

WEATHER

HOUSTON'S SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



METRO AREA OUTLOOK

TODAY: Breezy and very warm with variable cloudiness. High 79 to 84. Winds south 10-20 mph. **TONIGHT:** Mostly cloudy and warm with a shower in the area. Low 67 to 72. Winds south 7-14 mph.

AIR QUALITY

Today's forecast for the entire metro area by the TCEQ:



POLLEN AND MOLD
Yesterday's readings by the Houston Health Department:



Note: No measurements on weekends; charts in Sunday and Monday papers reflect forecast ratings from the previous Friday.

COMFORT INDEX

The comfort index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

UV TODAY
Values indicate the exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays.

0-2 Low

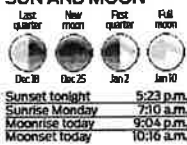
3-5 Moderate

6-7 High

8-10 Very High

11+ Extreme

SUN AND MOON



NORTH AMERICA TODAY



FOR THE RECORD

George Bush Intercontinental Airport through 3 p.m. yest.

Temperature	Degrees F
High	74
Low	43
Normal high	64
Normal low	45
Record high	83 in 1995
Record low	25 in 1985

Precipitation

24 hours through 3 p.m. yest. 0.00

Month to date 0.23

Normal month to date 1.81

Year to date 51.02

Normal year to date 47.84

Other readings

Top wind speed	10 mph
Low barometer	29.92 in.
Low barometer	29.80 in.
High dewpoint	49°
Low dewpoint	42°
Average dewpoint	45°
High humidity	92%
Low humidity	35%

KEY TO CONDITIONS

s-sunny
p-partly cloudy
c-cloudy
sh-showers
t-thunderstorms

TEXAS

Today	Mon.
Amarillo	78/22°
Austin	45/24°
Beaumont	80/59°
Brownsville	81/70°
Bryan/Colege St.	82/55°
Corpus Christi	83/59°
Dallas/Ft. Worth	74/40°
El Paso	69/44°
Galveston	77/68°
Kingsville	81/54°
Lubbock	66/55°
Longview	76/61°
Marathon	68/78°
McAllen	69/78°
Midland/Odessa	69/78°
San Antonio	84/45°
San Diego	77/59°
Temple	69/58°
Victoria	63/63°
Waco	76/45°

NATIONAL

Today	Mon.
Albany, N.Y.	32/24°
Albuquerque	37/27°
Anchorage	32/26°
Atlanta	60/53°
Baltimore	52/32°
Bellingham	52/32°
Birmingham	62/53°
Boston	39/22°
Butte	33/20°
Buffalo	33/20°
Charleston, S.C.	63/45°
Charlotte	58/44°
Chicago	29/21°
Chino Hills	40/30°

NATIONAL cont.

Today	Mon.
Cleveland	35/26°
Columbus	35/30°
Denver	37/19°
Des Moines	29/14°
Detroit	34/26°
Dubuque	67/51°
El Paso	10/0°
Grand Falls	29/16°
Hartford	45/23°
Honolulu	84/71°
Indianapolis	35/28°
Jackson, MS	70/28°
Jamez	35/24°
Kansas City	20/17°
Las Vegas	57/38°
Little Rock	52/10°
Los Angeles	64/45°
Memphis	59/41°
Miami	82/73°
Minneapolis	27/19°
Mississippi	12/5°
Nashville	54/33°
New Orleans	77/66°
New York City	48/31°
Omaha City	49/27°
Orlando	77/60°
Philadelphia	48/31°
Phoenix	64/41°
Pittsburgh	34/25°
Portland, OR	44/28°
Sacramento	53/34°
St. Louis	37/22°
Salt Lake City	37/19°
San Diego	64/43°
San Francisco	57/43°
Santa Fe	48/23°
Seattle	45/34°
Tucson	52/36°
Washington, DC	53/35°

INTERNATIONAL

Today	Mon.
Africa	
Cairo	65/52°
Cape Town	69/53°
Casablanca	69/54°
Dakar	60/70°
Johannesburg	63/55°
Lagos	60/76°
Asia/Pacific	
Beijing	42/28°
Ho Chi Minh City	63/73°
Hong Kong	73/67°
Kobe	67/56°
Manila	80/77°
Koror	79/52°
Kuala Lumpur	87/74°
London	80/77°
Los Angeles	79/52°
New Delhi	60/43°
Singapore	30/23°
Sydney	63/75°
Tokyo	53/41°
Europe	
Amsterdam	48/40°
Athens	64/51°
Berlin	48/39°
Copenhagen	44/42°
Dublin	41/33°
Frankfurt	52/43°
Geneva	54/39°
Helsinki	50/41°
London	48/42°
Madrid	53/45°
Moscow	38/33°
Paris	51/46°
Prague	51/38°
Rome	63/53°
Stockholm	39/35°
Vienna	47/34°
Warsaw	48/36°
Zurich	53/34°
Latin America	
Buenos Aires	65/47°
Caracas	79/61°
Cancun	86/75°
Guatemala	84/62°
Havana	86/72°
Lima	72/66°
Managua	88/72°
Medellin	87/72°
San Jose	87/72°
San Salvador	86/66°
Santiago	63/52°
San Paulo	60/59°
St. Thomas	87/72°
Mexico	
Acapulco	85/74°
Cancun	84/75°
Guadalajara	78/63°
Guatemala	74/63°
Mazatlan	79/62°
Merida	90/70°
Mexico City	73/61°
Puerto Vallarta	83/66°
Tampico	83/66°
Veracruz	85/68°
Caribbean	
Bahamas	66/47°
Barbados	66/55°
Beirut	87/71°
Bombay	58/43°
Buenos Aires	66/43°
Cairo	66/43°
Calcutta	66/43°
Colon	66/43°
Hankow	66/43°
Hong Kong	66/43°
Kobe	66/43°
London	66/43°
Lyons	66/43°
Manila	66/43°
Medan	66/43°
Memphis	66/43°
Montreal	66/43°
Moscow	66/43°
Mumbai	66/43°
Nairobi	66/43°
San Francisco	66/43°
Singapore	66/43°
Sydney	66/43°
Taipei	66/43°
Tokyo	66/43°
Washington	66/43°

COASTAL FORECAST

GALVESTON BAY Wind from the south at 7-14 knots today. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility clear to the horizon. **TONIGHT** Wind from the south at 7-14 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Mostly cloudy with a shower.

MATAGORDA SHIP CHANNEL TO HIGH ISLAND

OUT 20 TO 50 MILES: Wind from the south at 8-16 knots today. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility less than a mile in patchy morning fog. **TONIGHT** Wind from the south at 7-14 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Increasing clouds.

GALVESTON TIDES

Highs	Feet	Lows	Feet
8:17 a.m.	1.3	10:47 a.m.	-0.5
8:39 p.m.	1.3		

RIVERS, CREEKS AND BAYOUS

Location	Feet	Low	High	Stage	Chg.
Brazos River	54	54.0	54.0	none	
Colorado River	50	50.0	50.0	0.03	
Colorado River	48	48.0	48.0	0.04	
Colorado River	46	46.0	46.0	0.05	
Colorado River	44	44.0	44.0	0.06	
Colorado River	42	42.0	42.0	0.07	
Colorado River	40	40.0	40.0	0.08	
Colorado River	38	38.0	38.0	0.09	
Colorado River	36	36.0	36.0	0.10	
Colorado River	34	34.0	34.0	0.11	
Colorado River	32	32.0	32.0	0.12	
Colorado River	30	30.0	30.0	0.13	
Colorado River	28	28.0	28.0	0.14	
Colorado River	26	26.0	26.0	0.15	
Colorado River	24	24.0	24.0	0.16	
Colorado River	22	22.0	22.0	0.17	
Colorado River	20	20.0	20.0	0.18	
Colorado River	18	18.0	18.0	0.19	
Colorado River	16	16.0	16.0	0.20	
Colorado River	14	14.0	14.0	0.21	
Colorado River	12	12.0	12.0	0.22	
Colorado River	10	10.0	10.0	0.23	
Colorado River	8	8.0	8.0	0.24	
Colorado River	6	6.0	6.0	0.25	
Colorado River	4	4.0	4.0	0.26	
Colorado River	2	2.0	2.0	0.27	
Colorado River	0	0.0	0.0	0.28	
Colorado River	-2	-2.0	-2.0	0.29	
Colorado River	-4	-4.0	-4.0	0.30	
Colorado River	-6	-6.0	-6.0	0.31	
Colorado River	-8	-8.0	-8.0	0.32	
Colorado River	-10	-10.0	-10.0	0.33	
Colorado River	-12	-12.0	-12.0	0.34	
Colorado River	-14	-14.0	-14.0	0.35	
Colorado River	-16	-16.0	-16.0	0.36	
Colorado River	-18	-18.0	-18.0	0.37	
Colorado River	-20	-20.0	-20.0	0.38	
Colorado River	-22	-22.0	-22.0	0.39	
Colorado River	-24	-24.0	-24.0	0.40	
Colorado River	-26	-26.0	-26.0	0.41	
Colorado River	-28	-28.0	-28.0	0.42	
Colorado River	-30	-30.0	-30.0	0.43	
Colorado River	-32	-32.0	-32.0	0.44	
Colorado River	-34	-34.0	-34.0	0.45	
Colorado River	-36	-36.0	-36.0	0.46	
Colorado River	-38	-38.0	-38.0	0.47	
Colorado River	-40	-40.0	-40.0	0.48	
Colorado River	-42	-42.0	-42.0	0.49	
Colorado River	-44	-44.0	-44.0	0.50	
Colorado River	-46	-46.0	-46.0	0.51	
Colorado River	-48	-48.0	-48.0	0.52	
Colorado River	-50	-50.0	-50.0	0.53	
Colorado River	-52	-52.0	-52.0	0.54	
Colorado River	-54	-54.0	-54.0	0.55	
Colorado River	-56	-56.0	-56.0	0.56	
Colorado River	-58	-58.0	-58.0	0.57	
Colorado River	-60	-60.0	-60.0	0.58	
Colorado River	-62	-62.0	-62.0	0.59	
Colorado River	-64	-64.0	-64.0	0.60	
Colorado River	-66	-66.0	-66.0	0.61	
Colorado River	-68	-68.0	-68.0	0.62	
Colorado River	-70	-70.0	-70.0	0.63	
Colorado River	-72	-72.0	-72.0	0.64	
Colorado River	-74	-74.0	-74.0	0.65	
Colorado River	-76	-76.0	-76.0	0.66	
Colorado River	-78	-78.0	-78.0	0.67	
Colorado River	-80	-80.0	-80.0	0.68	
Colorado River	-82	-82.0	-82.0	0.69	
Colorado River	-84	-84.0	-84.0	0.70	
Colorado River	-86	-86.0	-86.0	0.71	
Colorado River	-88	-88.0	-88.0	0.72	
Colorado River	-90	-90.0	-90.0	0.73	
Colorado River	-92	-92.0	-92.0	0.74	
Colorado River	-94	-94.0	-94.0	0.75	
Colorado River	-96	-96.0	-96.0	0.76	
Colorado River	-98	-98.0	-98.0	0.77	
Colorado River	-100	-100.0	-100.0	0.78	

TEXAS LAKES

Location	Feet	Low	High	Stage	Chg.
Canyon Dam	90	90.0	90.0	0	
Comite	40	40.0	40.0	0	
Houston	41	41.0	41.0	0	
Lake Taw	60	60.0	60.0	0	
Livingston	51	51.0	51.0	0	

EARTH WEEK

Greenland melt

The rate at which Greenland is losing its ice cap is now seven times greater than it was during the 1990s, and accelerating faster than most models predicted. Writing in the journal *Nature*, results from 26 separate surveys paint the most complete picture of Greenland's melt, which now threatens to lift sea levels by another 2.75 inches just by itself. The massive ice sheet that covers the world's largest island is still over a mile thick at the center and has the potential to cause a far greater rise in sea level should it melt much further due to global warming. **Earthquakes** People rushed from buildings across Tuscany after a magnitude 4.8 quake awakened residents before dawn on the Italian peninsula.

northeastern Ohio. Cooling protocol

A 1987 ban on ozone-destroying chemicals has slowed global warming by eliminating the chlorofluorocarbon emissions that influence the greenhouse effect much more than carbon dioxide, a new study reveals. Writing in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*, scientists say that by the middle of this century, the planet will be at least 1 degree Celsius cooler than it would have been without the landmark Montreal Protocol, which has resulted in the gradual closing of the ozone hole over Antarctica. "By mass, CFCs are thousands of times more potent a greenhouse gas compared to CO2, so the Montreal Protocol not only saved the ozone layer, but it also mitigated a substantial fraction of global warming," said lead study author Rishav



Cyclone Beina roared ashore

along Madagascar's northwestern coast. The region's first named storm to make landfall this season also wrecked hundreds of homes. Heavy rain, floods and high winds from Tropical Storm Pawan killed several people in the region.

Bushfire crisis

Smoke from weeks of uncontrolled wildfires in southeastern Australia has brought Sydney and nearby communities the most toxic air quality in the world. The smoke was so thick that

onto homes and gardens more than 60 miles from the bushfires. The recent blazes have also killed more than 2,000 iconic koalas, around 25% of the population in the region. Bushfires are common during the heat of late spring and summer in Australia. But this season of fire and heat is unprecedented.

over a

dawn in the Russian region, items were knocked to the floor, but no major damage was reported. Earth movements were also felt in western Turkey, Crete, China's Sichuan province, New Zealand's North Island and

Goyal Tropical cyclones
Nine people were killed and three others left missing after powerful

storm hit the coastal region of Somaliland. The storm also wrecked homes and caused the loss of livestock. Some of the region's main roads were washed out as well.

It set off smoke alarms and sent residents to clinics with respiratory ailments. More than 720 homes have been lost to the flames. Ash and charred leaves fell

ed and early.
Oxygen leak
The world's oceans have on average lost 2% of their oxygen content

erupted without warning during their tour. Some of the recovered bodies were so badly burned that it was impossible to identify the victims.
Earth Environment Service

Climate change talks stall amid opposition

NEW YORK TIMES

MADRID — After two weeks of contentious negotiations, world leaders put in charge of averting a cluster of accelerating climate threats remained at loggerheads on Saturday about whether they could commit, just on paper, to raise voluntary climate targets next year.

The annual talks, which had been scheduled to end on Friday, were meant to hammer out the final details of the landmark 2015 Paris climate accord, and expectations initially ran high that they would yield a collective political call for raising climate targets.

That is vital for the future of millions. With greenhouse gas emissions on their current trajectory, average global temperatures are on pace to increase to levels where heat waves are very likely to intensify, storms are set to become more severe, and coastal cities are at risk of drowning, according to scientific consensus.

The delegates from nearly 200 countries who gathered in the Spanish capital were similarly stuck on two other issues that



Maria Fernandez / Associated Press

have vexed the Paris Agreement since its inception: working out rules for an international carbon trading system and providing money for the poor countries that suffer most from climate catastrophes.

The draft texts that emerged early Saturday immediately set off furious criticism from inside and

outside the plenary room. By midday, delegates were waiting for new drafts and there was no telling when the sessions would wrap up, with or without an agreement.

"Adopting this would be a betrayal of all the people around the world suffering from climate impacts and those who are calling for action," said Jennifer Morgan,

the executive director of Greenpeace International.

Diplomats and advocates at the deliberations repeatedly cited opposition from large economies that are run by leaders suspicious of international cooperation — including Australia, Brazil and the United States, the only country in the world that is pulling out of the

Activists protest Saturday in Madrid, where world leaders held talks to hammer out the final details of the 2015 Paris climate accord. The delegates from nearly 200 nations have had difficulty agreeing on targets for the coming year.

Paris accord.

The U.S. delegation was among those that objected to the notion that the conference document should signal the need to enhance climate targets next year, saying it did not support "expansive additional language on gaps and needs."

The lackluster diplomatic results stood in sharp contrast to the climate risks rolling the world beyond the conference center, with Arctic temperatures at near record highs this year, smoke from wildfires choking Sydney, Australia, and millions of young people pouring out into the streets for much of this year.

Growing concern about climate change has been reflected in mass protests staged around the world, often by young activists concerned about the future they and their children might face as the planet heats up.

Demonstrations took place inside and outside the venue of the talks in the Spanish capital, with Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg one of the most prominent voices calling for urgent action to curb emissions.

Mom of suspect in cop killing admits to lying

By Dylan McGuinness
STAFF WRITER

The mother of an alleged Nassau Bay cop killer told investigators that she lied about her son's whereabouts during a two-day manhunt "because I am a mom," according to court documents.

Tiffany Henderson and her boyfriend, Geoffrey Wheeler, are now both facing felony charges of hindering apprehension for their roles in helping Tavoros Henderson evade arrest. Wheeler told sheriff's deputies that he lied to them because he was scared.

Tavoros Henderson, 21, is the man authorities say struck and killed Nassau Bay police Sgt. Kaila Sullivan with a car while fleeing a traffic stop on Dec. 10. Officers pulled him over for speeding and

were trying to arrest him on an outstanding warrant related to domestic violence.

Sullivan, a mother and 16-year veteran of the force, was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she was pronounced dead. She was 43.

Harris County sheriff's deputies went to Henderson's house that night to question her while they searched for Tavoros, according to the court documents. When they told her they were there to arrest him for killing a police officer, she denied knowing who he was.

She later admitted that she is Tavoros' mother but said she didn't know where he was. She told officers there was a locked room in the house that Tavoros had access to. Investigators stayed at the home until they could get an arrest warrant, but he wasn't there when



Tavoros Henderson remains jailed on capital murder charges.

they got inside.

The deputies told Henderson to notify the agency if she heard anything about his whereabouts.

Investigators later found surveillance video, however, of Henderson and Wheeler dropping off Tavoros at The Sterling Inn on the South Loop before they got home and spoke with investigators.

Two days later, Henderson and Wheeler showed up unprompted when deputies surrounded a house on Heritage Trail.

Henderson confirmed that her

son was in the house and asked to speak with him, according to the documents.

She "was allowed to speak to Tavoros Henderson and he responded by surrendering himself without incident," prosecutors wrote.

He confessed at the scene, and deputies recovered a handgun from the home, officials said.

Soon after his arrest, investigators asked Henderson and Wheeler why they lied.

"She stated, 'Because I am a mom,' " prosecutors said. "And he stated, 'Because I was scared.' "

Both Tiffany Henderson and Wheeler have posted bonds — \$50,000 and \$10,000, respectively — and been released from jail.

Tavoros Henderson remains in jail on capital murder charges.

He was initially charged with fel-

ony murder and a judge set his bond at \$150,000, drawing condemnation from law enforcement officers and many high-ranking lawmakers.

Prosecutors upgraded the charge Thursday night, but they said they had ensured he wouldn't have been able to walk out on bail. They said he had already been denied bail in a separate pending case.

"While the bond that was set yesterday, \$150,000 on the felony murder was obviously concerning to a number of people. In no way was that going to allow him to make a bond," prosecutor Sean Teare said. "We ensured prior to his capture that was he captured, he was not getting out."

dylan.mcguinness@chron.com

Fatal crashes are the dark side of the oil and gas boom

CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES

AUSTIN — Danielle Galvan was driving to Dallas from her parents' home in the Panhandle when her compact Chevrolet Spark crashed into the rear of a tractor-trailer that was attempting to back up onto U.S. 287 about 10 miles west of Wichita Falls.

The 23-year-old aspiring fashion designer and model died in the fiery wreck March 6, 2018, leaving behind two children and a grieving extended family in Hereford, southwest of Amarillo.

The crash that claimed her life occurred on a highway that connects some of the largest and busiest oil- and gas-producing regions of Texas to the sprawling population center anchored by Dallas and Fort Worth.

Galvan was among the 1,673 people who lost their lives in 2018 while motoring through one of Texas' five largest oil and gas plays, figures compiled by the Texas Department of Public Safety show. That's about half of all traffic fatalities in the state and represents a grim downside to the resurgent energy sector that's helping to propel the state's economy.

"It's very scary out there right now," said Richard Minnix, the owner of McClatchy Brothers, a Midland trucking company that serves the oil-rich Permian Basin. "The biggest problem is distracted driving. It's jacking with your cell-phone, text messages."

The TxDOT figures still show speeding as the No. 1 cause of crashes in Texas, with distracted driving close behind. Lawmakers in 2017 banned texting and driving in Texas, but the crash rate still increased during the first year the law went on the books.

James Bass, TxDOT's executive director, said driving conditions, especially in the energy-produc-



Billy Calzada / Staff photographer

Traffic signs have been knocked down by wayward vehicles from energy-industry truck traffic in Mentone, a small town booming with oil field workers about 75 miles west of Odessa.

ing parts of the state, have changed dramatically with the uptick in production.

"A big increase in the number of heavy trucks and traffic on state and county roads adds to the complexity of driving — something we always need to give our full attention to, while also obeying traffic laws," Bass said.

John Esparza, who heads the Texas Trucking Association, said trucks are to blame for only a fraction of the wrecks even if crashes involving big rigs tend to draw an outside share of news coverage.

Still, he said, much of the oil and gas production is taking place in rural Texas, where roads were built to accommodate less traffic.

"We're becoming more and more congested, and there are more and more fatalities that involve everyone because some of

the simplest things we are not doing well," Esparza said. "And you throw trucks in the middle of all of that, you are seeing more trucks involved in that area in a disproportionate amount than they are for the whole rest of the state."

The Permian Basin, which covers much of West Texas and extends into New Mexico and perhaps is the nation's biggest producer of oil and gas, saw 485 highway deaths and 1,321 serious injuries in 2018. The number of traffic crashes increased 13 percent from 2017 and the fatalities jumped 20 percent from 2017.

But those figures run behind the more urbanized Barnett Shale, which includes Fort Worth and its suburbs and extends to the Wichita Falls area. Last year, 710 fatalities and 3,400 serious injuries were reported from crashes there.

Both Esparza and Minnix give TxDOT high marks for improving roads and expanding capacity in West Texas and in the other high-producing regions. The challenge is keeping up with the traffic needed to get workers and equipment to the oil fields and to get the product to the market.

"They are doing a lot of construction," Minnix said. "They just can't keep up."

Minnix said the Midland area's boom is rippling in all directions.

In Pecos, about 100 miles to the southwest and about 200 miles east of El Paso, oil field activity is causing unheard-of traffic jams on the two-lane blacktops leading in and out of town.

The trucking association is helping TxDOT with a public-education initiative called "Be Safe. Drive Smart" that's aimed at the

state's energy-producing regions.

Mark Martinez, who works in the oil and gas business, said traffic congestion and the wrecks that followed in the Pecos area started becoming more than a minor nuisance about four years ago.

In 2016, he started a Facebook page called West Texas Oil Field Traffic Update to keep friends and co-workers apprised of conditions that could slow their commutes to work or the driving required by their jobs.

"There got to be so many trucks, so much road construction — or lack of road construction — sometimes you can't get anywhere," Martinez said. "You get behind a wreck on one of these two-lane roads out here, and you're at a standstill for hours."

The driver of the rig who caused the wreck that claimed the life of Galvan was found guilty of manslaughter in October.

On the witness stand after the verdict was handed down, the driver made a tearful apology to Galvan's family.

The jury returned a suspended sentence of two years in prison but ordered him to serve 45 days in Wichita County Jail as a condition of probation.

Georgian Perez, Galvan's aunt, said the sentence was light. But she hopes her niece's death can serve as a reminder of the far-reaching heartbreak families of those who die in highway crashes must carry.

"Danielle's death left a huge void in our hearts that will never be filled," Perez said. "She was indeed our treasure, our angel and the kindest soul we were fortunate enough to have in our lives."

"I do not wish to see another person leaving their loved ones behind, because someone careless and selfish was behind the wheel."

HOT Lane longer

Seven additional miles of HOT lane along U.S. 290 is set to open Monday morning, taking the carpool and toll lane past Cypress.

Some not laughing over Abbott's joke from 1992 salsa ad





290

From page A3

took an average of 29:50.

The new lanes have not cured all ills, however. Evening trips have remained roughly the same duration, according to the TransStar data.

The hours and rules of the HOT lane remain the same, with inbound flow from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. and outbound use from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. The lanes are restricted to carpools with three or more occupants and transit vehicles from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.; vehicles with two or more occupants can use it from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Prices also remain the same, Russo said, and are the same no matter where someone enters the lane. Metro officials set a policy of flat prices for all HOT lanes in 2012. Costs for toll paying drivers fluctuate hourly, with a current low price of \$1 and a high of \$7 for morning inbound trips between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m.

dug.begley@chron.com

By Dylan McGuinness
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Greg Abbott revived a debate Saturday about a controversial line from a decades-old Pace Picante ad: "Get a rope."

Abbott tweeted the reference after a follower jokingly asked him what he was going to do about a Whataburger that had run out of Dr Pepper.

One minute later, another Twitter user accused the governor of making an insensitive joke about lynching.

"Lynching jokes? Still? It's 2019, Greg," Gary M. Sarli tweeted. The governor responded by telling him to "lighten up, dude."

"It's a line ripped off of the Pace Picante Get A Rope Commercial," Abbott wrote with a link to the old advertisement. "Put a smile on your face. Go to Whataburger & order a double with cheese & jalapeños. Tell them Dr. Pepper sent you."

Sarli said he remembered the ad, too, but it doesn't justify using the remark.

"It's not OK," he replied. "Lynching jokes are making light of the mass murder of Black folks by lynch mobs. It's not OK to joke about this."

The Pace commercial shows a few men around a fire chiding someone for offering a jar of salsa from New York City, instead of the San Antonio-based Pace Picante.

"Get a rope," one man says at the end of the ad.

It's not the first time a Texas official has been criticized for using the phrase. Just last month, Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller drew fire for similarly deploying the line.

He included it in a Facebook comment about the Sons of Confederate Veterans being denied entry to a Veterans Day Parade in Stephenville unless they removed confederate flags from their uniforms and displays.

"Who told them to leave," Miller wrote. "Get a rope."

When it drew criticism and attention in news media, Miller said: "Good grief people, it's a joke."

Democrats called Miller "completely unhinged" for a similar controversy during his re-election campaign in 2018. In that instance, he posted a picture of opponent Kim Olson with U.S. Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey as evidence that Olson was out of touch with a majority of Texans.

Miller then liked a comment in which a follower said: "Get a rope. Or just vote straight ticket Republican."

Democrats pointed out that the photo featured Booker, who is African-American. A spokesman for Miller said then that the agriculture commissioner "doesn't have a racist bone in his body."



Ken Miller / Associated Press

The Texas General Land Office said Friday that remains believed to be an infant, a teen or young adult and an adult were found at the church on the grounds of the Alamo in San Antonio.

Remains of three people are discovered at Alamo

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — The remains of three people were found at the Alamo amid an archaeological exploration ahead of planned renovations at the site of one of the most famous battles in American history, state officials said.

The remains of an infant, a teenager or young adult, and an adult were found during archaeological exploration in Alamo church's monks burial room and nave, the Texas General Land Office said in a news release Friday.

An on-site tribal monitor was notified and excavation was halted in the area of the discovery, according to the office, which operates the Alamo.

The announcement comes af-

ter the Tap Pílan Coahuiltecan Nation filed a federal lawsuit in September seeking to halt the \$450 million makeover of the sacred shrine that's on track to be completed by 2024. The group wants a say in what happens to unearthed human remains because many of its are descendants of people who lived near the site.

Remains were also found at the site in San Antonio in 1995 and 1989.

During the 1836 Battle of the Alamo, nearly 200 defenders died following a 13-day battle with Mexican forces led by General Santa Anna. The dead included legendary American frontiersmen David Crockett and Jim Bowie. Historians believe most of the bodies of the vanquished were burned.