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The Kerrville DAILY TIMES

Weekend, Sept. 26-27, 2020

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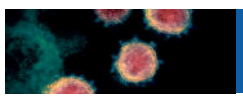

KERR COUNTY CASES: 632 total | 10 deaths

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, call Peterson Health Urgent Care at 830-258-7669 to be screened for an appointment to get tested.

Sharp differences in active cases

Kerr County says it can't count Peterson Health cases until they're confirmed by the state

Staff report
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As the number of new coronavirus cases continued to surge in Kerr County on Friday, county officials and Peterson Health sharply differed on an exact number.

On Thursday, Kerr County officials told key stakeholders, with the exception of Peterson Health, that it will no longer count positive cases from Peterson Regional Medical Center until they are formally verified by the Texas Department of Health Services.

It's a development that has proven to be perplexing to Peterson Health officials, who say they're sticking with their testing plan.

All of this comes in the week after Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly unilaterally decided to apply for a face mask exemption for the county, which was granted by the state last week.

Kerr County's position is that there were five active cases in Kerr County on Friday, but Peterson's numbers are far more telling of what is actually happening in the county over the last five days.

On Friday, Peterson reported seven new cases, driving its active cases to 26 this week, which would automatically invalidate the mask order for the county — but the county doesn't necessarily accept those numbers.

Kerr County's Emergency Management Coordinator W.B. "Dub" Thomas said Peterson Regional Medical Center's use of

See **COVID-19**, page 9A

The Trio

ELECTION 2020: As early voting draws near, incumbents Judy Eychner, Bill Blackburn and Delayne Sigerman say there is still plenty of work to be done on the Kerrville City Council

Place 3 Councilwoman Judy Eychner has lived in Kerrville for 30 years and is seeking a second term on the City Council.

Mayor Bill Blackburn has lived in Kerrville for 37 years and is seeking a second term as the city's mayor.

Place 4 Councilwoman Delayne Sigerman has lived in Kerrville for 13 years and is seeking a second term on the City Council.

Louis Amestoy
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Delayne Sigerman is unabashed in her support for Kerrville Mayor Bill Blackburn. During a recent episode of The Kerrville Daily Times' weekday webcast, KDT Live, Sigerman wore a "Vote for Bill Blackburn" T-shirt.

"I would like to see our mayor get re-elected," Sigerman said during a subsequent interview.

Before earning a seat on the Kerrville City Council in 2018, Sigerman only knew Blackburn as someone who seemed to know everyone around town, and she didn't know fellow Councilwoman Judy Eychner at all.

Now, they form the nucleus of a City Council that is facing a challenging re-election campaign, but no matter the outcome of the Nov. 3 election, all have become good friends. When the last-minute challenges emerged for their seats, all three formed a campaign block, and it's hard not to escape their campaign signs that are grouped together around the city.

"You know, I would say that I was pleasantly surprised," Sigerman said of the working relationship she's developed with her colleagues. "I would say that we do work well together. We are not always in agreement."

For the most part, the current City Council, which also includes Gary Cochrane and Kim Clarkson, has almost always agreed on subjects and have worked together on several big issues that could reshape the city forever — most notably affordable housing and by getting Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing to develop a plant here.

"One of the reasons I said yes to (running for City Council) was because of this man," Eychner said

See **TRIO**, page 6A

CANDIATE FORUM

- WHAT: Virtual candidate forum hosted by the Kerrville Area Chamber of Commerce
- WHEN: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 1
- DETAILS: Visit kerrvilletx.com for more information.

MORE ONLINE

- Watch videos of candidates Bill Blackburn, Delayne Sigerman, Brenda Hughes and Roman Garcia by visiting dailytimes.com/election.
- You will also find articles about the candidates, along with other information about races around Kerr County, the state and nation.

Farmers Market set for open-air return

Popular market will make its return at its downtown Water Street location on the first Friday of each month starting next week

Staff report
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The Kerrville Farmers Market will return to its downtown Water Street location — at least once a month — starting next week.

Kayte Graham, who runs the market, has been keeping the popular market alive through curbside pickup service at Pint and Plow during the coronavirus pandemic, but earlier this week, she happily announced that the open-air market would return on Oct. 2 at the Schreiner Mansion on Water Street, near the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library.

The market, which will feature about 20 vendors, will be open from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 2 and then from 3 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 6.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Graham said.

It will be different. The market will require masks to be worn, and booths will be socially distanced, but Graham expects that plenty of vendors will be on hand to deliver goods to

See **MARKET**, page 9A

Just some of the products that are available for purchase at the Kerrville Farmers Market, which will return to its Water Street location on Oct. 2.

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Becoming sunny
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Low 67

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