne Medina-Vega—Abandon or endanger child intentionally/knowingly/recklessly, criminal negligence.

Benjamin Kolby Pyle—Driving while license invalid; no motor vehicle liability insurance.  
Amy Lynne Ramirez—Accident involving injury; parole violations; possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 3, less than 28 grams.  
Cherish Nicole Rhymes—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 3, less than 28 grams.  
Pablo Antonio Tovar—Accident involving damage to a vehicle, greater than or equal to \$200.

### December 17

Juan Benigno Davila Jr—Criminal mischief.  
Denis Antonio Lotero Santos—Driving while intoxicated; ICE detainee.  
Samuel Allen McMarion—Fail to comply with sex offender's duty to register for 10 years.

### December 18

Raul Casillas Arizola—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 4 grams, less than 200 grams.  
Rudy Lee Cano—Operation of a vehicle with expired license plates; notice of change of address or name; driving while license invalid; requirement of financial responsibility.  
Daniel Christian—License required; possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 4 grams, less than 200 grams.  
Jovan David Cook—Possession of drug paraphernalia; theft of firearm.  
Windell Roy Green—False statement of property/credit, greater than or equal to \$30,000, less than \$150,000; theft of property against a non-profit, greater than or equal to \$30,000, less than \$150,000.  
Sharde La'Fairr Knight Armoster—Fail to identify; possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.

Michael Hart Mclynn—Possession of drug paraphernalia.  
Bryan Jose Nunez-Garcia—Fail to identify, giving false/fictitious information; possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram.  
James Henry Wright III—Assault causes bodily injury, two counts.

### December 19

Nicorie Cordell Adams—Driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container.  
Ryan Ariel Marquez-Bencomo—Driving with license invalid; possession of drug paraphernalia.  
Miguel Angel Martinez-Pina—Driving while intoxicated; ICE detainee.  
Tyrin Jashon Smith—No motor vehicle liability insurance.  
Jordan Lane Walker—Theft of property, less than \$2,500, enhanced.

### December 20

Craig David Benjamin—Continuous violence against the family.  
Heather Michelle Coggan—Driving while intoxicated.  
Michael Nathan Dawson—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams; possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams; possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 3, less than 28 grams.  
Vincent Andrew Flores—Driving while intoxicated.  
Jahaziel Garcia—Burglary of habitation.  
Jose David Juarez-Rangel—Driving while intoxicated; ICE detainee.  
Nathaniel A Perez—Assault by contact.  
Donnie Bee Rust Jr—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams; possession of a dangerous drug.

ous drug.  
Mackey Adrian Young Jr—Disregard stop sign.

### December 21

Eliceo Castellanos-Davalos—Assault causes bodily injury.  
Alejandro Jaimes Osorio—ICE detainee; license required.  
Martin David Mireles—Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, two counts.  
Jose Cantu Resendez—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram.

### December 22

Ronald Lee Cook Jr—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 2, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams; parole violations.  
Michael Trey Cottle—Assault causes bodily injury, family violence.  
Steve Ramon—Criminal trespass.  
Jesus Abel Torres-Madrid—ICE detainee; no driver's license.  
Deven Ryan Vann—Compliance with or violation promise to appear; driving while license invalid; theft of property, greater than or equal to \$100, less than \$750.

### December 23

Anthony Jesse Arredondo—Assault causes bodily injury, family violence.  
David Allen Buchingham—Tamper with government record; theft, two prior theft convictions.  
Belinda Sue Cunningham—Possession of drug paraphernalia.  
Miguel Angel Macedo-Soto—Driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container.  
Randal Jay Smith—Criminal trespass.  
Javier Solorzano-Perez—No driver's license when unlicensed, not CDL.  
Tracy Wailani—Assault public servant; resist arrest, search or transport.

## GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

*An indictment is a formal charge by the State of Texas for a felony offense. It is not a determination of guilt.*

**Zachary Berry**—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 4 grams, less than 200 grams, a second-degree felony.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about July 12, 2019, did intentionally or knowingly possess cocaine in an amount of four grams or more but less than 200 grams.

**Michael Carothers**—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams, a third-degree felony.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about May 15, 2019, did intentionally or knowingly possess methamphetamine in an amount of one gram or more but less than 4 grams.

**Wesley Cook**—Evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, a third-degree felony.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about May 31, 2020, did, while using a vehicle, intentionally flee from a person the defendant knew was a peace officer who was lawfully attempting to arrest or detain the defendant.

**Kevin Huerta**—Evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, a third-degree felony.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about June 2, 2020, did, while using a vehicle, intentionally flee from a person the defendant knew was a peace officer who was lawfully attempting to arrest or detain the defendant.

**Harvey Locklin**—Robbery, a second-degree felony.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about August 5, 2020, did, while in the course of committing theft of property and with intent to obtain or maintain control of said property, intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cause bodily injury to a person by striking the person with the defendant's hand or arm.

**Scott Manson**—Unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, enhanced, a third-degree felony.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about July 24, 2020, did, having been convicted of the felony of criminal mischief, greater than or equal to \$1,500 but less than \$20,000, on December 7, 2009, at a location other than the premises at which the

defendant lived.  
A previous conviction for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon on or about December 7, 2009 in Travis County was also presented.

**Genevieve Olander**—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 4 grams, less than 200 grams, with intent to deliver, a first-degree felony enhanced to habitual.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about March 30, 2019, did intentionally or knowingly possess, with intent to deliver, methamphetamine in an amount of four grams or more but less than 200 grams.

A previous conviction for possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 4 grams but less than 200 grams, on August 14, 2015 in Travis County, was also presented.

**Michael Renfrow**—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 2, greater than or equal to 4 grams, less than 400 grams, a third-degree felony.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about April 28, 2019, did intention-

ally or knowingly possess psilocin in an amount of four grams or more but less than 400 grams.

**Pedro Rodriguez-Diaz**—Evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, a third-degree felony.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about January 5, 2020, did, while using a vehicle, intentionally flee from a person the defendant knew was a peace officer who was lawfully attempting to arrest or detain the defendant.

**Krystal Scott**—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams, a third-degree felony.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about March 7, 2019, did intentionally or knowingly possess cocaine in an amount of one gram or more but less than 4 grams.

**Cisilio Turrubiarte**—Sex offender's duty to register, habitual, a third-degree felony enhanced to habitual.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about May 19, 2020, did, while knowing that he was required to register because of a reportable conviction based upon

sexual assault, fail to comply with a requirement by failing to report in person not later than the seventh day before the intended change of address to the local law enforcement authority designated as the defendant's primary registration authority, and by failing to provide the law enforcement authority with the defendant's anticipated move date and address.  
Four previous convictions—two convictions for driving while intoxicated, third or more, on or about May 15, 2020, one conviction for theft on or about September 11, 1970, and one conviction for burglary on or about February 12, 1968—were also presented.

**Sean Zeugin**—Unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, a third-degree felony.  
The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about June 11, 2020, did, having been convicted of the felony offense of evading arrest with a vehicle on July 17, 2012, intentionally and knowingly possess a firearm after the fifth anniversary of the defendant's release from confinement following conviction of the felony at a location other than the premises at which the defendant lived.



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PUZZLES & GAMES

ACROSS

1 TXism: “\_ \_ \_ \_ hombre” (mean)

5 lawn implement

6 TXism: “stuffed shirt”

7 TXism: “It’ll \_ \_ in a pinch”

8 TX Coburn won 1978 Pulitzer for “The \_ \_ \_ Game”

9 this Mickey hit first Astrodome homer

15 Mavericks zealots

16 TX “Operation Game Thief” targets

18 TX “Babe’s” status as an Olympian

20 Texas among the states

22 rifle failure

27 TEA tries to lower the dropout \_ \_ \_

28 teeth corrections for TX teens

29 not finished

30 TXism: “smart \_ \_ \_ full of owls”

32 TXism: “got a mind \_ \_ (inclined)”

33 LBJ proposed on the \_ \_ \_ \_ with Lady Bird

36 Hawaiian two-step?

37 Biblical transport

38 tropical tune by TX Jim Reeves

39 former Houston oil fire business: “Red \_ \_ \_ \_”

41 Crowell H.S. class

42 TX Toomay’s “\_ \_ \_ Given Sunday”

45 it can be proper

46 TXism: “I \_ \_ \_ like death warmed over”

47 Staubach’s military branch

48 former country network

49 TXism: “\_ \_ \_ \_ baby’s bottom”

52 TXism: “take the \_ \_ \_ (quit drinking)”

53 TXism: “fits like sardines in \_ \_ \_ \_”

54 discoverer of the East TX oil field: C.M. “\_ \_ \_” Joiner

DOWN

1 in Smith County on highway 135

2 TXism: “beer shed”

3 TXism: “happy as \_ \_ \_ \_ candy store”

4 political protests

8 TXism: “that’s the ball \_ \_ \_” (over)

9 TXism: “don’t bite off \_ \_ \_ \_ chew”

10 Ozona H.S. class

11 former TX First Lady Connally (init.)

12 TXism: “if it ain’t true, \_ \_ \_ \_ liar in Texas”

13 mother-in-law of 11-down

14 Rangers sports-caster Nadel

15 TXism: “suits me to a \_ \_ \_ \_-well”

16 TXism: “\_ \_ \_ \_ pencil to it” (calculate)

17 cowboy hat brand

19 “\_ \_ \_ on down the road”

21 TX Vikki Carr 1989 release: “\_ \_ \_ Hombres”

22 TXism: “\_ \_ chacha” (girl)

23 treaty that led to destruction of TX missiles

24 former missile defense prog.

25 in Goliad: Presidio La Bahia ( \_ \_ \_ \_ the Bay)

26 Dallas founder John Neely Bryan died in the State \_ \_ \_ \_ Asylum

28 \_ \_ \_ Karolyi trained gymnasts in Houston

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1518

ELGIN COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER

TIME TRAVELER

Honeymoon in Hawaii

Part II

The day had begun to turn late as I stumbled upon where Alan had been kidnapped and taken to. I followed from a distance as I heard what sounded like natives taking him away deep into the thick tropical forest of Hawaii. I could tell he was struggling and trying to wrestle himself away from his captives. He was eventually rendered unconscious as he was carried away. I would’ve rushed and immediately tried to help but the captors were heavily armed. The entered through an opening at the base of a mountain on the island and ventured deep through a dark cave. Cautiously I continued close enough to track where they were going. They brought Alan into a large open area that looked like a place straight out of Indiana Jones and The Temple of Doom. There were lit torches all around and the sounds of chanting filled the area.

Alan was placed upon a bed shaped altar as the chanting continued to get louder and louder. This was certainly not how he wanted to spend his honeymoon. The later the night became Mary began to worry. She had asked some workers in the hotel, but none of them had seen her new husband. That night she sat at dinner unable to eat. She was approached by a man named Pietro. Eventually he sat with Mary and she confessed her all that was weighing on her about her husband disappearing. Pietro listened, but his intentions, as innocent as they may have seemed were much more. Trying to be sneaky around hundreds of natives with spears in a heat filled cave in a mountain was not as easy as it seemed. I had learned to be sneaky ion my past adventures, but this was a challenge. I continued to think that, even as they knocked me unconscious and dragged me away.

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Level: Advanced

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2

EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

One key to successful investing is to develop a strategy now that can help you reach your goals for the future. Candace Elliot of Edward Jones is offering a free monthly virtual workshop designed to help broaden your financial knowledge. Each of the eight virtual Zoom webinars will take place on the first Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m., starting on Tuesday, February 2. For more details and registration information, contact Dee at 512-229-3600 or dee.holman@edwardjones.com.

FEBRUARY 6

WORK DAY AT THE COLORADO RIVER REFUGE

Come help the Pines & Prairies Land Trust maintain the hiking trails at their Colorado River Refuge in Bastrop on Saturday, February 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This month, volunteers will re-route a section of Dragonfly Trail and close the old trail; the meeting place, near the north end of the Dragonfly Trail, is the corner of Lamaloo and Waipahoe Drive. For more information and to sign up, visit [www.ppllt.org/events](http://www.ppllt.org/events).

FEBRUARY 6

ELGIN SIDEWALK SALE

Locally-owned businesses, offering everything from one-of-a-kind antiques to locally-sourced foods and more, will use the sidewalks on Main Street in downtown Elgin to display and sell their merchandise on Saturday, February 6 as part of the monthly community sidewalk sale. If you’re visiting Elgin or shopping in person, please remember your face covering and practice social distancing. Find a shopping guide for downtown Elgin online at [www.elgintx.com/203/Downtown-Business-Guide](http://www.elgintx.com/203/Downtown-Business-Guide).

FEBRUARY 14

CHILI WITH MCDADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Come and enjoy some great chili on Valentine’s Day with the McDade Historical Society. They will be selling to-go bowls of chili from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., or until they run out, on February 14 at 557 Old Highway 20 in McDade. Proceeds will be used to support the operation of the museum.

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 6

BASTROP OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS: SILENT SKY

In February and March, the Bastrop Opera House will be performing Silent Sky, the true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt. Silent Sky explores a woman’s place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women’s ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them. As Henrietta attempts to measure the light and distance of stars, she must also take measure of her life on Earth, trying to balance her dedication to science with family obligations and the possibility of love. Showings will be on February 19, 20, 26 and 27 and March 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. and on February 28 at 2:30 p.m.; the play can also be viewed via online live-streaming on February 20 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and more information, visit [www.bastropoperahouse.com](http://www.bastropoperahouse.com).

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

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# Worship

## A Mountain-Top Experience

A mountain-top experience. When everything seems right in the world: just the right people are around you, you feel content and joyful, and you just don't want the moment to end; it's like the happy ending of a movie, except in real life. Moments like that make wish you could freeze time or capture the moment in a bottle and relive it over and over.

In Matthew 17:1-9, the disciples were having one of those mountain-top experiences during the Transfiguration of Jesus, who was transformed from His normal human appearance to shine like the sun and dazzled Peter, James, and John with His brilliance. They could still recognize that it was Jesus, but now they could see that He is not only human but also God. The transfigured Jesus is presented in all His glory, the glory He possesses as the eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

Peter didn't want the



Rev. Carl ROTH

Guest Column

Transfiguration to end. He said, "Lord, it is good for us that we are here. If you want, I'll make tents for you and Moses and Elijah to stay in," which would prolong their glorious mountain-top experience indefinitely. But even as Peter was saying, "Lord, it is good that we are here," a bright cloud came over all of them, and "a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.' When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified."

The voice of God on the Mount of Transfiguration was enough to scare Peter, James, and John to death. In just an instant the disciples went from a mountain-top experience with Jesus to a deep fear of God the Father's glorious

presence!

But as they were on the ground, face down, frightened to death, "Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and have no fear.' And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, 'Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.'"

Jesus comes to them and makes everything right. He drove out the fear in the hearts of Peter, James, and John, and they took comfort in the presence of the man Jesus, the same old Jesus they knew so well. Notice that Jesus doesn't speak while He appears in all His transfigured glory; He doesn't want us to get stuck with notions of finding glory here on earth. In fact, Jesus immediately tells the disciples not to tell anyone else about this event until He is raised from the dead. And that takes us to the heart of the matter: that

Jesus Christ is the crucified One, and on the crucified Christ is where our eyes should be fixed. He tells His disciples that the cross is where He is headed.

Jesus would go on to another mountain top, Mount Calvary, to the cross, there to be naked and shamed, to suffer and die for the sins of the whole world. That excruciating mountain-top experience for Jesus is our salvation, since there Jesus Christ was crucified in our place. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the Redeemer, the Suffering Servant, the Son of Man who gave His life as a ransom for many. And in dying, Jesus glorifies His Father, by showing that God loved the world in this way: by sending His only-begotten Son, so that all who believe in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.

Christ was glorified on the cross for you, for the forgiveness of all your sins. All of you who have been baptized have been baptized into Christ's death for your sins; your sins

have been washed away; you are forgiven. And the Father did not let the Son remain in the tomb, but as Jesus had predicted, He would rise on the third day for our justification, so all of us who believe and are baptized into Him are clothed with His own righteousness and therefore surely will participate in the resurrection from the dead and enjoy a permanent mountain-top experience in heaven.

When they were on the mount of Transfiguration, God the Father said to

the disciples, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." He was speaking to us as well, for we are disciples of Christ through Baptism and faith. How do we listen to Jesus? We listen to His Word in the Holy Scriptures, which He says are filled with the Holy Spirit and life. We listen to His Word preached and taught in the Church, which He promises to be effective in producing faith in our hearts. May this phrase echo in our ears every day of our lives: "Listen to Jesus!" Amen.

I charge you all that each one of you concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity...Thoughts of love are constructive of brotherhood, peace, friendship and happiness.

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W. US Hwy 290 or 1210 Hwy 290 Elgin, TX 78621 will hold a public auction of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be on www.storage-treasures.com, ending on February 11, 2021. Final sale and collection of payment will take place at the storage office located at 505 West U S Hwy 290, Elgin, TX 78621 within 24 hours of final closing bid. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and clean-up will be required. Seller reserves

the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw

property from sale. Property in each space may

be sold item-by-item, in batches or by the space.

Property being sold includes contents in space(s) of

tenants: Christon-Stanford-misc. items, Chele

Blair-household items, Jeff Men-dez-misc. items.

Elgin Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances Governmental Funds Year Ended August 31, 2020					
	General	Debt Service	Education Stabilization Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:					
Local and intermediate sources	\$ 16,456,316	6,516,567	-	850,376	23,823,259
State program revenues	31,730,374	521,774	-	811,598	33,063,746
Federal program revenues	920,765	-	749,507	6,140,616	7,810,888
Total revenues	49,107,455	7,038,341	749,507	7,802,590	64,697,893
Expenditures:					
Current:					
Instruction	24,182,239	-	749,507	2,627,716	27,559,462
Instructional resources and media services	542,246	-	-	16,539	558,785
Curriculum and staff development	612,255	-	-	765,051	1,377,306
Instructional leadership	1,741,378	-	-	420,028	2,161,406
School leadership	3,354,166	-	-	246,353	3,600,519
Guidance, counseling, and evaluation services	1,359,730	-	-	103,593	1,463,323
Social work services	211,589	-	-	2,302	213,891
Health services	309,368	-	-	-	309,368
Student transportation	1,973,914	-	-	35,355	2,009,269
Food services	-	-	-	3,380,606	3,380,606
Extracurricular activities	1,240,854	-	-	174,936	1,415,790
General administration	2,030,370	-	-	495	2,030,865
Facilities maintenance and operations	4,631,709	-	-	31,037	4,662,746
Security and monitoring services	407,326	-	-	134,237	541,563
Data processing services	1,120,116	-	-	-	1,120,116
Community services	389,151	-	-	72,971	462,122
Debt service	799,878	6,332,724	-	-	7,132,602
Facilities acquisition and construction	2,890,293	-	-	-	2,890,293
Payments related to shared services arrangements	26,018	-	-	-	26,018
Other intergovernmental charges	292,871	-	-	-	292,871
Total expenditures	48,115,471	6,332,724	749,507	8,011,219	63,208,921
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	991,984	705,617	-	(208,629)	1,488,972
Other Financing Sources:					
Proceeds from loan agreement	525,755	-	-	-	525,755
Proceeds from capital lease	335,534	-	-	-	335,534
Total other financing sources	861,289	-	-	-	861,289
Net change in fund balances	1,853,273	705,617	-	(208,629)	2,350,261
Fund balances - beginning	17,205,801	464,958	-	2,004,173	19,674,932
Fund balances - ending	\$ 19,059,074	1,170,575	-	1,795,544	22,025,193

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
RFQ No.: 21BCP01B

Bastrop County is requesting sealed statements of qualifications for **Engineering Services for the design and development of construction documentation for TDA-CDBG 2021-2022 Community Development Funds**. Copies of the request for qualifications may be obtained from the Bastrop County Purchasing Department website at <https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/purbids> or by calling (512) 581-7110. Sealed qualifications must be received by the Bastrop County Purchasing Office, which is located at 803 Pine Street, Room 101, Bastrop, Texas 78602. Submissions can also be mailed to 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602. All submissions must be received by Bastrop County Purchasing Department no later than 2:00 PM, February 5, 2021. Sealed envelopes must be marked with: **RFQ#: 21BCP01B and the proposer's company name**. Submissions received in the Bastrop County Purchasing Office after deadline shall be returned unopened and will be considered void and unacceptable. Bastrop County is not responsible for lateness of mail; private carrier; etc. Time/date stamp clock in the Purchasing Office shall be the official time of receipt. Bastrop County will not be responsible for unmarked sealed statements of qualifications delivered to the wrong location. Successful firms must be able to meet all requirements specified in the request for qualification document. Bastrop County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and strives to attain goals for Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) as amended. Contractor SHALL abide by all Local, State and Federal requirements.

**Local Notice as Part of the Environmental Notification Process for the Registration of Antenna Structures**

All interested persons are invited to review and request further environmental processing of an FCC application for Hemphill, LLC proposing the following telecommunications antenna structure north of 174 TX-21 Bastrop, Texas FCC filing number A1183484 proposes a 230 ft communications lattice tower with FAA style E Chapters 4,8(M-Dual),& 15. This application may be reviewed by entering the above file number at this website: [www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications). Interested persons may raise environmental concerns by filing a "Request for Environmental Review" with the FCC within 30 days of this posting. Instructions for filing requests are contained on the following website: [www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest). The FCC strongly encourages requests to be filed online; however, written requests may also be sent by mail to the following address: **FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554**

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**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Clayton Properties Group, Inc. dba Brohn Homes on behalf of Altessa Municipal Utility District (the Owner) invites the submission of sealed Bids from qualified bidders for: **Harvest Ridge Section One "Streets, Drainage, Water & Wastewater Improvements."**

The work shall consist of the following: Drainage Infrastructure Including Approximately 18"-36" HDPE Pipe, Headwalls and Appurtenances; Water Piping Including 8"-12" PVC Mains and Appurtenances; Gravity Wastewater Piping consisting of 8"-12" PVC Pipe and Appurtenances; Excavation, Embankment, and Paving; Sedimentation & Erosion Control; Water Quality Improvements Including a Detention Pond, Drainage Channels; and Various Other Subdivision Improvements.

Sealed Bids addressed to the Owner and marked **"Bid for Harvest Ridge Section One Improvements"** will be received until 10:00 AM on Friday, February 12th, 2021 at the Engineer's office, 101 West Louis Henna Blvd, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78728.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM on Friday, February 12th, 2021 at the Engineer's office, 101 West Louis Henna Blvd, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78728.

**A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 at the Engineer's office, 101 West Louis Henna Blvd, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78728.**

**Plans, specifications and bidding documents** may be examined without charge at the offices of BGE, Inc., 101 West Louis Henna Blvd, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78728. Plans, specifications and bidding documents may be obtained without charge from [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download plans, specifications and bidding documents.

A Cashier's Check, Certified Check, or acceptable Bidder's Bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bid must accompany each bid. Performance and Payment Bonds will be required as stated in the Contract Documents.

All questions pertaining to the bid must be submitted at least seven (7) calendar days prior to bid opening through [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com) in the Q&A portal.

The prices and terms of the bid must be made on the forms included in the Contract Documents.

The Owner may, on its own initiative, issue Addenda before the Bid opening and, if necessary, delay the Bid opening to ensure that bidders have had sufficient time to consider the Addenda. All Addenda issued for this project will only be posted on [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). You will be notified of Addenda automatically through email if you download Contract Documents via [civcastusa.com](http://civcastusa.com).

A Bid which, in the opinion of the Owner, deviates significantly from the Contract Documents, and which has not been clarified through a written Addendum prior to Bid submittal deadline, shall be considered an exception to the Contract Documents and grounds for the Bid to be rejected.

Bidders should read and understand all terms and conditions contained in these Contract Documents.

The Owner reserves the right to accept the lowest and best Bid as deemed by the Owner, or reject any and/or all Bids. The Owner may request qualification information including references, bonding, insurance and other information for use in determining the lowest and best Bid.

Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of the bids or authorized postponement thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified will not be accepted.

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