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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022

City extends Hebert's contract to 2025

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council Monday extended the contract of City Administrator Byron Hebert for three years, expiring Sept. 30, 2025.

As city administrator, Hebert supervises all city departments, though Police Chief Noe Diaz and Fire Chief Kenneth Parker report directly to May-

or Dusty Thiele.

Ward A Council Member Janet Corte, who along with Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris are the longest-serving members of the current council, thanked Hebert for sharing his knowledge of how the city works.

"I've learned so much from you, Byron, even before I was elected," Corte said. "You talk to me about all those

different means of funding. I still refer to that cheat sheet today."

Corte joked that she heard a rumor that Hebert was retiring. Hebert indicated that was not the case.

"The rumors are not correct," Hebert said.

Harris said council members have always had a "fun relationship" with Hebert.

"I always tell people that this is an

adversarial relationship," Harris said. "But I have to say he carries out the will of the elected council and mayor. Advise, warn and guide. He does it very well, and we appreciate it."

Ward B Council Member Gina Hicks thanked Hebert for his service and years of knowledge.

The other Ward B council member,

See **CONTRACT**, page A3



BYRON HEBERT
Katy City Administrator

Katy ISD sets tax ratification election for November

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy school trustees Monday set a tax ratification election for November which, if approved by voters, would make up lost tax revenue and go towards educator salaries.

The measure will appear on the November state general election ballot.

Trustees voted unanimously to place the matter on the ballot while approving a \$1.2 billion budget, about 88% of which goes towards staff salaries.

The district's overall tax rate dropped from \$1.3517 to \$1.3048 per \$100 property evaluation. This is a decrease of \$0.0469, or 3.5%. This drop is reflected in the district's maintenance and operations rate. State law requires the maintenance and operations rate drop when property values increase.

Using the newly adopted \$1.3048 rate, a property valued at \$363,366, with a taxable value of \$324,213, would have a tax bill of \$4,230.

If voters approve, or ratify, the tax rate in November, the rate would be, as it was last year, \$1.3517. Using the previous example, the tax bill would be \$4,382, a \$152 increase.

Regardless of how the TRE measure fares in November,

See **ELECTION**, page A3

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Robertson Elementary principal Martha Pulido poses with two students on the first day at the new school. Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski stands at right.

GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Katy ISD begins new school year

STUDENTS RETURN TO CLASS—AND A NEW SCHOOL

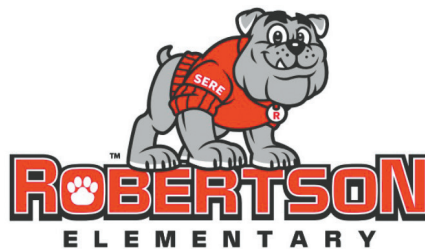
BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Each new school year means a brand-new challenge, rich with new opportunity. A time for achievement. A time for purpose.

And, for Katy ISD, a new elementary school for the first day of school, Aug. 17.

Robertson Elementary, 7400 Innovation Drive, is the district's 44th elementary school. It is situated in the Cane Island subdivision, where much of the district's growth has been taking place in recent years. Superintendent Ken Gregorski said the school, which has an enrollment of about 700 students, relieves the enrollment pressure off nearby Bryant Elementary. Last year, Gregorski said, Bryant had an enrollment of about 1,300 students.

Gregorski said four more schools, two of which are elementary schools, are being built now. He said the district ended the 2021-22 school year with an enrollment of



Robertson Elementary is home of the Bulldogs. Katy ISD unveiled the school logo earlier this year.

KATY ISD

about 91,500 students and expects to have an enrollment of about 100,000 students by 2030. Last year the student population grew at 5%, Gregorski said.

Gregorski said it was a special day at

See **SCHOOL**, page A3

Trustees hear report on book selection policy as debate continues

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Efforts continue to review books for appropriateness for Katy ISD school libraries, the district's library programs coordinator told school trustees Monday.

In response to a question from Position 1 Trustee Victor Perez, Sofia Darcy said the district calls its librarians to ask whether a particular book meets the criteria for approval, and then checks again upon receiving the purchased book.

Darcy said when the district considers whether to purchase a book, it first confirms that the book has received a minimum of two positive reviews from professional journals. She said the district uses all available journal reviews to determine age appropriateness and uses multiple resources to screen content for appropriateness. Orders then get submitted to the library services department for purchase, she said.

Darcy said the district gathers input and feedback for purchasing books from different sources. These sources include professional publications, professional learning networks, professional library conferences, and student and staff requests.

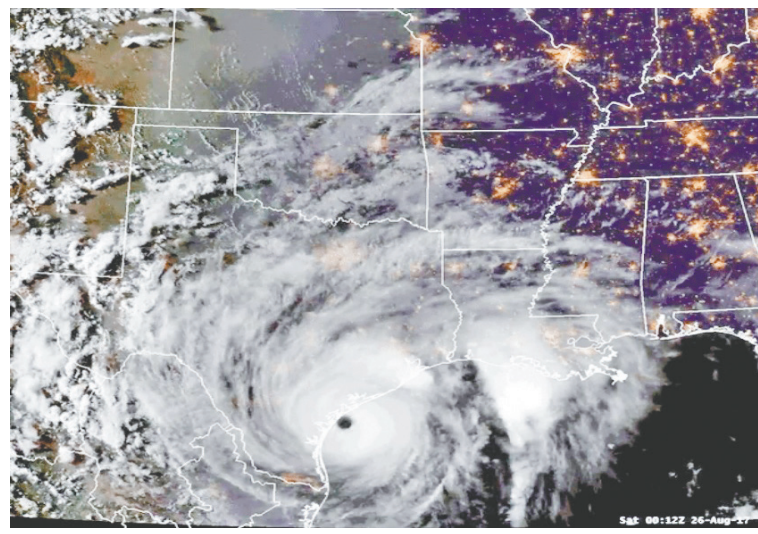
The district's efforts to screen books for school libraries has been an ongoing issue for debate in the Katy ISD community. Last December, the district launched an app, called "Partner with Parents Online Book Review," that was intended to enable parent feedback

See **BOOKS**, page A3



KATY ISD

Sofia Darcy, Katy ISD library programs coordinator, addresses trustees Monday.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Hurricane Harvey seen from a weather satellite. This Aug. 26, 2017 image shows lights from major cities outside Texas. The storm clouds cover those same lights from Texas cities.

Remembering Harvey

A story in three parts

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

This week marks a five-year anniversary that most Katy-area residents would likely rather forget. It featured an uninvited, unwelcome visitor that brought with it heavy winds, extensive flooding and catastrophic property damage.

Although Rockport, situated 178 miles southwest of Katy, has the sad distinction of being the storm's Ground Zero, Katy took

its share of Hurricane Harvey's force.

Remembering Harvey, and Katy's response to it, is a story told in three parts.

Part 1: The storm

The National Weather Service said Harvey began as a tropical wave on Aug. 13, 2017, and tracked westward across the Atlantic Ocean. On Aug. 17, it became a tropical storm and

See **HARVEY**, page A6



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Community Calendar

September



SEPT. 2
FULSHEAR KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TOPGOLF

The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a golf tournament. The event is from 12-3 p.m. at Topgolf Houston – Katy, 1030 Memorial Brook Blvd.

For more information, visit the website fulshearkaty.com.

SEPT. 4
KATY TRIATHLON

The Rotary Club of Katy sponsors the Katy Triathlon, proceeds from which benefit Katy ISD students. The family-friendly event is free to the public.

The event is at 2100 Cane Island Pkwy. The starting gun fires at about 7 a.m. For more information, visit the website katytriathlon.org.



SEPT. 9
KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CLAY SHOOT TOURNAMENT

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a clay shooting tournament Sept. 9. For more

information, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3QNMu00.

MOVIE IN THE PARK

The Sandlot, everyone's favorite classic summer hit, is the feature attraction at the Katy Movie in the Park event.

The show is at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 at Historic Downtown Katy, 910 Ave. C. The movie starts at about 7:45 p.m. Free popcorn, pre-movie activities and giveaways. Snacks and drinks are available for purchase.

Participants can bring chairs, blankets, food/drinks. NO glass, alcohol, or pets. Adults must accompany all minors.

SEPT. 14
LOCAL MAYORS ROUNDTABLE

The Fulshear Area Chamber of Commerce hosts a roundtable featuring local mayors, discussing issues of interest in their communities.

The event is part of the chamber's regular meeting, which from 7:30-9 a.m. Sept. 14, at Parkway Fellowship, 27043 FM 1093. For more information, visit the website fulshearkaty.com.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE SHADE PRESENTS HENRY V

Join Harris County Pct. 4 for live Shakespeare theater performances of Henry V in Bear Creek Park, 3535 War Memorial St.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Sept. 16; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sept. 17, and 2 p.m. Sept. 18.

Those who cannot attend the Sept. 16-18 dates can instead take in a performance of Henry V on Friday, Sept. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Tracy Gee Community Center, or Friday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center.

Containing the famous St. Crispin's Day speech, Henry V is not to be missed! After an insult from the French Dauphin, King Henry V of England invades France to claim the throne he believes should be his. Henry stops an assassination plot, gives powerful speeches, and wins battles against the odds. In the end, he woos and marries the Princess of France, linking the two nations.

SEPT. 16
OLIVER PENN AT NO LABEL BREWING

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Oliver Penn was autonomous from the start. Teaching himself to play drums and guitar, he began listening and playing along to anything he could find. Before starting high school, he moved with his family to Houston.

After going back to Rhode Island for college, Oliver began casually playing in bands around town. He then began writing his own songs, introducing his

earnest sound to the Northeast. Oliver is now back in Texas, taking its vibrant music scene by storm.

Oliver performs engaging acoustic solo and duo shows, as well as energetic, full-band shows. He has enjoyed sharing the stage with similar acts like Charley Crockett, Shinyribs, and Randall King at renowned venues including Luckenbach, Gruene Hall, and many others.

The show is from 7-10 p.m. at No Label Brewing, 5351-A 1st St. For more information, visit the website nolabelbrew.com.

SEPT. 17
KATY MARKET DAY

The monthly Katy Market Day features vendors, a food truck, beer garden, entertainment, and inflatable attractions for children's entertainment. The event is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in historic Downtown Katy. For more information, call Betsy Proctor at 281-391-1993.

PAWS FEST AT LACENTERRA

Circle B Veterinary Hospital presents Paws Fest, a canine festival. The event is from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 17.

As a dog-friendly shopping center with various canine-centric amenities, LaCenterra is thrilled to host the ultimate entertainment experience for dog enthusiasts, local businesses and pet parents for its second year. The premier event attraction, DockDogs—the independent governing and sanctioning body for dock jumping and dock diving canine performance sports—is also returning this year with more high-flying canine action.

In addition to DockDogs competitions, Paws Fest will encompass various other activities for pet parents and their furry friends to take part in.

For more information, visit the website lacenterra.com.

SEPT. 17-18
HEART OF KATY CRAFT MARKET

The Katy Bengal Brigade and Cheerleaders present the Heart of Katy Craft Market, an event with over 100 vendors with arts, crafts, clothing and others. A food court available also available. The event is set for 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Katy High School, 6331 Highway Blvd.

SEPT. 24
KTX OKTOBERFEST 2022

KTX Oktoberfest offers a fun-filled day of German-themed food and drink, making it the perfect place to celebrate Oktoberfest. Live music and entertainment. Free general admission.

KTX Oktoberfest is from 10 a.m.-9 a.m. Sept. 24 at Typhoon Texas. For more information, visit the website ktxoktoberfest.com.

SEPT. 27
FREE CHILDREN'S IMMUNIZATIONS BY HARRIS HEALTH

Children from 2 months to 18 years old with no health insurance, or who are underinsured, on Medicaid, or are Indian/Native American or Alaskan native are eligible. You must bring your child's original shot records.

Immunizations happen from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- One point north of due west
- Indigenous peoples of northern Scandinavia
- Popular California/Nevada lake
- Go quickly
- Fatty acid in soaps
- Brand of fuel stations
- State of fuss
- Romance novelist
- Members of a household
- Asserts to be the case
- Type of infection
- With metal inlays
- Chinese philosophic principle
- Early multimedia
- Employee stock ownership plan
- He investigated Clinton administration
- Shells
- Six
- Snake-like fish
- Capital of Kenya
- Influential group (abbr.)
- Used to chop
- It comes as a case
- Challenges
- Small amounts
- The Golden State
- Peyton's little brother
- For walking in Alaska
- Buddhist honorific titles
- Lively ballroom dance
- Capital of Albania
- Late night host
- Draw from
- A way to utilise
- One who is not native Hawaiian
- A power to perceive
- Bulky
- Horse mackerels
- Proclaim out loud

CLUES DOWN

- Hits
- Bathroom accessory
- Young
- Beef cattle
- It's often in soap
- For each
- Innermost membrane enveloping the brain
- A way to leave
- Emaciation
- Punish with a fine
- Steeds
- Having eight
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Mature reproductive cells
- Armadillo species
- Ancient country in what is now Romania
- Extreme greed
- Stars
- Poems
- Places to sit
- One from the Lone Star State
- Small rails
- One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- Where coaches work
- Indicates position
- Mammals
- Resembling a wing
- Beliefs
- Hindu male religious teachers
- Mischievously
- Where athletes want to end up (abbr.)
- Large, deep-bodied fish
- Horned squash bug genus
- Excessively sentimental
- Shared verbally
- You can put it on toast
- Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

ELECTION

from page A1

Katy-area property owners can expect to pay more because property values have risen, despite the lower tax rate. The demand for homes in the school district remains strong and the student enrollment continues to increase dramatically. Earlier this year, the district surpassed 90,000 students. Superintendent Ken Gregorski said earlier this month the district expects to have an enrollment of about 100,000 students by 2030.



LANCE REDMON
Katy Position 2 Trustee

The maintenance and operation rate funds educator salaries. Trustees in May gave teachers and hourly workers a 5% raise, with all other personnel receiving a 3% increase. School districts nationwide are competing to hire and retain teachers amidst a nationwide teacher shortage. School districts typically give pay raises at the end of a school year so staff and their families can begin making their plans for the next school year. The pay raise approved in May brought with it an approximately \$12 million budget deficit that officials said the district could cover. Position 2 Trustee Lance Redmon said the TRE, if approved, would not make up for that deficit. He described the TRE as not a catch-up mechanism, but as a tool that enables the district to invest in its staff.

“The conversation was started long before next year’s budget,” Redmon said. “The TRE is there to increase employee salaries. It allows us to stay ahead.” Position 6 Trustee Rebecca Fox also said trustees have been talking about the TRE for some time. She said the TRE, if approved, would go for people. “We need to be able to pay them more,” Fox said. “This money will go for people. It won’t be a blank check to do whatever we want. I just want people to know that should we choose to call for an election, this money is for people. Other school districts have been doing it. It’s been on our radar for a while. My view is to ask the people to tell us what they want. Here is your choice in the ballot box. What do you want us to do?”

Position for trustee Leah Wilson said the matter was about paying educators what they deserve to be paid. Position 1 Trustee Victor Perez said if the district follows through with the TRE, he wants to see ample funds for safety and security and additional staff. One citizen, Regina Johnson, spoke against the TRE proposal, saying it would be “really awesome” to see more budget cuts. Numerous school districts, including Alvin, Dallas, Friendswood, Lubbock, San Antonio and Seguin, have called for such elections. The district has established a webpage with more information about the election, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3QWCkw.

SCHOOL

from page A1

Robertson. “Any time we open a new school, it seems like that anticipation of kids at Christmas,” Gregorski said. “They’re so excited, they come in, and we’ve worked so hard to build it up, we’ve held open houses. It’s just a fantastic experience. It’s wonderful to see kids smile and back in school again.”



Steve and Elaine Robertson, and their daughter Megan, left, pose for a photo at the opening of Robertson Elementary. Not pictured are Steve and Elaine’s son Nicholas and his wife Cameron, their son John Michael and his fiancé Micah.

School resumes in Katy amidst a renewed focus on safety, lingering in part following the May 24 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. Gregorski said the district’s buildings had state-of-the-art security systems. He said the district was blessed that the community has supported bond issues that helped make these security measures possible.

Gregorski described the district’s police as first-class, and that there would be more of a police presence than at any other time he’s been with the district.

This focus on safety also extends to communicable diseases such as monkeypox. Gregorski said the medical staff treats monkeypox like COVID-19 or any other communicable disease. He said the district follows state guidelines and works with other local health officials as needed.

In response to a question about student cell phone usage, Gregorski said students are asked to turn off their cell phones during learning time. Parents who need to reach their children during school hours are asked to contact the school office.

For the first day at Robertson—home of the Bulldogs—parents and students came through the front door to meet Gregorski, principal Martha Pulido, school namesakes Steve and Elaine Robertson, and faculty and staff, all dressed in the red school color.

The school cost \$30.8 million to build and was paid for by a bond approved by voters in 2021. It is a 137,674-square-foot building with 49 classrooms. It also features the latest technology in those classrooms, including Chromebooks, iPads, and Smart Panels.

“We’re pretty state-of-the-art when it comes to the opportunity,” Gregorski said.

Steve and Elaine Robertson retired in 2020 following a combined 64 years of service in

education. Steve Robertson began his career in 1985 as an elementary teacher in the Spring Branch Independent School District. He later took leadership roles in the Conroe Independent School District, and later the Katy Independent School District.

In Katy, Steve Robertson served as an elementary, junior high and high school principal. Later he served as an assistant superintendent for secondary school leadership and support. He was cited for leading school improvement efforts, increased student performance, and support and mentorship to staff and campus leadership.

Elaine Robertson began her career as a deaf education elementary teacher with West 10 Cooperative in 1987. She took some time away

to focus on family and returned to education, becoming a parent-infant advisor in 1997 for the Katy Independent School District.

Elaine Robertson became instructional officer for deaf education, vision and assistive technology in 2002. In this role, she wrote grants to fund innovative instruction, provided staff development sessions, and served on inclusion teams and site-based management teams. She also organized extra-curricular programs to bridge academic and social gaps between the deaf and hard of hearing and other students. She played a leading role in establishing the district’s audiological center.

The Katy Independent School District Board of Trustees formally approved the naming of the school in January 2022. The school will be formally dedicated in January 2023.

BOOKS

from page A1

on books the district purchases for its school libraries. District officials will use the feedback to decide whether a particular title is suitable for school libraries.

Books under review will continue to be available until officials decide whether to keep it. The district said it hoped to have a decision on a given book in 30 days.

The district at the time said parents and guardians can be notified of any library book their student or students check out from a school library.

Monday’s report and discussion followed an extended public comment portion of the meeting in which several Cinco Ranch High School students urged trustees to broaden the policy to include students in the book review process.

Students also urged trustees to change the policy in which books under review remain available until a decision to remove—if it is to be removed—is made. That has not been the case, some said.

The district keeps a list of books it has removed from shelves on its website, the URL for which is katyisd.org/Page/4311. As of Tuesday, district officials have deemed 10 books for removal, all due to pervasive vulgarity. Here is the list:

- Lawn Boy, by Jonathan Evison; removed October 2021.
- Losing the Girl, by Mari-Naomi; removed October 2021.
- Me Earl and the Dying Girl, by Jesse Andrews; removed October 2021.
- Out of Darkness, by Ashley Hope Perez; removed October 2021.
- The Nerdy and the Dirty, by B.T. Gottfred; removed October 2021
- Forever for a Year, by B.T. Gottfred; removed November 2021.
- Jack of Hearts, by L.C. Ros-en; removed November 2021.
- All Boys Aren’t Blue by George M. Johnson; removed December 2021.
- The Handsome Girl and Her Beautiful Boy, by B.T. Gottfred; removed January 2022.
- A Court of Mist and Fury, by Sarah J. Maas; removed February 2022.

CONTRACT

from page A1

Rory Robertson, said he does not think the public appreciates how much is pulling on Hebert as he leads the city. Still, Robertson said, he can call Hebert with a question and always get an immediate answer.

“I like the direction in which you’re leading the city,” Robertson told Hebert.

Ward A Council Member Dan

Smith said he was happy Hebert would continue in his role and cited Hebert’s wealth of knowledge.

“We didn’t always see eye-to-eye at the beginning, and sometimes we get into spirited conversations,” Smith told Hebert. “But I know you’re an advocate for the city.”

Hebert became city administrator in 2014, succeeding the

late Johnny Nelson, who had served as mayor from 1983-87 and later became city administrator. Heber served as the city’s finance director before he became city administrator.

Thiele, who took office in May, is the fourth mayor under which Hebert has served as city administrator. He served under mayors Fabol Hughes (2013-17), Chuck

Brawner (2017-2019) and Bill Hastings (2019-22).

“It is amazing what goes on up there with him in the staff,” Thiele said, describing himself as a rookie who has learned much in the last three months since taking office.

“I appreciate the team you lead and what you do,” Thiele told Hebert.

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End-of-life challenges in modern times

A long time ago I watched a documentary about poet Emily Dickinson's life and writings.

One thing that I never forgot about that film is that she lived at a time when death was regrettably common — and therefore the subject of many of her poems.

"How are you doing?" is a polite way of introducing ourselves to each other now.

But as I learned in that documentary, this greeting during Dickinson's times meant, "Are you healthy and well and going to be with us tomorrow?"

Until modern times, dying commonly affected all age groups.

Women died during child birth. Children died from a variety of maladies.

The rich as well as the poor suffered tragedy and loss almost equally.

Haider Warraich, the doctor who wrote "Modern Death: How Medicine Has Changed End of Life," explained in an interview that in the 1800s in Boston or London people died mostly of three things: injuries, infections, or some type of nutritional deficiencies.

"Really," he said, "death was a very binary event—and it was very sudden."

"For example, before the advent of medical technology, if someone had a heart attack or if someone had some type of abnormal heart rhythm such as ventricular tachycardia, they would almost certainly die, in many cases instantaneously, sometimes even in their sleep."

Warraich said that dying today is no longer an "instantaneous flash event," but a "phase of our life."

New technologies enable people to live longer even if they have chronic diseases, so they are in and out of hospitals—as my dad was the past five months.

Today we've become disconnected from death, Warraich said.

We've moved death from our homes and communities to hospitals and nursing homes—where four of five Americans now die.



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

When my father's father died at only 34 in 1937, he died in his own bed of streptococcus, now easily cured with penicillin, and was laid out in the parlor of his house.

We'd hoped my father would meet his end peacefully in his own home.

After repeated visits to the hospital and skilled nursing facilities, we brought him home and hired our own care.

We celebrated his 89th birthday at his home a few weeks ago in epic fashion. A glorious event, it was attended by the large extended family he and my mother produced.

When his time finally came, he was back in the hospital, but he was surrounded by his family and his wife of nearly 66 years.

As advances in technology change the way we live and die we are becoming fearful of death—yet it's something every one of us is going to experience.

I'm honored to say that my sisters and mother and I fully embraced my dad's life and supported him with everything we had in his last painful months.

Knowing he's at peace now quells the hurt of watching him suffer so much for so long.

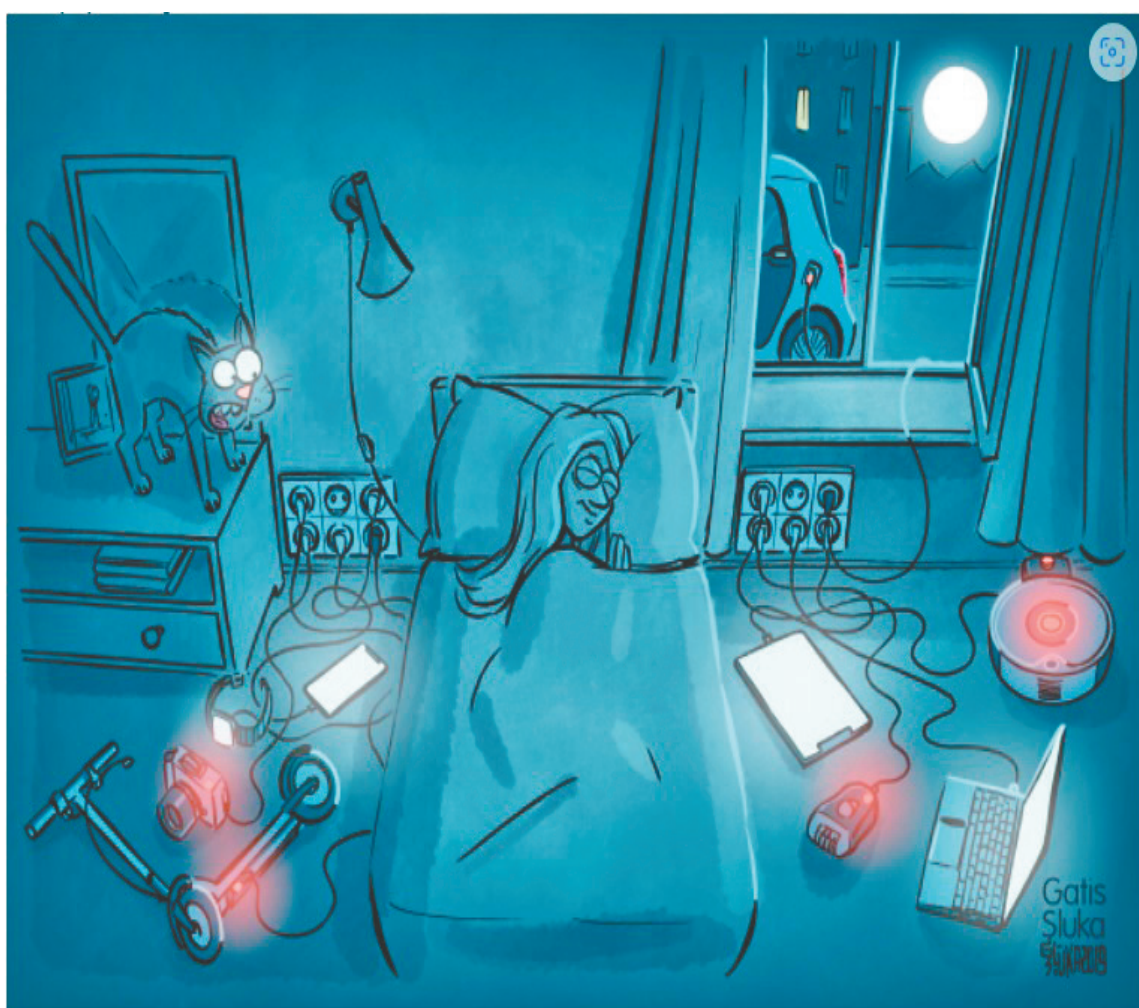
I believe he is in Heaven now, reunited with his parents, and I believe I will see him again.

I will wait patiently for that grand reunion.

"How are you doing?" is the question of the moment.

I wish you the very best if you are in your end stage of life now or caring for someone you love who is—as you navigate the challenges of dying in modern times.

Tom Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



Are you losing sleep over slumber parties?

"Anxious parents are no longer allowing their kids to go to slumber parties," announced a blurb in the August 16 "New York Post."

Slumber parties are not usually one of the top subjects on my mind in the morning ("Got my keys, got my snack, got my wallet, got a great 'is your refrigerator running?' joke to share..."), so I was surprised to learn that 12.3 million parents participate in the #NoSleepovers movement online.

(Boy, I'm old. I remember when Arte Johnson popularized "Blow in my ear and I'll follow you anywhere" on TV's "Laugh-In." Today the phrase is "Slap a hashtag on it and I'll follow you anywhere." But I digress.)

No, it's not a COVID thing. Many Gen Xers and millennials simply remember their own childhood indiscretions ("the ankle monitor finally comes off aaaaany day now") and then extrapolate for Technology 2022 and Peer Pressure 2022. Forget sugarplums—visions of internet porn, texted genitalia pics, slasher movies, drug experimentation, hacked Russian missile silos and Caitlyn's mother's perky live-in boyfriend dance through their heads.

Whether you're entrusting your own heir to a stranger's care or agreeing to take responsibility for a dozen hellions yourself, a slumber party is a nerve-wracking big deal. ("Just have a fun time and pretend



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

I'm not here. And I'll pretend the Prince of Darkness isn't here egging you on...")

Critics assert that a total ban on sleepovers is "helicopter parenting" taken to the extreme. But helicopter parents are rightly concerned about caffeine-infused youngsters pooling their daredevil ideas. It takes just one "Hey! The gun cabinet is unlocked!" for the helicopter to come plummeting to the ground.

Even if you permit a slumber party but lay down strict rules, you are not going to win any popularity contests with your children. A wee-hours game of Truth or Dare can take some nasty twists. ("I dare you to make long-term plans to put your parents in that nursing home that plays Lawrence Welk music 24-7. Revenge is a dish best served cold...and pureed.")

Many parents compromise by picking their kids up at 10 p.m. or so, instead of letting them have an all-night gabfest or video-game marathon. The kids make fond memories but aren't too exhausted to spill the intel. ("So, is the upstairs carpet as hideous as I heard?")

Call it sour grapes if you must, but I empathize with the #NoSleepovers crowd. Other than camping trips with the Webelos Scouts, I never got invited to sleepovers, and I turned out just fine. I even win the Most Likely to Give Everyone Else the Stink Eye award at class reunions.

One traditionalist pointed out that sleepovers are a "rite of passage" for youngsters. Is there any sociological term more overused and pretentious than "rite of passage"? I missed half the allegedly universal rites of passage, and I've still managed to have a mortgage, a colonoscopy and ear hair. Things work out.

Slumber parties are supposedly indispensable for developing necessary social skills and connections that will follow the kids into adulthood. Shades of the Illuminati!

"If you don't give your blessings for me to marry your daughter, I'll wallop you with this pillow until the feathers all fly out."

"Yes, the salary and benefits sound incredible, but I'm afraid I can't accept the job — unless you let me paint your toenails fuchsia."

Paint me skeptical.

Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades." Danny's weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate.

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TRIBUTE

Frank Lee Lombard of Houston, Texas passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by loved ones on August 10, 2022. Frank was born in Kansas City, Missouri on August 18, 1942 to Joseph Frank and Leana Madeline Anzalone Lombard, a loving Catholic Italian family.

After relocating from Kansas City to Houston, Texas, he attended Bellaire High School. In 1960, Frank entered the securities and investment business with A.G. Edward and Sons where he developed a deep interest and respect for the operations of the free enterprise economy, securities markets, and corporate finance. While working at A.G.E. he learned that a college degree was not a prerequisite for pursuing his career goals, focusing instead on numerous courses of study along with state and federal certifications. Prior to his twenty-first birthday, A.G.E. obtained and secured a civil court order allowing him to manage multiple operational responsibilities which was an unusual achievement at the time. In 1963, Frank joined the U.S. Army and attended basic training at North Fort Polk, Louisiana. Following basic training, Frank was assigned to the HQ4th USAR at Fort Sam Houston, Texas where he was honorably discharged in 1969.

Frank met the love of his life, Nancy Carol Tipton, and was married in Houston, Texas on August 14, 1965. They are the proud parents of three children.

In 1983, Frank returned to corporate finance as



FRANK LEE LOMBARD
1942-2022

Founder and President of Westheimer Financial Group. Throughout his time with W.E.G. Frank realized his passion for serving others and became the Vice President of the Westchase Rotary Club.

In 2002, Frank and Nancy relocated to the wonderful community of Katy, Texas where he served on the board of directors for the Katy area Chamber of Commerce and chairman of business development. He began working for the newly formed Katy area Economic Development Council in 2004. Frank's leadership and dedication contributed greatly to the economic development of the Katy community.

Frank enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, golfing, and driving through the Texas hill country, but most of all he treasured time spent with family and friends.

Frank will be greatly missed by his loving wife, Nancy of 57 years, and three children. Cristine Hendricks and her husband Jim of Tully, New York, Frank

Lombard, Jr. of Katy, Texas and Anthony Lombard and his wife, Amy, of Houston, Texas. Frank is survived by six grandchildren, Zoe Hendricks, Jade Hendricks, Zeke Hendricks, Tristan Hendricks, Ashton Lombard, and Allie Lombard. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Jo Lombard Sage and many other loving family members.

Frank has simply joined Jesus Christ where the weather is always beautiful, seas are always calm, fairways are always wide, and the greens are always soft.

Frank's life was anchored by love, faith, family, fun and a wide circle of beautiful friendships. A celebration of Frank's blessed and beautiful life will be held on August 26, 2022 at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church at 2:00 P.M. The church is located at 1530 Norwalk Drive, Katy, Texas 77450. Frank expressed that he would like all guests to dress in comfortable attire for this memorable celebration of a life well lived.

Condolence flowers can be sent to the Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church and/or donations can be made in his honor to Amazing Place at 3735 Drexel Drive Houston, Texas 77027 or amazingplacehouston.org. Donations can also be sent to Reel Recovery at 160 Brookside Road Needham, Maine 02492 or reelrecovery.org.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.nep-tunesociety.com/location/houston-cremation for the Lombard family.

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Flood damage to the first floor of the council chamber forced council meetings to be moved to a room next door. Here, then-Ward A Council Members Gary Jones and Ray Boothe, Mayor Chuck Brawner and Ward B Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Durrin Dowdle listen to a briefing.

CITY OF KATY



KATY ISD

Above: The board room at the Education Support Center, like the complex itself, suffered flooding from Hurricane Harvey. Right: Katy City Hall was just over a year old when Hurricane Harvey hit. Floodwaters necessitated remediation and restoration work.



CITY OF KATY



CITY OF KATY

The Katy Building Department, like other offices on the first floor, needed remediation and restoration work.

HARVEY

from page A1

moved into the Caribbean Sea, where it became disorganized.

By Aug. 23, the weather service said, Harvey had entered the Gulf of Mexico and was upgraded to a tropical depression. The storm intensified into a Category 4 hurricane.

The weather service said Harvey made landfall at about 10 p.m. Aug. 24 near Port Aransas. It moved inland, slowly moving to just north of Victoria.

Rain bands on the eastern side of the circulation of Harvey—the “dirty side” of the storm—moved into southeast Texas Aug. 25 and continued into Aug. 26. A strong rainband developed over Fort Bend and Brazoria counties during the evening hours of the Aug. 26 and spread into Harris County. Those rainbands slowed and resulted in heavy rains that caused flash flooding across much of Harris County.

On the morning of Aug. 27, the weather service said, more rain bands developed and produced excessive rainfall. As the center of Harvey slowly moved east-southeast and back offshore, heavy rainfall continued to spread through much of Aug. 29-30. The situation became worse.

Harvey maintained tropical storm intensity the entire time while inland over the Texas coastal bend and southeast Texas. After moving offshore, Harvey made a third landfall just west of Cameron, La., the weather service said.

Part 2: The damage

Floodwaters came from north of the city, where the Pine Forest subdivision—bordered by Morton Road on the north, the Magnolia Ditch on the south, Cane Island Branch on the west, and Avenue D on the east—became what then-Mayor Chuck Brawner called the “bulls-eye” of flooding in the city.

But other parts of the city flooded, too. Katy’s City Hall building, opened in 2016, sustained extensive flooding damage. The wood paneling in the council chamber had to be removed, along with so much else, for remediation and restoration. Brawner and the council held meetings in a room next to the council chamber at first. Later, meetings returned to the chamber, with plastic covering over the walls.

The Katy Independent School District’s Education Support Complex, along with the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Dr., both sustained flooding damage.

But the floodwaters came from south of the city from the Barker Reservoir, with the Canyon Gate subdivision sustaining extensive damage.

Creech Elementary School, 5905 S. Mason Rd., was the worst hit of the Katy ISD schools. The damage was so catastrophic that the school, which opened in 2000, had to be closed for remediation and restoration.

Meanwhile, the students needed a place to attend school. George Scott, who was a school trustee during Harvey, said then-Superintendent Lance Hindt learned that the University of Houston was selling its Cinco Ranch building, 4242 S. Mason Rd. Hindt contacted the university, Scott said, and arranged to have the district buy the building. That building sits 1.2 miles away from the Creech campus.

District and school staff worked to convert the building into a suitable elementary school campus, and students attended their classes in what became known as Creech University.

Part 3: The recovery

Other Katy ISD schools became shelters for displaced residents. Cinco Ranch High School, 23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd., and Morton Ranch High School, 21000 Franz Road, became makeshift shelters for residents.

The Katy High School parking lot, 6331 Highway Blvd., became a command center for Texas National Guard rescue operations.

Like so many area homes, churches and businesses that sustained flood damage, schools were remediated and renovated. Creech Elementary, in August 2017, held an open house for students and parents, staff and alumni. The project cost \$3.5 million for remediation and \$5.5 million for reconstruction.

After the school sustained the dam-



KATY ISD

A darkened hallway at Creech Elementary shows receding floodwaters.

age, the district removed the debris and flood-damaged walls. It reconfigured the entrance way to a set of bathrooms. The hallway leading to those restrooms was removed so teachers and staff could better monitor who was coming and going. The restrooms proved the most challenging renovation because of the necessary pipe cutting and plumbing relocation.

Classrooms were redesigned to include a window that enables teachers and students to see into a hallway, and the windows enable people in the hallway to see inside the classrooms. Whiteboards were installed on a track that enables teachers to slide it in front of the window, thus blocking the ability to see into the classroom, if a safety concern develops.

Katy city officials worked to mitigate and repair the damage. In May 2018, less than a year after Harvey, Katy city voters approved a \$19.25 million bond that dealt with flood prevention issues. The bond comprised three propositions.

- The first proposition, for \$4.25 million, was for street work to elevate the 1st Street bridge and Katy Hockley Road (Avenue D). Breaking down the proposition further, \$1.25 million was for elevating the bridge, and \$3 million was for Katy Hockley Road.

- The second proposition, for \$10.25 million, was for drainage projects for the Fortuna and Pine Forest subdivisions. Phase II of this project was for a detention pond at Pitts Road.

- The third proposition, for \$5 million, was for expansion of the city’s sewer plant.

The city in September 2017 purchased a new truck to help move people should the situation arise again.

The truck, which has a 2.5-ton capacity, is a light medium tactical vehicle (LMTV), built at the BAE Systems plant in Sealy. According to Military.com, this type of vehicle has been used for general and ammunition resupply, engineering support, and maintenance and recovery missions.

At the time, officials said Katy got a good deal on the truck, paying a four-figure price for a truck that sells for six figures.

The council has continued to support public works projects intended to reduce or mitigate flooding. In April, the city launched a website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3IWA9TIXX, that enables citizens to learn the latest on city public works projects.

Katy-area residents can also stay informed through an automated alert notification system set up by the city. Enrollment is free and can be done through the city’s website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3sTgg3u.

Churches, citizens and nonprofit groups such as Katy Christian Ministries and Katy Responds, continue to help those in need as, in some cases, recovery efforts continue.

The big trucks aren’t limited to local first responders, either. One couple, Aaron and Rosemary Jackson, founded ARHTX Army, a nonprofit dedicated to educating people about hurricane preparedness.

Having their own LMTV M1078 Deuce-and-a-half truck—called “General Max”—to help spread hurricane preparedness tips helps. The Jacksons said they named the truck in honor of General Maximus Decimus Meridius from the movie The Gladiator. Meridius never gave up and aided others with their survival.

Good advice for all Katy-area residents as they remember Harvey five years later.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Explorer Aircraft, Inc. CEO Bryan Lynch and test pilot Leonard "Len" Fox successfully flew the new experimental Explorer 500T proof-of-concept aircraft on Aug. 18 from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Houston Executive Airport in Waller County. The aircraft has been going through the necessary flight testing to validate the design and flight characteristics. It will remain here for the foreseeable future as the group continues to plan for a new manufacturing facility.

VINCE YOKOM

Friends of Maud Marks, Cinco Ranch libraries to host used book sales

Two local libraries will be hosting used book sales in the next few weeks.

The Friends of the Maud Marks Library will hold its monthly book sale from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Saturday at the library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. The Friends will also be hosting a Friends Members-Only preview from 4-6 p.m. Friday.

Meanwhile, the Friends of the Cinco Ranch Branch Library will host a Fall Book Sale from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. Sept. 10 in the meeting room of the library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy.

For more information about the sales, contact the Maud Marks Library at 281-492-8592, or the Cinco Ranch Branch Library at 281-395-1311.

Fort Bend County Library to celebrate its 75th anniversary

The Fort Bend County library system is celebrating its 75th anniversary, and is inviting children to participate in the celebration.

The library system invites children all around the county to share their hopes and dreams for the future by writing about or drawing a picture of what they hope the future will look like. Activity sheets can be found in the Youth Department at any FBCL location, or on FBCL's website, fortbend.lib.tx.usm, by clicking "Celebrating 75 Years" and selecting "Youth Activity." The completed activity sheets can be dropped off at any FBCL location, or they can be scanned and emailed to celebrating@fortbend.lib.tx.us. Deadline for submissions is Sept. 17.

The entries will be collected and become a part of FBCL's Hopes for the Future book. The book will be included in a time capsule that will be opened at FBCL's 100th anniversary in the year 2047! A copy of the book will also be kept at each FBCL location so that children can see their creations become part of a book in the library.

The time capsule will officially be closed during FBCL's 75th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 8, at George Memorial Library in Richmond. It will be kept in the library's Genealogy and Local History Department until it is opened once again in 2047.

There is no charge to participate in FBCL's anniversary activities. For more information, call the library system's communications office at 281-633-4734.

American Legion Auxiliary sets two meal events for public

The American Legion Auxiliary is hosting two meal events over the next couple of weeks to which the public is invited.

The monthly Veteran's Breakfast is set for 7-10 a.m. Sept. 3 at Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Ft. Bend Rd.

The second event, the Labor Day dinner, is from 2-5 p.m. at 22125 Kingsland Blvd.

For more information, contact Linda Malsbary at 713-304-5502.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Former Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, now a fellow at the Baker Institute at Rice University, was the keynote speaker at the Aug. 18 Highway 36A Coalition meeting at Prairie View A&M University. Here Emmett poses with Waller County Commissioner Kendric Jones.



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle speaks at the Pct. 4 Opry, which took place Friday at the L.D. Robinson Pavilion. The show moved to Katy after 21 years in Humble as a result of redistricting last year. Cheryl Guenther, Cagle's chief of staff, and Kathryn Perez, director of recreation and community centers, are on the left.

The American Legion Auxiliary of the Jonathan D. Rozier Post 164 celebrated its five-year anniversary with a special reception Aug. 17. The mission of the auxiliary is to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of veterans, military and their families, as well as to mentor youth and promote patriotism. Pictured are, from left, auxiliary president Linda Malsbary, state Rep. Mike Schofield, and first vice president Tina Miller.

SUSAN ROVEGNO



Coming Soon! Alliance Center in Waller.

Waller, Texas—08-01-2022—Develduke Ltd. Alliance Center, a beautiful new business complex, is underway in Waller, Texas with anticipated completion by September of 2022. The Center is located on the corner of peaceful, wooded A and Cherry Streets, near the new City Hall, Main Street and exciting downtown improvements. The Center has been carefully designed to blend in with the residential setting and to serve the community with a mix of retail and service businesses. Space will be available from 1100 to 7500 sq ft.

Develduke, Ltd. is a Houston based company that has been managing properties for over 30 years and whose owners and staff are also longtime residents in the Waller area.

Interested entities may receive additional information at www.develduke.com or by contacting Cindy Kosik 281-579-1006 x229.

KATY AREA CHAMBER

UPCOMING EVENT

A PROGRAM OF THE KATY AREA CHAMBER

business expo

DISCOVERING NEW OPPORTUNITIES BY CONNECTING BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

8:30 AM	Registration Visit Business Booths
9:00 AM	Importance of Business Advocacy Aaron Cox, Executive Director American Cancer Society
10:00 AM	Visit Business Booths
10:30 AM	Session A: Disruptive Innovation in Business Session B: Cybersecurity Session C: How Women are Leveraging the Dynamics of Connection & Collaborating with Clients
11:15 AM	Visit Business Booths
12:00 PM	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Jay Neal, Associate Vice President University of Houston
1:00 PM	Visit Business Booths

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Two students from Katy graduate from WCJC vocational nursing program

Twenty-five students, including two from the Katy area, have graduated from the Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing program.

The graduates from the Katy area are Teresa Rescendiz and Michael Reyes.

The program is a certificate program that utilizes classroom and clinical instruction to prepare graduates for employment as a member of a nursing team. The program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) and upon successful completion graduates are qualified to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN). Those passing this examination and the Texas jurisprudence exam will qualify for licensure as a vocational nurse (LVN). For more information, visit wcjc.edu.

Local students named to dean's list at Washington University in St. Louis

Six students from the Katy area have been named to the dean's list spring 2022 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. They are:

- Christina Cai who is enrolled in the university's Olin Business School.

- Kate Choi, Robert Li, Kiran Mammen and Shreyas Venkitaraman, who are enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences.

- Sophia Smilenov is enrolled in the university's Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts.

The university draws students to St. Louis from more than 100 countries and all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The total student body is more than 15,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

The approximately 4,100 faculty teach in seven schools: Arts & Sciences, Brown School, Olin Business School, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, McKelvey School of Engineering, School of Law and School of Medicine. The university has

been affiliated with 25 Nobel laureates, many of whom did a significant portion of their award-winning work at the university.

ATAT inducts Dean Fuchs to the 2022 Texas Hall of Fame

Dean Fuchs, a former Cinco Ranch High School teacher, has been inducted into the Agriculture Teachers Association (ATAT) Hall of Fame.

In July, the Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas (ATAT) hosted its annual Professional Development Conference for teachers of agriculture, food and natural resources in-person at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi. The week-long conference was designed specifically for the educational enrichment of agriculture teachers and stakeholders and allows attendees to enhance teaching methods, discuss developments in curriculum, learn more about industry-based student certifications as well as network with leaders within the agriculture education profession.

Fuchs was one of 54 teachers across Texas that was inducted. He also taught at Columbus and Boling high schools.

"This Hall of Fame recognition honors the continued commitment of educators like Mr. Fuchs who truly makes our students grow into leaders," Ray Pieniazek, ATAT executive director, said. "Agriculture education teachers within the Texas FFA go above and beyond for their students and this community. We celebrate Mr. Fuchs' years of dedication to professional development with this special induction, marking the difference he has made in his students' lives and Texas overall."

The Texas Hall of Fame recognizes and honors agricultural science teachers whose careers, achievements, and contributions stand exemplary. Inductees are known as well-rounded professionals that have proven their success with FFA activities, in the classroom, as well as through involvement in their community. They have proven their desire to provide students with opportunities for premier leadership, personal growth and career success over a significant period of time.

Royal High Marine Corps Junior ROTC receives honor

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Royal High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC has been designated a Naval Honor School, marking the second year in a row that the MCJROTC at Royal ISD has received this honor.

The selection is based on several criteria, including the number of cadets active in school activities and clubs, the number of community service hours for the unit as a whole and per cadet, the number of organizations assisted by the unit, and scholastic achievements including the number of academic awards and scholarships given to cadets. The units are also measured by participation in public affairs events, community service, drill/color guard team competitions, marksmanship competitions, academic competitions, leadership camps, physical fitness team competitions, and field trips.

Because of this prestigious status, Royal will have the opportunity to send nominations to the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The award also provides students who have a desire to join a service academy the significant advantage of earning recommendation letters from their Senior Marine JROTC instructor, who under this award designation carry just as much weight as a letter from a U.S. representative or senator.

Scoring a 96% on a comprehensive inspection of the students, instructors, administration and activities begins the process. Add to that an abundance of community service activities and participation in numerous community/school



ROYAL ISD

The Royal High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC has been designated a Naval Honor School for the second consecutive year.

events and program-related trips, and one begins to see the level of effort required to earn this honor. Five categories are looked at closely for this award: extracurricular activities, scholastic achievement, cadet citizenship, unit participation and unit inspection. The report details the activities and accomplishments of the JROTC program cadets for their participation in school organizations and sports, community service, color guard, marksmanship, physical fitness test scores and academic honors.

"One of the key areas in the review process is always unit participation," First Sgt. LaShan Bland said. "We give our cadets the opportunities to be involved on a larger scale not only in the school, but also in the community and we highlight their success (JROTC Awards Day, Marine Corps

Cake Cutting ceremony, and this year the Marine Corps Ball). When the kids enjoy what they are doing, they are going to tell their friends and that is when we start seeing the new faces, empowerment, team work, and competitive prowess."

The fact that many of these endeavors take place on weekends or outside of normal school hours speaks volumes about these students' dedication and about the leadership by the JROTC instructors. Earning the designation of Naval Honor School brings Royal High School a certificate from the National Marine Corps JROTC director and a plaque to display in the Royal High School JROTC Hallway of Honor. More importantly, the students become eligible to compete for "Honor School" nominations to attend the military service academies.

Bland said cadets are not content to rest on their laurels.

"Please know that our cadets are out there making a difference in our school and the community," Bland said. "Our students don't just learn about citizenship and leadership. They live it, embrace it, and wear it as a badge of honor. I am very proud of them and their accomplishments. We hope the Royal family will join us in congratulating them on their outstanding achievements and accomplishments. Our JROTC program is about leadership and character development. The camaraderie and family structure of the program makes all the difference as seen by numerous accolades received and our top honor of being award a Naval Honor School for a second straight year."

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The FORT BEND COUNTY M.U.D. #185 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on September 21, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. at 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1000, Houston, TX 77046. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal: Allen Thomas, David Wells and Terrell Berger

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Scott Donahue and Al Menconi

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.89000/\$100 Adopted	\$.85000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.04000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-4.49%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 357,420	\$ 396,087
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 17,871	\$ 39,609
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 339,549	\$ 356,478
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 3,021.98	\$ 3,030.06
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 8.08	.26%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011



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WEEK OF AUGUST 26

SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

Thursday

- Seven Lakes at Memorial, 6:30 p.m. at Tully Stadium
- Tompkins at Cy-Ranch, 6:30 p.m. at Fy-Fair FCU Stadium
- Cinco Ranch at College Park, 7 p.m. at Woodforest Stadium

Friday

- Paetow vs. Conroe, 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Taylor vs. Cy-Woods, 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium
- Katy at Clear Springs, 7 p.m. at Challenger Stadium

Saturday

- Morton Ranch vs. Eisenhower, 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Jordan vs. Aldine Davis, 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday

- Morton Ranch at Stafford Tournament

Thursday-Saturday

- Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes at Volleypalooza tournament
- Taylor and Paetow at San Marcos Tournament

Friday

- Katy vs. Klein, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Cy-Falls, 5:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at La Porte, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

District 19-6A

- Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins, 5:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Morton Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Mayde Creek, 5:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Taylor, 5:30

Non-District

- Jordan vs. Clear Falls, 5:30 p.m.

TENNIS

Friday

- Seven Lakes vs. Taylor, 2:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins, 3 p.m.
- Katy vs. Morton Ranch, 3 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Mayde Creek, 3 p.m.
- Jordan vs. A&M Consolidated, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday

- Seven Lakes vs. Tompkins, 2:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Cinco Ranch, 3 p.m.
- Katy vs. Mayde Creek, 3 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Paetow, 3:30 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

Friday

- Jordan and Paetow at Cy-Falls meet, 8:45 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch and Mayde Creek at Woodlands meet, 4 p.m.

Saturday

- Katy and Seven Lakes at Kingwood meet, 8 a.m.
- Taylor at Cy-Ridge Meet, 8 a.m.

Tompkins opens district with Katy sweep

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins has big goals this season. The Falcons come off a District 19-6A championship last season and this year's team knows they have what it takes to be just as good if not better than their predecessors.

But to do that, the Falcons know they have to improve every day and keep proving themselves as they get the best shot from every team that they come across in district.

The first big test for Tompkins came on Tuesday, as they opened district

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page B6



TYLER TYRE

Katy's defense makes a stop during Katy's scrimmage against Klein Collins on Friday at Legacy Stadium.

Katy gears up for season with scrimmage against Klein Collins

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy has been using this preseason to build its depth.

The Tigers know how important it will be to not only rely on starters, but be able to count on their backups once the season starts, as every team goes through injuries and needs unlikely people to step up throughout the season.

And that was the theme for the Tigers

scrimmage on Friday night at Legacy Stadium, as backups got a chance to prove themselves against a high-quality opponent in Klein Collins and were able to gain experience before Katy's season opener.

"It was big for them to get out there and get that experience tonight," said Katy head coach Gary Joseph. "We want to build that depth and that's how you do it. That's just growing up and growing as a team and they had that experience tonight, it will help them get better. There's a newness for a lot of these

kids with what they're doing and they're going to get better. It just takes time and going through the steps and today is the first step in that process."

Katy tested its strengths and weaknesses in the scrimmage and came out on top of the two times quarters 17-14 over Klein Collins as the offense and defense showed bright moments throughout the scrimmage.

Seth Davis was back to doing his thing,

See **SCRIMMAGE**, page B7

8 Katy ISD seniors ranked among state's best recruits



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Katy Tigers defensive back Johnathan Hall (7) and linebacker Damian Neveaux (33) team up to stop Westlake Chaparrals running back Jack Kayser (33) short of the goal line during the Class 6A Division II state semifinal game between Katy and Westlake on December 11, 2021 in Waco, Texas.

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Eight Katy ISD seniors have been ranked among the states best football recruits heading into the season, with a Katy ISD player also taking the ranking as the top prospect in the entire state according to 247 Sports recruiting database.

Paetow led the way with four players in the top 230 in the state, while Katy had three players ranked and Tompkins had one.

Paetow's David Hicks Jr. is ranked as the No. 1 prospect in the state of Texas and the seventh best recruit in the entire nation, also taking the spot as the top defensive lineman recruit in the class of 2023.

A five-star recruit, Hicks totaled 88 tackles in his junior year at Allen, including 22 tackles for loss and 13 sacks. He has a top seven of the the University of Alabama, University of Oklahoma, University of Oregon, Michigan State University, University of Miami, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas.

Paetow also has the second highest ranked player out of Katy ISD, in linebacker Daymion Sanford. Sanford was a state champion last year and had a humongous junior season, where he had 91 tackles, 13 sacks, 16 hurries, 26 tackles for loss, one interception and two fumble recoveries as a junior. Sanford is ranked as the 69th best

See **RECRUITS**, page B2



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RECRUITS

from page B1

prospect in the Class of 2023 out of Texas and 38th best edge rusher in the nation.

Sanford is committed to Texas A&M University, choosing the Aggies over offers from the University of Alabama, the University of Texas, Louisiana State University and Florida State University. Sanford is ranked as a four star recruit.

Katy's Johnathan Hall came in as the third ranked player out of Katy ISD and the top ranked recruit out of Katy high.

Hall is a three star safety/linebacker and enjoyed a tremendous season helping the Tigers reach the Class 6A Division II state semifinal and win a district title.

The 6-foot-one inch, 200 pound senior is ranked as a three star and is ranked 94th in the state and as the 50th best linebacker in the class, Hall is committed to the University of Utah.

Seth Davis is the second Katy player to make the list and comes in ranked the No. 105 commit in the state and the 38th in the nation at the running back position.

Davis has already put his name in the record books of Texas high school football and comes off a junior season in which he ran for 2422 yards and 28 touchdowns, averaging over 10 yards per carry throughout the year. A three star recruit, he is committed to Mississippi State University.

The third Paetow player on the list is Alex Kilgore, as the linebacker come in as the 127th best player in the state and the 55th best player at his position in the nation.

A three star recruit, Kilgore was a huge part of Panthers run to become state champions last year, totaling 115 tackles, 24 tackles for loss, 10 sacks, one interception and three recovered fumbles. Kilgore is committed to Southern Methodist University.



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Paetow's Alexander Kilgore #46 gets the sack on Galveston Ball, QB Seth Williams #7 during a playoff game between Paetow and Galveston Ball at Legacy Stadium.

Katy's Arian Parish is ranked as the 138th best player in the state and the 61st best safety in the nation. After helping the Tigers to their state semifinal appearance last year, Parish was heavily recruited and committed to Arizona over offers from Arkansas and Colorado.

Paetow's Jarra Anderson comes in as the fourth Panther to make the list. He had a big junior season while at Cy-Park before transferring over and is ranked as the 163 best player in the state and the 100th best on the defensive line in the country.

Anderson had 36 tackles last year, with 10 tackles for loss and five sacks. Anderson is committed to the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, Lafayette, which he chose over over Kansas and Colorado.

The eighth and final Katy ISD student-athlete to make the list was Tompkins' Caleb Komolafe, who came in ranked at 221 in the state for the Class of 2023 and at 114th in the nation at the safety position. Komolafe had a big junior season where he helped the Falcons reach the third round of the playoffs.

Komolafe comes off a year in which he had 86 tackles, three tackles for loss, one sack, one interception and one blocked punt. A three star recruit, he also had 331 yards rushing and six touchdowns rushing.



TYLER TYRE

Daymion Sanford lines up for a 7-on-7 drill during a Paetow practice.



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

The Tompkins boys cross country team.

CROSS COUNTRY

Mayde Creek finishes second at Cy-Woods

Jordan wins Dawson Alumni Classic

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Mayde Creek boys and girls teams both had impressive showings last week at the Cy-Woods Short Course XC Invitational, as the Rams girls won the Invitational and the boys came in second overall.

The Mayde Creek girls finished second with six runners finishing in the top 25 for the Rams.

Sommer Rhodes claimed fourth place at the meet with a time of 12 minutes, 26.4 seconds, while Rachel Solano finished fifth with a time of 12 minutes, 39.7 seconds. Valerie Perez finished tenth while Claudia Klander finished 15th and Denise Perez finished 23rd and Jamie Klander finished 25th. Natassua Sanchez finished 36th to cap off the Rams performance, and they finished with 57 points overall.

On the boys side, the Rams again finished second overall, with 81 points as a team. Anthony Perez was the winner of the entire race, coming in first with a time of 10 minutes, 11.5 seconds, while Christian Barrera finished 12th with a time of 10 minutes, 48.4 seconds. Santos Vega finished 18th overall with a time of 10 minutes, 57 seconds while Javier Cervantes finished 23rd and Roy Sixtos finished 27th.

Jordan girls win Dawson Classic

The Jordan girls won the Dawson Alumni Classic on Aug. 13, giving the Warriors their first win of the season in the first week of the cross-country season.

Ximena Lopez won the meet with a time of 12 minutes, 45.1 seconds and Isabella Castillo came in fourth with a time of 13 minutes, 22.3 seconds. Addison Sutton came in sixth with a time of 12 minutes, 35.3 seconds and Lilah Katz also came in the top ten with a 10th place finish with a time of 13 minutes, 53.4 seconds.

Beatriz Laepple came in 11th while Keira Kaunisto came in 14th and Isabela Ramos came in 16th overall in a dominant performance from the Warriors.

On the boys side, the Warriors finished in third as a team, with five runners finishing in the top 20.

Jacob Wyman finished third overall with a time of 10 minutes, 59.5 seconds and Andres Merizalde finished 12th with a time of 11 minutes, 30 seconds. Will Davis finished 185h overall with a time of 12 minutes, 5.9 seconds and Aaron Bell finished in 19th with



Anthony Perez finished first at the Cy-Woods Invitational.

a time of 12 minutes, 6.8 seconds. Bentley Baldrige came in 20th overall while Nick Jung finished in 31st to cap off the Warriors third place day.

Cinco, Tompkins have good showings at Cypress Relays

The Cinco Ranch and Tompkins boys both had good days at the Cypress Relays on Aug. 13, with both teams finishing in the top seven in team standings.

Cinco Ranch's Adam Elbanna and Adrian Hahn Vadstein finished third overall at the meet while Tompkins duo of Aiden Ramshaw and Mathias Mitchell finished fourth and Mayde Creek's Anthony Perez and Christian Barrera finished fifth.

For the girls, Mayde Creek's Rachel Solano and Sommer Rhodes finished eighth overall while Tompkins' Courtney Richman and Madeline Bartlett finished 16th overall.

Katy, Paetow and Cinco Ranch all competed in the Watermelon Relays over the weekend many Katy ISD teams will compete at Kingwood this weekend.

The Katy Times will be closed on

Labor Day Sept. 5, 2022

to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **Sept. 8 edition is 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 1.**

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KATY ISD WEEK ONE PREVIEWS

Football returns with big matchups

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

*All games non-district

THURSDAY

**Seven Lakes at Memorial,
6:30 p.m. at Tully Stadium**

Last Year: Seven Lakes 12, Memorial 10
• In a rematch of last year's season opener for both teams, Seven Lakes and Memorial will meet at Tully Stadium to open the season.

Both teams come off playoff appearances, with Seven Lakes reaching the bi-district round in Class 6A Division I and Memorial making the second round in Class 6A Division II. The Spartans will have an early chance to look at their revamped offense with a new quarterback under center in Tanner Perez. The Spartans are a team that want to pound the ground game this year with both Barrett Hudson and Marcel Davis leading the way in the backfield and they will look to spread things around in the pass game with a number of options.

They'll face a Memorial team that is rebuilding that but still looks like a playoff team in District 17-6A. The Mustangs are led by Kyle Sibilik at receiver, who will be a good test for the Spartans' secondary early in the season. Chase Goodwin is a weapon at quarterback and Ethan Spears leads the Mustangs' run game. The offense will show how a defense led by Dakys Brinkley, Bruce Turner and Ikechika Ezima will do against high quality opponents.

**Tompkins at Cy-Ranch,
6:30 p.m. at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium**

Last Year: Did not play
• Tompkins starts out the season with a strong opponent in Cy-Ranch that will test the Falcons in all areas in the team's season opener.

It's exactly what the Falcons are looking for out of their first game as Tompkins brings back a wealth of talent with a mix of talented newcomers stepping into some starting spots on varsity.

Chris Gilbert Jr. and Wyatt Young will get a chance to shine in the season opener and prove how productive both can be in their respective spots, while a strong Tompkins offensive line will have a chance to prove itself against a very good front seven.

On the defensive side of the ball, Tompkins will again have a strong 11. Caleb Kormolafe and Cody Chapman will have their hands full in the back end against a strong skill group from Cy-Ranch but that's exactly the reason why Tompkins scheduled this matchup.

Cy-Ranch is led by Blake Baker at quarterback, who comes off a big junior season and Jarred Sample and Carson Littlefield are two athletic targets at wide receiver. Defensively, Ashton Porter and Christian Brathwaite headline the group and will provide a tough task for the Tompkins offense to have a successful day against.

**Cinco Ranch at College Park,
7 p.m. at Woodforest Stadium**

Last Year: Cinco Ranch 35, College Park 14
• Cinco Ranch, like Seven Lakes, will have a rematch of last year's season opener when they take on College Park on Thursday.

The Cougars have a strong offense that they bring back, especially at quarterback and the skill positions, where there is already lots of talent and chemistry among the team. They will get a chance to test that against a playoff team from last season when they face off against College Park. The Cinco defense will have a chance to prove themselves as well, as there are many players that are stepping into bigger roles on that side of the ball this season.

Conner Dunphy will lead the College Park offense in his first year at quarterback and Brenton Martinez leads the running game behind an offensive line headlined by Cobe Williams. Defensively, Cole Walters is a huge presence at linebacker and Andrew



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Seven Lakes Spartans running back Barrett Hudson (5) carries the ball on a 27-yard touchdown run during a high school football game between Mayde Creek and Seven Lakes on October 29, 2021 in Katy, Texas. Seven Lakes won, 50-10.

Powdrell provides good cover for the team as a defensive back.

Cinco Ranch won last year's matchup 35-14 in a strong offensive day for the Cougars as the pass game was in full effect. The Cougars hope to have that same type of day against the Cavaliers on Thursday.

**Mayde Creek at Westside,
7 p.m. at Delmar Stadium**

Last Year: Did not play
• Mayde Creek has a huge chance to get their season off on the right foot as they take on Westside to open the season.

Westside is expected to be a playoff team, but comes from a weak district and has holes that the Rams will no doubt be looking to exploit as they look for a season opening win this year.

The Mayde Creek offense has some strong players coming back, as Carl Dell Beard has made great strides at quarterback heading into his senior season, Beau Bankston looks to be a strong weapon on the outside and Marvin Bodden looks to take a step up in the run game entering his senior season.

Defensively, the back end is in very good hands, as Tay' Shawn Wilson can shut down any receiver in front of him and Braden Turner also is a very talented piece in the secondary. Nicholas Buena and Trevin Lucius are both talented pieces in the front seven.

The Mayde Creek defense will have to contend with a strong run game from Westside, as Jahbari Kuykendall can break away from defenses and comes off a 1600 yard season. And the Wolves can pass too, with Thaddeus Watson throwing for over 1000 yards and 16 touchdowns last season, but the Rams should be able to take advantage of an inexperienced offensive line. The Wolves do bring back six starters on offense, but it's a challenge that Mayde Creek will be happy to accept as they gear up for tougher opponents in district play.

FRIDAY

**Paetow vs. Conroe,
6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium**

Last Year: Did not play
• Paetow opens its inaugural 6A season by hosting Conroe on Friday, with the Panthers hoping to kick things off in the right fashion.

It will be the first look at Paetow's new offense, which head coach Lonnie Teagle describes as a "power spread" and will be a good early indicator in what we can expect

from the team this season, but expect it to be balanced in run to pass, as Teagle and his staff plan to utilize both the air and ground game.

Koby Truehill is set to take over at quarterback and has shown some really good promise heading into the year and the run game should be as strong as last year with Damyron Phillips leading the backfield. And there are weapons all around in the pass game for the Panthers as well. And the Paetow defense should be tremendous and will have a chance to show it.

It will be a good opening challenge for the team, as Conroe is led by Louis Williams III, who is a huge talent at receiver and will test the Paetow secondary, but there are questions at other positions that the Paetow defense should be able to take advantage of.

Paetow's offense will have to deal with a strong front seven from Conroe that should show how the Panthers will react to strong tams in District 19-6A as well, but the Panthers should be up to the challenge.

**Katy at Clear Springs,
7 p.m. at Challenger Stadium**

Last Year: Katy 40, Clear Springs 7
• Katy will open the season against Clear Springs for the second straight year when they travel to Challenger Stadium on Friday. The Tigers once again have a tremendous running game behind senior running backs Seth Davis and Dallas Glass and a huge offensive line. Caleb Koger will have a chance to show his skills as well as he leads the pass game with JR Ceyanes taking the spot of the top receiver on the team.

Defensively, the Tigers bring back a strong core and will have a chance to show that against a very strong offense in Clear Springs.

Quarterback is a question mark for the Chargers but they do have weapons all around the offense. Ashton Schumann is strong at receiver while Xai'Shaun Edwards comes off a 1500 yard year and can make an impact in the ground game at running back. Defensively, Clear Springs is led by Branson Winter at defensive line while Michael Sylvalie will provide a nice challenge to Katy at linebacker. But the Tigers come into the matchup as clear favorites.

**Taylor vs. Cy-Woods,
7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium**

Last Year: Did not play
• Taylor will have a big test early as they face a playoff team from last year to open the

season in Cy-Woods. The Mustangs offense will have a chance to prove themselves with Joe Jefferson leading the charge at quarterback and Dante Archie looking to make a jump in his junior season, while the team brings back players with varsity experience on both the line and at receiver.

On defense there are tons of returners all over the field and the coaching staff believes there will be lots of improvement on that side of the ball from the team, and this will be a perfect opportunity to see the areas they are good at and where they need to improve.

Cy-Woods will challenge the Mustangs, especially the Mustangs' offense, as the Wildcats return six starters from last year's playoff team. Dylan Rodgers is a force at linebacker and Terrane Green is a very strong presence on the defensive line, while Sawyer Despres leads the back end of the defense.

The Taylor defense though will have a chance to go after some young and inexperienced players on offense, especially at the skill positions for the Wildcats, and the Mustangs will hope to put together a good all-around game for the win.

SATURDAY

**Morton Ranch vs. Eisenhower,
6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium**

Last Year: Did not play
• Morton Ranch wanted a strong non-district schedule and will kick things off with a good opponent in Eisenhower.

The Morton Ranch offense returns tons of firepower all over the field, bringing back its leading passer in Josh Johnson, leading rusher in Santana Scott and leading receiver in Mike Gerald.

Defensively, there are also tons of returners, and it looks to be a strong core that can make a playoff push this year. So Morton Ranch will hope to prove they can do just that when it plays Saturday.

The Mavericks will be tested offensively, as Eisenhower has one of the best players in the area in Ryan Niblett, who had over 700 receiving yards and 400 rushing yards last year and is a four star recruit. Zacchaeus Henry can sling it at the quarterback position and Deon DeBlanc is another weapon on the offensive end.

Defensively, the Mavericks will have to deal with a strong secondary, but they should be able to take advantage of some youth and inexperience on the defensive line — a fact that the Mavericks will no doubt seize on as they try to get a season opening win.

**Jordan vs. Aldine Davis
7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium**

Last Year: Did not play
• Jordan's first game as a 6A program comes against Aldine Davis, in a matchup that is very intriguing to see where the young Warriors are in terms of development for this year.

Since the Warriors had no seniors last season, they bring back every starter on both sides of the ball and will be looking to have improvements now that they have made the jump to facing bigger programs.

The Warriors have an offense that can be lethal through the air, with multiple options at receiver and a quarterback that can sling it. Defensively, Jordan has some strong players and they will be able to test themselves against a good opponent to start the season.

One area where Jordan needs to prove themselves and where Davis is expected to excel this season is in the trenches on both sides of the ball, as Davis has big physical lines. Offensively, tight end Kameron Carter is expected to be a handful and will test the Jordan defense, while defensively, Lamon Houston will be a test for the Jordan offensive line and Jordan's wide receivers will have to have a good day against a strong defensive back in Stephen Howard. But it is a winnable game for the Warriors and will be a good game as a season opener.

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Longhorns lose 2 players after first scrimmage

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The football season hasn't started yet, but Texas is already down two important players.

Head coach Steve Sarkisian confirmed Monday that senior offensive lineman Junior Angilau and junior wide receiver Isaiah Neyor suffered season-ending ACL tears during Saturday's scrimmage at DKR.

"Football is the game and that's why you've got to continue to build depth so you have other guys to step up and play," Sarkisian said. "I hate it for them. I feel for those guys who both had really good offseasons to get ready for the season."

Angilau was expected to serve as the primary backup center, while Neyor figured to slot in at No. 3 on the wide receiver depth chart.

Senior running back Roshon Johnson, junior nickel back Jahdae Barron and freshman offensive lineman Cole Hutson also suffered injuries in the scrimmage.

Sarkisian said they should all be ready to go before the first game of the season against Louisiana-Monroe on Sept. 3.

"For us now, it's next man up, and we've got to make sure that we've got those pieces in place, which I think we've done a good job of in recruiting to ensure that we can do that," Sarkisian said. "We've got plenty of time, and we'll be okay on that front."

Sophomore receiver Agiye Hall was arrested for criminal mischief last Thursday after reportedly removing a parking boot from his vehicle.

He was suspended indefinitely on Friday. Hall was previously suspended during his freshman season at Alabama before transferring to Texas this offseason.

Sarkisian said his suspension this season wasn't based on just one incident.

"We're working with Agiye, we're working with his family to get him in a situation where he can be a really functional part of this team," Sarkisian said. "We're putting all the pieces in place to help him do that."



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ATHLETICS

ijan Robinson and Texas football scrimmaged for the first time this fall. The Longhorns begin the season against Louisiana-Monroe on Sept. 3.

When the time is right, we'll have him back on our team."

There were still plenty of good things to come out of the first scrimmage of the fall.

Sarkisian said it was good to see the younger players in action more and that there was a lot of physicality on both the offensive and defensive lines.

It was the defense overall that stood out. "The ball was alive on Saturday, Sarki-

sian said. "We had three interceptions and caused four fumbles. That's a great start to attacking the ball from a defensive perspective. The energy and tempo were really good."

And the quarterback battle between returning redshirt sophomore Hudson Card and redshirt freshman Quinn Ewers rages on.

Sarkisian said the offense as a whole probably looked at the tape from the

scrimmage and realized they missed some opportunities, but the quarterback competition still remains too close to call.

"Both guys are working very hard, and they've both got great attitudes," Sarkisian said. "They're working with one another yet competing with one another. Both recognize there's room to improve. The focus is what they can do now and what they can do moving forward."

Houston's Patrick Paul named to Lombardi watchlist

STAFF REPORT

University of Houston sophomore offensive lineman Patrick Paul has been named to the Rotary Lombardi Award Watchlist, presented annually to the college football offensive or defensive lineman who combines outstanding performance and ability with the character and discipline of NFL Hall of Fame Head Coach Vince Lombardi. The announcement was made Monday afternoon by the Rotary Club of Houston.

Paul is among 77 student-athletes on the watchlist including just four from The American. The honor is the latest for the Jersey Village High School product who has been tabbed Preseason All-American Athletic Conference First Team by Dave Campbell's Texas Football, Athlon Sports and Phil Steele. The Houston native and Outland Trophy Watch List honoree is also a team captain.

Paul started all 14 games at left tackle as a freshman a season ago en route to being named All-American Athletic Conference First Team. Offensively, the Cougars led The American in first downs offense (314) and red zone offense (.891).

Semifinalists for the Rotary Lombardi Award will be announced on Nov. 10 and the four finalists will be unveiled on Nov. 23. The winner will be revealed on Dec. 7.

Houston opens its season on Sept. 3 at UTSA. Kick-off is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. from the Alamodome and can be seen on CBS Sports Network. The in-state matchup is the lone FBS contest nationally on opening weekend featuring two 12-plus win teams from a season ago.



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University of Houston sophomore offensive lineman was named to the Lombardi Award Watchlist

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Katy Times



Above: Tompkins players listen to head coach Allison Merrell during a timeout during Tuesday's match between Tompkins and Katy at the Tompkins gym. At left: Tompkins' Presley Powell sets a ball during Tuesday's match between Tompkins and Katy at the Tompkins gym.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

VOLLEYBALL

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play against a strong Katy team that has had success this year and last year.

Tompkins passed that test with flying colors, as the Falcons swept Katy three sets to zero (25-18, 25-19, 25-13) to start district off on the right foot and prove that they will be a force this season.

"It was an awesome way to start off district," said Tompkins head coach Allison Merrell. "We knew that we had to come out strong tonight, and we were able to do that in spurts. We have to do a little bit more, but it's early still and so just figuring out what we have to do to win every time we go out and figure out our focus is the most important thing. "We were able to do that. Now we just need to lock in a little bit better at times, but we'll get there."

Tompkins got progressively better throughout the match, as it was back and forth early in the first set before they pulled away before and then were a bit stronger in the second set before Katy mounted a comeback to make things close.

"We really were able to do well with sliding out and our serve receive game," said senior right side hitter Tendai Titley. "We were able to do that and then we didn't really ever play flat either which is really important. But we can get a lot better with our serving and in some other areas and it's going to be important for us to just keep getting better every way we can."

Tompkins pulled away early in the third set and never let Katy get close as they cruised to the sweep.

The Falcons will look for more as they try to match what they were able to do last year and push for a district championship.

"We want to repeat what we did last year," Titley said. "Our goal is to be undefeated district champs. That's the path we're on, and we have to keep fighting for it every day because we know how big of a goal that is."

But the most important thing for the



Tompkins' Erica Dellesky serves during Tuesday's match between Tompkins and Katy at the Tompkins gym.

Falcons is to stay in the present, and with another big district matchup coming against Cinco Ranch next Tuesday, they know that there have to be improvements as they move forward.

"We have to be sharp," Merrell said. "Cinco is going to come for us, just like every team in this district is going to come for us. We have to be ready for that and we have to play our game. Everyone wants to beat us, and we don't want to be beat, so it makes for a really good dynamic. We're having great practices that are competitive and every player here knows we have to continue to step up our game every time we step in the gym."



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

Marcus Sasser was named a Preseason All-American by Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook.

Sasser named to Preseason All-American first team

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

University of Houston Men's Basketball senior guard Marcus Sasser was named to the Preseason All-America First Team by Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook on Monday.

The Dallas native was a Preseason All-American Athletic Conference selection and averaged a team-high 17.7 points per game before being sidelined following foot surgery in December 2021.

In early June, announced his decision to withdraw his name from the NBA Draft and return to Houston for his senior season.

Sasser posted four 20-point games in his first 12 contests a year ago, including season highs with 26 points in wins against Rice and Northwestern State.

He drained seven 3-pointers in the first half of the win against Northwestern State, tying the school record set by Robert McKiver against Charleston on Nov. 17, 2007.

With 180 3-pointers and 498 3-point attempts to date, Sasser is poised to set Houston career records in both categories as he prepares for the 2022-23 season.

Sasser was joined on the Preseason All-America Team by Armando Bacot (North Carolina), Trayce Jackson-Davis

(Indiana), Drew Timme (Gonzaga) and Oscar Tshiebwe (Kentucky). Tshiebwe was recognized as Blue Ribbon's National Preseason Player of the Year.

The Cougars open their 2022-23 schedule when they play host to Northern Colorado on Nov. 7 inside the Fertitta Center. It will be the first of 18 regular-season home games inside the Fertitta Center.

From there, the Cougars hit the road for the first time to take on Saint Joseph's at 5 p.m. (CT), Nov. 11, in Annapolis, Md., as part of the Veterans Classic on the U.S. Naval Academy campus.

Under the leadership of three-time American Athletic Conference Coach of the Year Kelvin Sampson, three starters and seven lettermen return from the Cougars' 2021-22 team, which posted a 32-6 overall record, advanced to the NCAA Tournament Elite Eight, swept the American Athletic Conference regular-season and tournament titles and finished among the nation's Top 10 for the second straight season.

Under Sampson's leadership, the Cougars have posted seven consecutive 20-win seasons, including a pair of 30-win campaigns, and competed in each of the last four NCAA Tournaments to tie a school record.

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Texans prepare for final preseason test against 49ers

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Houston Texans offense has continued to struggle this preseason.

The Texans have struggled to run and pass the ball, as Houston has been unable to gain momentum on the offensive end, only scoring 17 total points through the two first halves of their first two preseason games.

The Texans know there is work to do and know they have room to improve heading into the team's final preseason game on Thursday.

"I think we just need to continue building a rhythm out there," said quarterback Davis Mills. "We have to get comfortable with each other and continue to grow as an offense. We'll have some different things going into week one that we haven't showed in preseason that we'll utilize as well. We have continue to build that comfort but I think we are in a good spot, we just need to take advantage of all the live reps we are getting in preseason."

It was one of the biggest goals of the offseason for the Texans to improve the offense, but it has moments of brilliance but is unable to thrive without a competent run game to compliment it.

The Texans run game especially struggled last week against the Rams, as they were unable to generate anything on the ground, but



Houston Texans linebacker Kamu Grugier-Hill (51) deflects a pass intended for Los Angeles Rams running back Darrell Henderson Jr. (27) during an NFL game between Houston and the Los Angeles Rams on October 31, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

that also could have been because of the absence of rookie running back Dameon Pierce, who did not

play in the game and is expected to be the starter this season.

Pierce showed that he might be

able to carry the run game in the Texans first preseason game, as he rushed five times for 49 yards,

averaging 9.8 yards per carry and showing both power and explosiveness.

"That was the plan to not have him play tonight," said Texans head coach Lovie Smith after the Texans game against the Rams. "We let Marlon (Mack) have a lot more carries today. But he's showed some really good things."

One bright spot for the Texans last week was their final drive of the first half, where Mills led them on a seven play, 75-yard drive that took 39 seconds. Mills capped the drive off with a 18-yard fade to Nico Collins, who made a great play in the back of the endzone to leap over a defender and wrestled the ball away to give the Texans the lead at half.

"It was awesome," Mills said. "The guys made some big time plays, we didn't have much going on before that so it was nice to end the half with a touchdown and the lead."

The hope is that with Pierce back and with more time to jell the offense will take a step up, showing more offensively Thursday before they turn their attention to the regular season. And that's exactly what the Texans plan to do.

"There were a lot of good things we did throughout the game," Smith said. "But there has to be improvements still, we aren't first game of the season ready yet, but we see things each week that we like and can build on."



Far left: Katy's Caleb Koger makes a pass during Katy's scrimmage against Klein Collins on Friday at Legacy Stadium. Left, Katy's Connor Johnsey tries to make a tackle during Katy's scrimmage against Klein Collins on Friday at Legacy Stadium.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

SCRIMMAGE

from page B1

breaking off a huge touchdown run during the timed period. Another bright spot was Ramarian Tillman, as the junior running back showcased a willing and ability to run with power and fight for yards, carrying the ball a number of times throughout the scrimmage and showing that he can be a force and good compliment to Davis at the varsity level.

"He really showed that he's going to be a good running back for us," Joseph said. "He's a tough runner and can be a good complementary piece. We have a couple other ones and have some injuries right now, but he did a really good job for himself. I thought Ramarian ran hard, he looked quicker than what he had been, and I think he's going to be able to complement us at fullback and running back. He can do a lot of different things and he's going to help our football team, and that's the type of depth we have to build."

Katy's defense played strongly and even when they gave up a play or a touchdown, they were able to respond and make plays of their own. A big example of this was in

the timed period when after a touchdown the Tigers then made a huge interception on a deep pass the next possession.

"We had moments where we could have done better but we did a really good job of just being able to put it aside and go out there and make plays and play together," said senior safety Johnathan Hall. "But now we get to look at the film and work on it. And we brought the energy, which is my favorite thing about us. When we scored the whole sideline was jumping, then our defense makes a play and it's the same thing. The defense was cheering for and playing for the offense and the offense was doing the same thing for the defense."

The Tigers showed some strong areas of their games, but they also know there are some things they need to clean up for when they get to their first game.

"I think the most important thing is always just to get back and focus on the fundamentals," Hall said. "We have to just everybody on point and go back to the roots. We just have to make sure we do that every week and go from there."

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Cougars ranked No. 24 in first AP poll of season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

For the 12th time in program history and first since 2016, the University of Houston Football program will enter the season ranked by Associated Press voters. The Cougars checked in at No. 24 in the first AP poll released Monday.

Houston, which was ranked No. 25 in the USA Today AFCA Coaches' Poll released last week, is among

three Texas programs in the AP poll, joining Texas A&M (No. 6) and Baylor (No. 10). Fellow American opponent Cincinnati is ranked No. 23.

Houston opens its season two weeks from Saturday (Sept. 3) at UTSA. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. from the Alamodome and can be seen on CBS Sports Network. The in-state matchup is the lone FBS contest nationally on opening weekend featuring two 12-plus win teams from a season ago.



The Houston Cougars offense celebrates after a fourth-quarter touchdown in an NCAA football game between Houston and SMU on October 30, 2021 in Houston, Texas. Houston won 44-37.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

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- Primary and specialty physician offices, imaging, labs and physical therapy
- Easy to access emergency care and transfer to Houston Methodist West Hospital, should you need it
- A team of experts using the newest technologies
- Personalized care tailored to your unique needs



**Find a Location
NEAR YOU**

And, with enhanced safety measures in place, you can rest assured your safety is our priority.



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