

# The Kerrville DAILY TIMES

\$1.50

## PRMC to get 1,500 vaccine doses

Staff report  
news@dailytimes.com

Another 1,500 allotment of COVID-19 vaccine is expected next week, which will be administered to those who have preregistered and are in Tiers 1A or 1B, Peterson Health announced Friday evening.

"We have been receiving a consistent allocation of the vaccine for the past three weeks, so we are hopeful the county will see their needs met. We are ready and

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## County sues subdivision over leaky septic system

Sean Batura  
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After raw sewage reportedly began leaking out of a neighborhood's septic system just outside Ingram's city limits, the council declined a request to connect the property to the municipal wastewater system.

The neighborhood property is owned by William "Johnny" Sharp, who has been in talks over the years with the city to get central sewer service to the area.

"We're currently engaged in a civil injunctive suit to bring the system into immediate compliance as best we can until we can find a permanent resolution," wrote Jason Sorensen, assistant county attorney, in a Thursday email.

An inspector with the Kerr County

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## Open Market

Fresh products from local producers hit the street



Jillian Smith  
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The Kerrville Farmers Market is in full swing this year, following the 2020 hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. Customers can browse and get their fill of produce, microgreens, fresh meat, mushrooms, roasted coffee and even fire-roasted pizza.

Instead of shutting down completely

last year, Katie Graham, one of the founders of the Kerrville Farmers Market, said they set up curbside pickup. This was to make sure local producers could still sell their products and residents could still get fresh, locally grown foods.

In 2021, however, area farmers are ready to set out their wares with all the sites, sounds and smells on the grounds of the A.C. Schreiner building along Water Street in downtown Kerrville.

Kyle Manning, farm manager for Bridget's Basket in Hunt, displays freshly harvested carrots at the Kerrville Farmers Market on Friday evening. (Times photo by Jillian Smith/photo@dailytimes.com)

And some are especially eager to replant after the damage from Winter Storm Uri.

"Two of them were hit the hardest in

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## County asks Legislature for more regs on miners



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Kerr County Commissioners unanimously ap-

proved a resolution asking the Texas Legislature to place more regulations on mining operations. The resolution states that although mining operations — also known as aggregate production operations — have attempted to be "good neighbors," they can be detrimental to beauty, air and water quality, and can adversely affect property values and quality of life, if they're near neighborhoods. "The Kerr County Commissioners Court

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"The Kerr County Commissioners Court

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## INSIDE today's edition!

## Electrical project sought to brighten holidays

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A plan is in the works to light up 105 cypress trees from Francisco Lemos Bridge to the end of Tranquility Island not far from the Sidney Baker Street Bridge, and it may get a big boost from taxpayers.

The Kerrville Economic Improvement Corporation voted to grant \$100,000 to the Kerrville Christmas Lighting Corp., provided another \$100,000 can be raised from donations. These monies would fund electrical infrastructure on

Tranquility Island to support Christmas decorations as well as a host of other possibilities in the future. One goal is to provide the public with "a Christmas Village experience besting Marble Falls, Fredericksburg and Johnson City," said George Eychner in a Thursday email to The Kerrville Daily Times.

Eychner, president of the KCLC, successfully pitched the project to EIC board members on March 1. Final approval of the proposed \$100,000 EIC grant would depend on the city

council, which is scheduled to hear the matter at a 4 p.m. public hearing on March 15. The EIC is funded by a portion of the city sales tax rate allocated for economic development purposes.

The Kerrville Christmas Lighting Corp., which was responsible for the Christmas decorations up and down Sidney Baker Street from Interstate 10 to Main Street in 2020, wants to raise the \$200,000 for electrical infrastructure that would provide 200 amp service as a baseline,

would be able to withstand floods and be available for other uses, said Eychner.

"Of course when you've got electrical capacity down there, you can help develop all kinds of programs and people-friendly events and activities for families," Eychner told the EIC board. He added that the lights under consideration for the project are programmable, and therefore could be used for other holidays and events.

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### Weather



Mostly sunny  
High 64  
Low 41

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## COVID

Continued from page 1

equipped to roll out more vaccine clinics and have proven successful from the start," Cory Edmundson, president and CEO of Peterson Health, said.

Appointments for the next distribution will be at First United Methodist Church, 321 Thompson Drive in Kerrville.

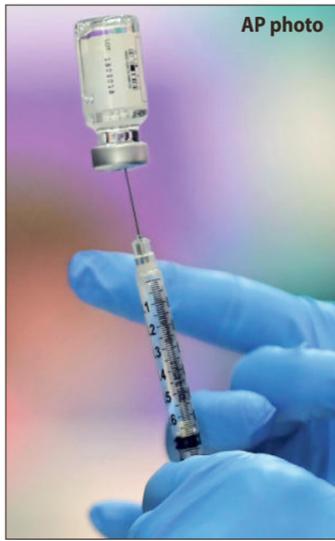
The announcement comes amid voiced frustration from Kerr County residents.

"We know the need is great, and we want our community to know that we are doing everything in our power to fight for more vaccines," Edmundson said. "It is all controlled by the State — the number of vaccines we receive, the day we receive them and who is eligible according to the tiers. But we have the protocols and logistics in place for efficient turnaround."

Peterson Regional Medical Center is still taking calls for area residents to preregister for the COVID-19 locally. Call 800-208-3611 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. The process may be completed online at [www.research.net/r/PetersonHealth](http://www.research.net/r/PetersonHealth). Vaccine distribution is prioritized according to state mandates.

### MASS CLINIC REGISTRATION

The COVID-19 vaccine will be available at two mass clinics next week in cities located in the same trauma region as Kerr County. Registration will



AP photo

be closed, however, as soon as all slots are filled.

The Texas Department of State Health Services will host a vaccination clinic Tuesday, March 9, in Rocksprings in Edwards County and another on Thursday, March 11, in Crystal City in Zavala County.

To register online for the Rocksprings clinic, go to [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DAAA92AA5FFCF8-edwards](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DAAA92AA5FFCF8-edwards).

Shots will be administered at the Rocksprings Fairgrounds Park Building, Texas Highway 377 North in Rocksprings. Shots in that clinic will be administered next Thursday in the Zavala County Nutrition Center, 1210

7th Ave. in Crystal City.

To register online for the Crystal City clinic, go to [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DAAA92AA5FFCF8-zavala1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DAAA92AA5FFCF8-zavala1). Shots at Crystal City clinic will be administered Thursday, March 11, in the Zavala County Nutrition Center, 1210 7th Avenue in Crystal City.

Anyone without access to internet can call 210-949-2121 to speak with a DSHS Region 8 staff member who will assist with scheduling.

Appointments are required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. No walk-ins will be accepted.

Currently, vaccines are available to Tiers 1A and 1B. This includes school and day care personnel. Those individuals are people who work in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools; Head Start and Early Head Start programs (including teachers, staff members and bus drivers); and those who work at or for licensed childcare providers, including center-based and family care providers.

Tier 1A includes health care workers and first responders, while 1B includes those older than 65 years of age and those between 18-64 years of age who have an underlying medical condition that makes them susceptible to severe COVID-19 illness.

### CURRENT NUMBERS

Kerr County, as of Friday, reported 89 active cases of COVID-19, 4,082 recoveries, 82 total fatalities — which has remained unchanged — and three hospitalizations.

## Salinas: IT firm eyeing Kerrville

Staff report  
news@dailytimes.com

An information technology company with high-paying jobs is considering moving to Kerrville, but its identity and other details have not been made public.

"It kind of fits us to a T, but they're looking at several communities here in the Hill Country," said Gilberto Salinas, Kerr Economic Development Corp. executive director, during a March 1 meeting of the Economic Improvement Corporation board.

Due to the sensitive nature of the project, Salinas didn't disclose much, but he did say the company would come with about 30-40 jobs, each paying in the \$100,000 range, and would require about a 20,000-square-foot facility. The facility's energy needs would be high, Salinas indicated, but he added this would be good for Kerrville because the electric fees would be collected by KPUB and go back into the community.

## LOCAL BRIEFS

### Heritage center will be topic of discussion at Historical Commission meeting

The Heart of the Hills Heritage Center will be the focus of the next meeting of the Kerr County Historical Commission. The meeting will begin at noon Monday, March 15, at the Union Church Building, 101 Travis St. The public is welcome.

Dr. Bill Rector will present information on the center that will be located at 529 Water St., next to the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library.

The Kerr County Historical Commission was organized in October 1975 and is an agency of Kerr County operating with volunteer residents appointed by the Kerr County Commissioners Court. The work of the commission focuses on preservation of the historical heritage of the county: identifying historical buildings, sites or cemeteries and recording and explaining information regarding the history of the county.

Visit the KCHC website at [www.co.kerr.tx.us/historical](http://www.co.kerr.tx.us/historical) for more information, or contact vicechair.kchc@gmail.com.

### Local students earn UTMB honors

BELTON — The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor recently released the names of 609 students who made the fall 2020 provost's honor roll. To receive this recognition, a student must achieve a grade-point average of 3.85 or better on a 4.0 scale.

A total of 678 students were named to the fall dean's list. To receive this recognition, a student must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.849 on a 4.0 scale.

Area students named to the provost's list include Hunter Taylor of Kerrville and Fredericksburg residents Emma Hailes and Roise Spangler.

Students from the area who were on the dean's list include Raleigh Bruton of Hunt and Amy Lucas of Fredericksburg.

## Market

Continued from page 1

the storm, because they're crops can't handle weather like that for a long time," Graham said.

The Kerrville Farmers Market focuses on providing a venue for "locally and seasonally sourced" products, and it does that while providing an experience. That includes live music and ready-to-eat foods and libations. And the market is set up outside not too far from the Guadalupe River, so it's not just another trip to shop for groceries.

Curbside is still available Graham said. Orders are taken 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday, or they can be placed online at [kerrvillefarmersmarket.com](http://kerrvillefarmersmarket.com). Pickup is 2-4 p.m. Wednesdays at Pint & Plow Brewing Co. on Clay Street. Each order total includes a \$5 service fee to cover the cost of collecting, storing, and packing. Orders over \$100 will not be charged this fee.

The market will be open 4-6 p.m. every Friday throughout March and in



Handmade, fire-roasted pizza is served hot and fresh at the Kerrville Farmers Market Friday afternoon at the A.C. Schreiner building in downtown Kerrville. (Times photo by Jillian Smith/photo@dailytimes.com)

November and December. April-October the hours will change 4-7 p.m. every Friday.

For more information, visit online at [kerrvillefarmersmarket.com](http://kerrvillefarmersmarket.com) or follow it on Facebook and Instagram @kerrvillefarmersmarket.

### IF YOU GO

- ▶ **WHAT:** Kerrville Farmers' Market
- ▶ **WHERE:** A.C. Schreiner Home at the intersection of Clay and Water streets in Kerrville
- ▶ **WHEN:** Every Friday: March, 4-6 p.m.; April-Oct., 4-7 p.m.; and November-December, 4-6 p.m.
- ▶ **MORE INFORMATION:** [kerrvillefarmersmarket.com](http://kerrvillefarmersmarket.com) or on Instagram @kerrvillefarmersmarket

## Lights

Continued from page 1

"So, for example, for the Fourth of July, you could have red, white and blue; for Valentine's Day, maybe pink," Eychner said.

The KCLC and city also hope to develop other Christmas activities in the next 10 years and make Kerrville a holiday destination for tourists: Eychner's wish list, presented to the EIC, includes ice skating, Santa's Workshop, snow machine, sledding, carolers, ensembles, Bethlehem in the Hills

productions and a walk-thru, lighted Christmas Village.

The city has an electrical engineer designing the scope of the electrical infrastructure project, said Ashlea Boyle, who directs the city's parks and recreation office. She said the city will bid out the project and choose a vendor for further design and construction. She said the city has the manpower to accommodate the scope of the proposed Christmas decorations.

"We're actually already fabricating the light holders in-house," Boyle told the EIC on March 1.

She added the lights themselves are "a very minimal cost" and already

have been budgeted. The expensive part is the electrical infrastructure, she said. Those who want to utilize the infrastructure for private events would make arrangements through the parks and recreation office, she said.

Eychner said KCLC will ask the EIC for a \$100,000 grant for the electrical infrastructure project, provided this same amount can be raised from other sources.

The KCLC hopes to raise \$50,000 from corporations and foundations and \$50,000 from local individuals. All funds raised would be donated to the city, which would manage the project, Eychner said.

## Sewer

Continued from page 1

Environmental Health Department went to the neighborhood on Feb. 8 and observed surfacing and ponding of effluent in the drainfield on the west side of the mobile home park, reads a KCEH report dated that day.

"Along with the ponding, he observed the effluent had flowed directly east from the drainfield alongside the home located north of the drainfield into the parking area," reads the KCEH report. "Conditions at this site are an imminent threat and substantial endangerment to human health and/or the environment."

No ponding effluent was observed during a KCEH inspection on Feb. 9, but the disposal area "was very saturated and had algae growth on top along with a black, tar-like substance," the report reads.

In late 2019, Sorensen said the neighborhood's septic system

was more than 30 years old. In December 2019, a jury convicted Sharp of five Class C misdemeanor counts of failing to abate an immediate health hazard. On each count, Sharp was assessed a \$150 fine and a court fee of about \$64.

### COUNCIL VOTES NO

Ingram Mayor Kathy Rider said Friday that Sharp recently asked the city to connect the property "as is" without being annexed. The council voted 4-1 on March 2 not to fulfill this request. Councilmember Claud Jordan cast the sole vote against the motion.

Rider said one point of contention in previous negotiations was that the city wanted Sharp to bear the cost of boring underneath Riverview Road. Although there's a section south on that road where contractors tore up the pavement to put a line across the street, Rider said that's not ideal. She said tearing up the road to put a sewer line across it results in more maintenance costs long term.

Additionally, annexing the neighborhood wouldn't be ideal because the potential taxes collected on it "would not even cover the police service for that area," she said.

The section of Riverview Road further south was torn up and patched to accommodate a sewer line to as many as three homes. Additionally, Wild Ass Hey Barn, which is south of Forest Oaks on Riverview, is connected to the city's wastewater system, Ingram officials confirmed Friday. It's outside the city limits, according to the Kerr Appraisal District, and also outside the city's wastewater service area as stipulated in Ingram's certificate of convenience and necessity No. 20942, according to the Public Utility Commission's website and an interlocal agreement between Ingram and Kerrville to use the latter's wastewater treatment plant.

The Kerrville Daily Times was obtaining clarification on whether Ingram can legally provide the restaurant with wastewater service without the property being

in the city limits or the CCN; this answer was not available as of press time.

### PERMISSION GRANTED?

The city of Kerrville must grant permission for any extension by Ingram of wastewater services, according to Section 6.03 of the interlocal agreement. The Kerrville Daily Times asked City of Kerrville spokesman Stuart Cunyus whether the city of Ingram asked permission of Kerrville to provide service to Wild Ass Hay Barn and the nearby area that includes at least three residences west of Riverview Road that are connected to Ingram's system.

"It is my understanding that the City of Kerrville has not granted permission, pursuant to Section 6.03 of the Interlocal Agreement, for any expansion of service for the City of Ingram Wastewater Service Area in the area described below," Cunyus replied in a Friday email. "Again though, you should check with the City of Ingram for their opinion."

The Times wasn't able to reach

gregate Production Operations.

The resolution was sparked by concerns over West Texas Aggregate LLC's desire for a permanent rock and concrete crusher facility near the airport east of Kerrville, at Al Mooney Road and Texas Highway 27.

The city of Kerrville unanimously approved a resolution in January opposing the issuance by the state of a permit for the facility. The mining operation is outside the city limits and its regulatory control, and the county has no authority over the company behind floodplain issues, but the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will consider the city's resolution and any other comments in its decision about whether to issue the air quality standard permit to West Texas Aggregate LLC, which is out of Midland.

Comments to the TCEQ were due Jan. 15.

## Mining

Continued from page 1

encourages existing and potential APOs to adopt best-management practices to minimize adverse health effects and nuisance issues," reads the resolution as presented by Precinct 2 Commissioner Tom Moser during the March 1 meeting of the Kerr County Commissioners Court.

The resolution passed by a 3-0 vote, with Precinct 1 Commissioner Harley Belew being absent for the vote.

The court voted following a presentation by representatives of Texans for Responsible Aggregate Mining. According to the group's website, several bills have been introduced during the current legislative session, plus recommendations were generated by the House Interim Study Committee on Ag-

Rider after this news broke late Friday afternoon and before press time.

Forest Oaks neighborhood had 19 homes and 54 residents as of December 2019. Rents are kept low there to help people make ends meet, said David Gorgol, the manager of the property, in 2019. If Ingram annexed the property, changes might have to be made to comply with city codes, which could impose significant expenses on the property owner and force rents upward.

"Most of these people are struggling on a daily basis," Gorgol told The Kerrville Daily Times on Dec. 17, 2019. "John is keeping rents artificially low for their benefit, not his. He doesn't really need this park."

The city of Ingram's 2002 application for the CCN describes the hazards of "improperly designed, constructed, or maintained septic systems," and states the city wants the CCN and wastewater system in order to "remove the safety and health hazards to the community."