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Rattlers fall at Lake Travis

San Marcos loses District 26-6A opener to Cavaliers, 58-3

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Local groups meet to address homelessness

CELESTE HOLLISTER
FEATURES EDITOR

When driving through town on Highway 80 toward the big H-E-B, you might notice more people than usual gathered in the sheltered spaces beneath

Interstate 35. Head north into Austin, and you'll find enclaves of homeless people congregating at Slaughter Lane, at Highway 290, in the downtown area, and further north on Airport Blvd. For many of us, that's the closest we'll come to home-

lessness — passing by on the freeway, unable to fully grasp who these people are and how they came to be there. It might seem simple to dismiss the issue from the rear-view mirror, but as the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on Texas fam-

ilies, the number of housing-insecure individuals has significantly increased, exposing gaps in services as well as common misconceptions about what it means to be homeless. "Homelessness is not always what it appears to be,"

said Tegan Debrock of the HOME Center of Central Texas, a nonprofit organization that hopes to unite community efforts to prevent and address homelessness while educating the community about it as an issue. Debrock went on to explain that a

number of factors can lead to homelessness and housing insecurity, and since the outbreak of the coronavirus, these factors have increased. People who were clinging to a safety net of family and

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Hays County bars allowed to reopen

County judge opts into governor's newest executive order

NICK CASTILLO
MANAGING EDITOR

Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra announced Friday that he will allow bars within the county to reopen following Gov. Greg Abbott's most recent executive order.

Under Abbott's newest order and with Becerra's approval, bars throughout Hays County will be allowed to reopen at 50% capacity beginning Wednesday.

Becerra said he pulled together the county's team of elected officials and the health department and emergency management teams to address concerns, issues and questions as well as discuss options following the governor's announcement.

"The majority of mayors and other elected officials were supportive but cau-



Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra announced Friday that he is opting into Gov. Greg Abbott's newest executive order, which will allow bars throughout the county to open at 50% capacity. Above, bars sat closed for a month during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Daily Record photo by Lance Winter

tious," Becerra said. "They want to be able to tell business owners they can get back to work and earning a

living but recognize that if we do, the process must be deliberate and thoughtful. This is a public safety issue

and our goal is to always protect public safety."

SEE BARS PAGE 9A



Above, San Marcos mayoral candidates spoke on a virtual forum hosted by the League of Women Voters Hays County on Thursday. Pictured, incumbent Jane Hughson (top left), Justin Harris (middle left), Miguel Arredondo (bottom left) and Randy Dethrow (bottom right). Screenshot from the LWV Forum

San Marcos mayoral candidates share visions for city in LWV Forum

STEPHANIE GATES
STAFF REPORTER

San Marcos mayoral candidates shared their ideas for a better SMTX in the League of Women Voters virtual candidate forum Thursday night.

Mayor Jane Hughson, Randy Dethrow, Justin Harris and Juan Miguel Arredondo each answered questions curated by the league, informed by voters. The forum ended with three questions directly from voters.

In her opening statement, Hughson spoke about making San Marcos better for all residents, cit-

ing her work done in her recent term as mayor to alleviate and lessen flooding, to provide more affordable housing options through development approvals and the new land development code and work to provide relief to residents affected by COVID-19. She said a mayor should listen and advocate for everyone, compromise and be well versed in the administrative duties.

Dethrow introduced himself as a Democratic Socialist, defining it as "something that you learned in kindergarten.

SEE FORUM PAGE 11A

Judge blocks order limiting Texas ballot drop-off locations

ACACIA CORANADO
REPORT FOR AMERICA/
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal judge in Texas on Friday halted Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's order that shuttered dozens of mail ballot drop-off sites weeks before November's election, authorizing only one

for every county no matter the size.

Abbott's order dramatically reduced the number of places in Texas where voters could drop off mail ballots during early voting and most heavily impacted the state's largest cities, which are also Democratic strongholds. He issued the order Oct.

1 as voters had already begun returning ballots for the Nov. 3 election.

The move brought swift accusations of voter suppression from Democrats and voting rights groups, including the League of United Latin American Citizens, which filed a lawsuit over the order earlier in October.

In a 46-page opinion, U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman of Austin said "the public interest is not served by Texas' continued enforcement of a proclamation plaintiffs have shown likely violates their fundamental right to vote. This factor therefore

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SOCIAL



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GAS PRICES



Sam's Club

UNLEADED \$1.69
DIESEL \$1.76

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High 97°



High 93°

MONDAY

Sunny, northeast wind

Sunday Record



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