

KATY'S PLAYOFF RUN ENDS IN REGIONAL FINAL
SPORTS | B1

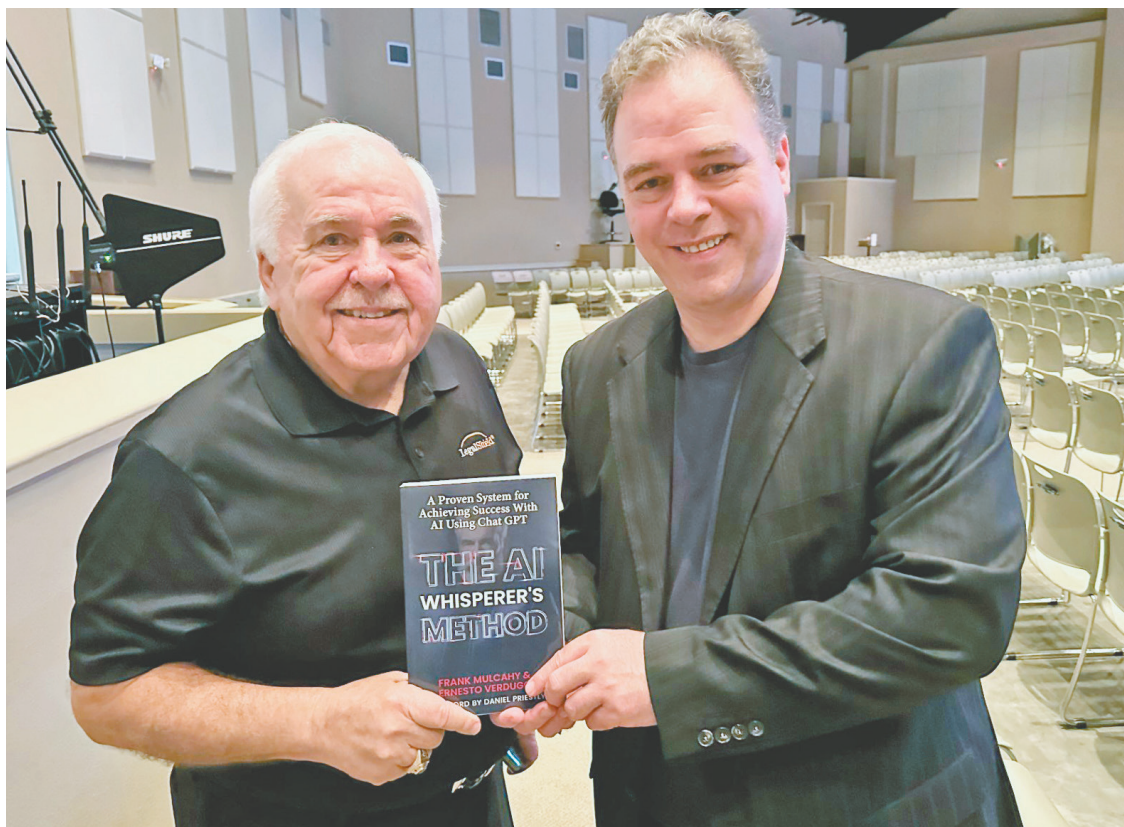
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THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ katytimes.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Speakers Frank Mulcahy, left, and Ernesto Verdugo have written a book about artificial intelligence.

Artificial Intelligence IN KATY

New book provides tutorial while area authors tout its benefits

This article is the first of a series.

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

As people examine artificial intelligence, and what it might do for them, it might be useful to consider the story of two area authors who recently published a book about it.

Ernesto Verdugo and Frank Mulcahy, both public speakers, published *The AI Whisperer's Method*, a reference guide presented as a story to encourage understanding of how best to use artificial intelligence.

Verdugo said he and Mulcahy used artificial intelligence as a tool to help write the book, which they produced in about 15 days. They spoke about artificial intelligence at a recent meeting of the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

"That's why the important thing about artificial intelligence is that it enhances the capabilities of any human being," Verdugo said. "That doesn't mean that I asked the artificial intelligence to write the book for me. What I did is I trained the artificial

"That's why the important thing about artificial intelligence is that it enhances the capabilities of any human being. That doesn't mean that I asked the artificial intelligence to write the book for me. What I did is I trained the artificial intelligence to be my literary companion."

—ERNESTO VERDUGO, author

intelligence to be my literary companion."

The technology, new and constantly changing, can make some people uneasy. That the technology might replace a worker can be unsettling, but Verdugo said the best way to think about it is that a worker would not be replaced by artificial intelligence. Instead, the worker would be replaced by someone who uses artificial intelligence better than

they do.

Such concerns are not new. Mulcahy said people are always afraid of change.

"They were afraid of change when we had the horse and buggy, but then Henry Ford came out with the automobile—and in the matter of just a few years dominated," Mulcahy said. "The same thing with John Deere with the tractor. It replaced the oxen and the mule. Same thing when the first calculator first came out. Teachers said you can't use the calculator, it's cheating. Imagine not using a calculator today."

Verdugo said his son, who is a junior in high school, uses artificial intelligence in his schoolwork.

"One of the things that I find that teachers who do not embrace artificial intelligence are dangerous because, as my son told me, he said, 'Next year I'm just about to go to university and the pace of artificial intelligence is moving,'" Verdugo said. "Very likely, four years from now the jobs that exist today are not going to exist four years from now. So, if you're a teacher

See **AI**, page A3

Kitzman to submit master sergeant for Texas Medal of Honor

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

State Rep. Stan Kitzman has submitted Master Sgt. Mike C. Pena of Newgulf, in Wharton County, for the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor during the 88th Texas legislative session. This prestigious award is the highest military commendation that can be conferred to a service member of the U.S. Armed Forces from Texas. Kitzman represents House District 85, which covers a portion of Fort Bend County

as well as Waller County and includes the Brookshire area.

The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor Committee selected Pena in May in recognition of his valiant and heroic services during the Korean War. Gov. Greg Abbott will bestow the award upon Pena's family in a ceremony to be held in the coming months.

On Sept. 4, 1950, during the Battle of Tabu-dong, near

See **MEDAL**, page A3



STAN KITZMAN

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Mike C. Pana, right, is congratulated by 1st Calvary Commander Maj. Gen. William Chase, left, and Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Albert Wedemeyer at Fort McGill, Japan, during the Battle of Manila Day in February, 1949. State Rep. Stan Kitzman has submitted Pena for the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor.

Katy Fort Bend Business Park under construction

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

As large, industrial warehouse parks go up in the western Katy area, it is not surprising that some developers are building smaller parks. The National Realty Group of Houston is developing such a complex near Katy Junior High School.

Katy Fort Bend Business Park, 2304 Katy Hockley Cutoff Road, will be a 13-building complex on about seven acres.

Zane Shenwari, National Realty Group junior partner

and project manager, said the complex is expected to open in early 2024. He said he has taken calls from companies interested in setting up shop there.

"We focus on relatively smaller buildings for mid-size operations," Shenwari said. "The response has been very promising."

The buildings will be metallic construction with stone and EIFS accounts. They will be fully insulated and feature standing seam roofs. The complex will

See **PARK**, page A3

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

H-E-B Wellness Primary Care Clinic to open in Katy

Texas' largest food retailer is offering comprehensive wellness and nutrition services to its Houston-area H-E-B customers and their families in Katy and Cypress.

The Katy location will be at 6711 South Fry Road. The Cypress location will be at 24224 Northwest Freeway). These new clinics bring H-E-B's Wellness Primary Care Clinic count to three in Houston, with a current location at Bunker Hill Road. Two more are set to open later this month in Spring and far northwest Houston.

H-E-B Wellness Primary Care Clinics offer a suite of solutions focused on helping customers stay healthy as well as managing illnesses through a food as medicine approach. Each location is conveniently located in the same shopping center as an H-E-B storefront for easy access to pharmacy and nutrition coaching platforms.

"This offering is simply incredible," Lisa Helfman, H-E-B Houston senior public affairs director, said. "For over a decade, H-E-B has offered high quality primary care services to its own partners (employees) and

See **BUSINESS**, page A3



H-E-B

H-E-B, at 6711 S. Fry Road, will have a wellness primary care clinic featuring an examination area.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Katy Branch Library summer reading program underway

The Katy Branch Library, 5414 Franz Road, has launched a summer reading program for all ages. The program began June 5 and runs through Aug. 5.

Under the program, prizes can be won for every 100 points earned. One book read counts for 10 points, and 30 minutes spent reading counts for 10 points. Listed activities on the Harris County Public Libraries website and book reviews count for five points each.

The library will also offer special programs covering various topics. For more information, call the library at 281-391-3509. To register, visit the website hcpl.beanstack.org.

Katy resident to lead sorority council

Katy resident Alice White, a member of Epsilon Phi Master Chapter, has been elected to lead the Houston Council of Beta Sigma Phi sorority for the 2023-24 sorority year. She was recently installed as the council president at the sorority's 92nd anniversary Founder's Day Luncheon held April 29.

Also serving on the Houston Council board are Mary Jane Hancock of Xi Beta Kappa chapter as vice president; Bobbie Lechluder of Epsilon Omega Master chapter as recording secretary; Sharon Dueweke of Torchbearer Omega chapter as corresponding secretary; Sue Garrett of Torchbearer Tau chapter as treasurer; and Carolyn Kares of Torchbearer Tau chapter as parliamentarian.

Beta Sigma Phi is a women's international social sorority providing women of all ages the opportunity to make lasting friendships, enjoy socials, cultural programs and serve their community. For more information, call 281-493-4678.

HCESD 48 seeks volunteers to become safe sitter instructors

Harris County Emergency Services District 48 is seeking volunteers to join its Community Risk Reduction team as a safe sitter instructor. Training is online and covered by the



BETA SIGMA PHI

The Houston Council of Beta Sigma Phi sorority announced its leadership for the 2023-24 sorority year. Pictured from left to right are Alice White, president; Mary Jane Hancock, vice president, Bobbie Lechluder, recording secretary; Sharon Dueweke, corresponding secretary; Sue Garrett, treasurer; and Carolyn Kares, parliamentarian.

department. Uniforms are provided and other team volunteer opportunities are available. Safe sitter is one of HCESD 48's most sought-out programs that is free to the community, thanks to sponsors.

This course prepares students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they are home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Students learn how to practice important safety skills, handle emergencies, care for children and treat illnesses and injuries. Some classes teach CPR. In addition, students learn important business skills such as how to screen jobs, set a wage and work with employers. For more information email Chief Jason Tharp at Jason.Tharp@hcesd48.org.

American Legion Post open house set for June 11

American Legion Post 164 is hosting an open house celebrating Women Veterans Day from 2-4 p.m. June 11 at 22125 Kingsland Blvd. All are welcome. Also, the post will team with the American Auxiliary Unit 164 to sell fireworks from June 24-July 4 for the upcoming July 4 holiday. For more information, call the post at 281-615-5670.

Fussell Senior Center to host seminar June 13

The Katy Fussell Senior Center is hosting a seminar to discuss levels of care for seniors and how to qualify for them medically and financially. The seminar is set for 9-10 a.m. June

13 at the center, 5370 E. 5th St. For more information, call the center at 281-391-4837.

KATY AARP chapter meeting set for June 13

The Katy chapter of AARP will meet at 6:30 p.m. June 13 at Midway BBQ, 6191 Highway Blvd. The meeting will start with a short meeting and announcements. Vocalist/guitarist John Steele will provide entertainment afterwards. He performs classic country, pop classic and R&B songs. Visitors are welcome. Please allow time to purchase any food before the meeting starts.

Casino Night at Fussell Senior Center set for June 16

The Katy Fussell Senior Center is hosting a casino night, featuring blackjack, craps, roulette wheel and slot machines. Tickets are \$25 and include refreshments, play money and a raffle entry. The event is set for 3:30-7:30 p.m. June 16 at the center, 5370 E. 5th St. For more information, call the center at 281-391-4837.

Coffee with the Mayors set for June 22

Coffee with the Mayors, an informal community event featuring Mayor Dusty Thiele and his mayoral predecessors, is set for 7:30 a.m. June 22 at the Johnny Nelson Katy Heritage Museum, 6002 George Bush Dr.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

Del Webb Fulshear provides amenities

BY LONDON A. PATTON
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

It was a wet and rainy day when the See TIM Sell Team at Keller Williams embarked on its visit to Del Webb Fulshear, a 55-and-older community renowned for its abundant amenities. As we arrived at the clubhouse, we were welcomed by a sales team eager to showcase this remarkable community. Our hosts ensured that our experience would be nothing short of extraordinary. Their genuine hospitality left a positive impact on our team.

True to its clubhouse allure, Del Webb Fulshear greeted us with a range of refreshments and snacks, along with a lunch spread. As we explored the clubhouse, plans for exciting amenities such as Pickleball and a putting golf course were showcased, already bringing joy to the residents. Additionally, the amenities building, slated for a grand opening in January 2024, held promise for even more delightful experiences. Del Webb Fulshear offers an extensive array of clubs and activities, fostering an environment that encourages an active and vibrant lifestyle.

The infinity pool is a tranquil oasis that offers the perfect setting to unwind and enjoy the community's lavish offerings. The community further enriches the lives of its residents by employing a full-time lifestyle and activities director, dedicated to curating engaging events that foster a sense of camaraderie and excitement throughout the community.

What sets Del Webb Fulshear apart is its unwavering commitment to providing an enriching and fulfilling living experience for its residents. With meticulously designed amenities and a dynamic social calendar, residents find themselves immersed in a vibrant community that values connections and promotes an active lifestyle. The community exudes a sense of togetherness, fostering friendships that span a lifetime.

Beyond the remarkable facilities and activities, it is the people that make Del Webb Fulshear shine. The sales team epitomized dedication and passion, ensuring that each visitor felt like part of the family. Their smiles and infectious joy created an atmosphere of warmth and belonging.

Del Webb Fulshear stands as a testament to the power of community, offering a haven for those seeking an active and fulfilling lifestyle. As we concluded our visit, we departed with an appreciation for the remarkable amenities, the welcoming environment, and the sense of kinship that permeates throughout the community. Del Webb Fulshear is more than just a place to live; it is a sanctuary where residents forge lasting connections and create cherished memories. Whether it's indulging in luxurious amenities, participating in engaging activities, or simply relishing the camaraderie of neighbors, Del Webb Fulshear exemplifies the true essence of a vibrant 55-and-older community.

London A. Patton is marketing coordinator of the See TIM Sell Team at Keller Williams.

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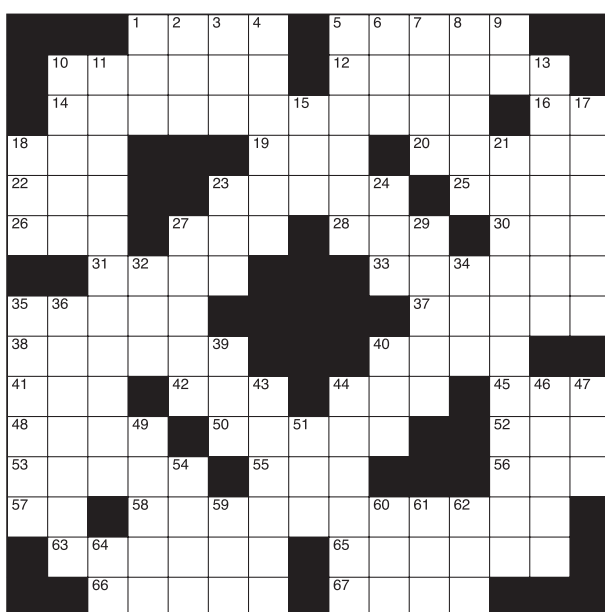
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Flat tableland with steep edges
- Where there's __, there's fire
- Talked incessantly
- Skill
- Without shame
- Where teens spend their days (abbr.)
- Boxing's GOAT
- Used to anoint
- Cluster cups
- Footballer Newton
- They make up a forest
- Split pulses
- Self
- Post-office box
- Test for high schoolers
- Large, flightless bird
- Expectorated
- Falsehood
- Prickly, scrambling shrub
- French river
- Told on
- Hillside
- Peyton's little brother
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire
- Witness
- Brews
- Yellowish-brown
- Arctic explorers, abbr.
- Mexican agave
- A type of "cast"

CLUES DOWN

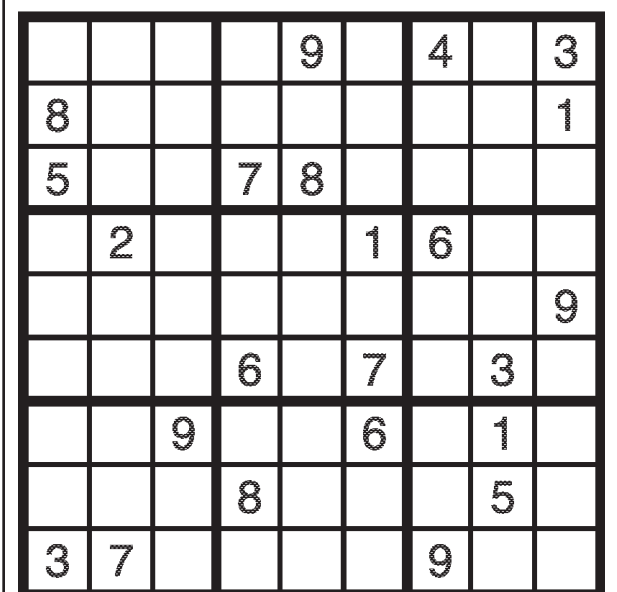
- Encourage
- Atomic #52
- Relating to position north of south of equator
- Gadget whose name you forget
- Another recording
- Small blisters
- Dark brown or black
- Licensed for Wall Street
- "__ and flow"
- A very large body of water
- Accumulate on the surface of
- Central cores of the stem
- Angry
- Ceramic jar
- Scraped a car
- __ route
- Soviet labor camp system
- Strong hostilities
- Vitamin of the B complex
- Go quickly
- Toast
- A team's best pitcher
- A Philly culinary specialty
- Small child
- Unhappy
- Trims away
- Characterized by crying eyes
- Soft touch
- American spy organization



- A person's chest
- Came from behind to win
- Fall back
- Nellie __, journalist
- Great places to kayak
- Suffer patiently
- Majestic bird
- Electroencephalograph
- Organic compound used as an antiseptic
- Objects connected to the web (abbr.)
- Ship as cargo
- The bill in a restaurant
- Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
- Judge in OJ Simpson trial
- One's grandmother
- Siberian river

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

Here's How It Works:

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.

AI

from page A1

and you're saying well, you cannot use this, you're actually really hurting the students. So, for me, that's a very, very difficult subject to talk about."

Mulcahy said computers don't have what he called "the personal aspect." Therefore, they must be human-directed so they can work at their best. Specific instructions from the user—the more specific, the better—are necessary.

Verdugo said he and Mulcahy had to have ChatGPT—the artificial intelligence tool they

used—learn about the hero's journey, a storytelling device used in written works. In this way, they could use artificial intelligence to tell the "hero's" story, in which he and the reader learn about artificial intelligence and how to use it.

"One of the things that people have been very uncomfortable with about artificial intelligence is the fact that you can just press the magic button and then suddenly everything is written there," Verdugo said. But there's more to it than that. Verdugo said people

are learning to use artificial intelligence to get the computers to understand how a task must be performed.

Mulcahy said when one embraces the technology, the creative juices start flowing.

"The only people that have fear is if they don't adapt," Mulcahy said. "Their competitors will and that's going to give them, in a very short window, an incredible advantage in the marketplace. So that's why people have to embrace it because it's inevitable. It's part of life."



Buildings at the Katy Fort Bend Business Park will be colored in ash gray, peppercorn and extra white, as shown in this depiction. Buildings will feature 3' x 5' wall lite panels to allow natural light.

PARK

from page A1

feature oversized grade level loading doors measuring 14' x 16'. Several of the buildings will support dock high loading. The complex will enable semi-trailer truck maneuverability thanks to a 125' apron being built between the buildings.

"We do development all around Houston, and so Katy is a place where we like to be," Shenwari said.

The Katy Fort Bend Business Park is National Realty Group's second Katy-area development, Shenwari said. The first is the Franz Elrod Business Park, 22516-22576 Franz Road. The complex is about 10,000 square feet and was sold a couple of years ago, Shenwari said.



The Katy Fort Bend Business Park, now under construction, will sit just north of Legacy Stadium and the Academy Sports Complex.

MEDAL

from page A1

Waegwan, Korea, Pena and his platoon were posted in a defensive position when a North Korean Army battalion emerged only yards away, having advanced under the shroud of darkness. The platoon engaged and opened fire but was caught off-guard by the attack and forced to withdraw. Pena swiftly rallied his platoon and led them in a counter-attack that succeeded in regaining their lost ground. Pena and his men then established a defensive perimeter and attempted to repel the North Koreans, but with repeated assaults, the enemy had an overwhelming manpower advantage. After Pena realized that the platoon's ammunition supply had begun to dwindle,

he ordered his men to fall back, seized a machine gun, additional weapons, and ammunition to provide cover for the retreating platoon.

Pena made a heroic stand and held back the enemy singlehandedly until the early morning hours when his position was overrun and he was fatally wounded. Master Sergeant Pena died at the early age of 25, on September 5th, the exact date of his fifth wedding anniversary. He was returned to his origin of the Texas Gulf Coast and buried with full military honors at Cedarvale Cemetery in Bay City.

Throughout his ten-year military career, Pena exhibited exceptional service and dedication to his country. His outstanding

achievements earned him more than thirty decorations and awards for meritorious service and heroic valor. Among these prestigious recognitions are the Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, and Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters.

"It is an immense honor to have submitted Master Sgt. Pena for the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor," Kitzman said. "His extraordinary service, courage, and sacrifice are a testament to the values we cherish as Texans and Americans. We are grateful for his dedication to our nation, and this award ensures that his legacy will be remembered and honored for generations to come."



MEMBERS CHOICE CREDIT UNION

Members Choice Credit Union sponsored and hosted the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's June 1 networking meeting. Marina Rivera, the chief lending and retail experience offer, discussed the credit union's financing and FlexChoice mortgage options. Gabriela Puente, director of marketing, talked about the credit union's upcoming home-buying seminar on June 10 and the credit union's involvement in Lemonade Day Katy.

BUSINESS

from page A1

their families. Now we have the ability to provide a one-stop wellness destination for our customers with clinical primary care, nutrition services, and pharmacy services in addition to access to nutritious food—a combination that is critical to create a full continuum of care unlike anything else that exists in healthcare today."

With locations also in Austin and San Antonio, H-E-B Wellness Primary Care offers full-service primary care for all individuals aged 12 and up operating in coordination with registered dietitians with a food first philosophy rooted in science. In addition to primary care, services will include physical therapy, health/nutrition coaching, clinical pharmacists, specialty referrals, and labs to create a coordinated approach to healthcare. These clinics are staffed by board-certified physicians, nurses, and other licensed medical professionals. H-E-B is rapidly expanding throughout Texas with both primary care and nutrition services over the next few years.

The clinics provide high quality, patient-centered care with affordable individual visit pricing and the option of monthly subscriptions, removing the frustration of surprise medical billing and enabling clinicians to focus on each patient, taking the time that is necessary to support them on their wellness journey. The clinics accept cash, credit, and Flexible Spending Account payments.

For more information or to make an appointment or learn more, visit the website hebprimarycare.com/.



BAKER KATZ

Pet Supplies Plus is coming to north Katy.

Pet Supplies Plus coming to north Katy

Baker Katz, a full-service commercial real estate brokerage firm specializing in retail tenant representation, investment sales, project development and leasing, said it has executed three real estate leases with Pet Supplies Plus, one of which will be in north Katy.

The North Katy store will be 7,500 square feet and located at SWC off Elyson Center Dr. and Elyson Exchange Way. The space is set to open in Q2 of 2024.

"Pet Supplies Plus continues their real estate momentum across the Texas market with three new leases," said Lunden McGill broker at Baker Katz. "We are proud to support Pet Supplies Plus to serve communities with accessible products and services for their pets."

The second lease will be in the Harper's Preserve area, at 9662 Hwy. 242, Suite 700, and will be 6,000 square feet. The space is set to open in the fourth quarter of this year.

The third lease will be in Cypress at SEC off Fry Rd. and Tuckerton Rd., and will be 5,550 square feet. The space is set to open in the second quarter of 2024.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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2023 KATY AREA ECONOMIC OUTLOOK SUMMIT June 16, 2023

AGENDA

- 8:30 AM | REGISTRATION
- 9:00 AM | GLENN HEGAR, Texas Comptroller
- 9:45 AM | BREAK
- 10:00 AM | BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- WATER** (Facilitated by Rick Lawler)
 - Bill Callegari, Former State Rep., Dist. 132
 - State Rep. Stan Kitzman, Dist. 85
 - Commissioner Lesley Briones, Harris County, Pct. 4
- TRANSPORTATION** (Facilitated by David Gernet)
 - Sue Theiss, TxDOT
 - Larry McManus, Office of the Governor, Eco Dev.
 - Commissioner Justin Beckendorff, Waller County, Pct. 4
- 11:00 AM | BREAK
- 11:30 AM | REGISTRATION FOR LUNCHEON
- 12:00 PM | RICK PERRY, Former Governor of Texas

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Ask Texas government to invest in schools and students

The 88th Texas Legislative regular session has ended with House Bill 100, the only proposal on the table that would have increased public education funding to raise teacher salaries and the Basic Allotment, having died with it. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the bill author, Rep. Ken King (District 88), for his efforts to support Texas public schools. HB 100 would have given additional funding to public schools, approximately \$4.5 billion. This funding would have helped Katy ISD take care of our students and provide necessary dollars to give teachers and staff raises. On April 27, HB 100 had overwhelmingly passed in the House with a vote count of 143 yeas and 3 nays and was sent to the Senate. I applaud our House of Representatives for its actions on this bill.

However, over the Memorial Day weekend the Senate reduced funding formulas in HB 100—continuing to short-change Texas public schools. Having drawn their line in the sand by also adding bill language that would fund education savings accounts, aka “vouchers,” the Senate demonstrated its unwillingness to adequately fund public schools without the House’s support for private school funding through taxpayer dollars.

With rising inflation, I know our community would agree that it costs more money in 2023 to educate our children compared to 2019. The Basic Allotment, set in 2019, remains stagnant at \$6,160 with no new dollars in sight. The state budget is projected to have a \$33 billion surplus. For the 2024-2025 biennium, the comptroller estimated that there will be a 26.3% increase in revenue compared to 2022-2023. In addition, there will be \$27 billion in the Texas “rainy day fund” by the next biennium. This is all while Texas ranks 42nd in the nation for per-student funding.

To date, the Senate’s message has been that investing in Texas public schools is not



KEN GREGORSKI
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

I encourage our community to reach out to the governor’s office and request a special session to increase the Basic Allotment. Ask that that our state invest in the future of Texas public schools and Katy ISD children.

the priority. Due to the lack of significant investment in our public schools, this will be a challenging budget year for districts across the state. But please know that I am resolute in my commitment to provide unparalleled learning experiences for Katy ISD students. I stand firm in my commitment to take care of our Katy ISD teachers and staff. I also continue to believe in the Texas Constitution to establish and support free public schools in Texas.

Gov. Abbott has called for Special Session #1 with two agenda items: Property Taxes and Border Security. The state has enough funds to reduce property taxes for all Texans and to effectively fund public education. I encourage our community to reach out to the governor’s office and request a special session to increase the Basic Allotment. Ask that that our state invest in the future of Texas public schools and Katy ISD children.

Ken Gregorski is Katy ISD superintendent.



PEXELS

The Texas Legislature continues to wrangle over funding for public school districts, including Katy ISD, Ken Gregorski writes.



Attorney General Ken Paxton tried to settle a whistleblower lawsuit with taxpayer funds, which helped lead to his impeachment, State Rep. Andrew S. Murr writes.

PEXELS

Why Ken Paxton had to be impeached

We are embarking on something nearly unheard of in the Texas House of Representatives: For just the third time in the storied history of our state under our current constitution, the House has impeached a state officer. When the House cast an overwhelming vote to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton, we fully understood the gravity of our actions. In fact, I cast my vote with profound certainty that Paxton must be held accountable for his flagrant abuses of his office and of the public trust.

Earlier this year, Paxton attempted to settle a whistleblower lawsuit with four former senior aides whom he fired after they raised alarms about his actions. These aides, and others who resigned before Paxton could fire them, are highly esteemed and respected conservatives whom Paxton personally recruited to run divisions of his agency. Paxton asked taxpayers, via the Legislature, to pay the \$3.3 million settlement to make his problems go away. When he would not provide the Texas House with basic information about why taxpayers should cover this settlement, the House General Investigating Committee, which I chair, opened an investigation to learn what happened.

The findings were appalling. Our committee uncovered bribery, conspiracy, abuse of office, misappropriation of public resources, obstruction of justice and more. Paxton repeatedly and obsessively invented new rules and redirected public resources solely to help a friend and campaign donor, real estate developer Nate Paul, who was under FBI investigation. Paul had not only contributed \$25,000 to Paxton’s campaign, but he was also helping remodel Paxton’s Austin home and had quietly given a job to Paxton’s mistress. Paxton:

- Asked his open records division to authorize the release of criminal investigation records that DPS and the FBI both said needed to be protected. Around the time Paxton had personal access to one of these documents, he directed an aide to deliver an envelope containing documents to Paul.
- Directed the division of his agency that is supposed to protect nonprofit organizations to instead pressure a nonprofit into a lowball



ANDREW S. MURR
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Earlier this year, Paxton attempted to settle a whistleblower lawsuit with four former senior aides whom he fired after they raised alarms about his actions. These aides, and others who resigned before Paxton could fire them, are highly esteemed and respected conservatives whom Paxton personally recruited to run divisions of his agency.

settlement with Paul that would have cost it millions.

- Personally requested, fast-tracked, and dictated a legal opinion to prevent impending foreclosure sales of Paul’s properties—all in one weekend. This process would typically take up to six months and be done without intervention by the Attorney General.

Most significantly, when Paul claimed the FBI was unfairly targeting him, local prosecutors and Paxton’s own deputies all disagreed and advised against any special Office of the Attorney General investigation. Paxton went behind their backs to hire an unqualified, inexperienced outside counsel—recommended by Paul himself. Without any lawful authority or knowledge within OAG top circles, that attorney then undertook to issue more than 30 grand jury subpoenas to [banks adverse to Paul, individual law enforcement personnel investigating

Paul, and even the magistrate overseeing litigation involving Paul.

Our committee shared these harrowing findings of corruption with the full Texas House, leading to an overwhelming vote of impeachment. We could not, in good conscience and in accordance with our principles and oath of office, ignore this shocking pattern of abuse and criminality. The impeachment vote came near the end of a long legislative session, but the conservative expert attorneys hired by our committee to investigate this matter had spent several months delving into Paxton’s corruption—all after he refused to make the case for the \$3.3 million taxpayer bailout he sought to sweep away his misdeeds.

Some have questioned why Republican House members would bring articles of impeachment against a member of our party who has won numerous statewide elections and whose troubling behaviors have been the subject of news coverage through the years. But electoral victory is not a license to abuse the public’s trust, and the General Investigating Committee does not make decisions based on what has and has not been in the news media. We had a reason to ask questions, we asked them, and the evidence we found was conclusive.

Further, as Republicans, we cannot credibly call out corruption in the other party if we ignore it in our own. Paxton has taken on some important issues during his tenure, but I am certain that there are others in our state who could aggressively defend conservative values as attorney general while honoring the sacred trust with Texans that Paxton has chosen to break. Integrity matters to Texans and should always matter to conservative Republicans.

Soon, Paxton will have a full opportunity to defend himself and his actions in a Senate trial. I urge all Texans to listen to that trial, look at the evidence, and make up your own mind. I believe the facts—examined aside from politics and partisanship—point to one overwhelming conclusion.

State Rep. Andrew S. Murr is a Republican who represents District 53 in the Texas House of Representatives. He is chairman of the Texas House General Investigating Committee.

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The Katy Times (ISSN 067-180) is published on Thursdays. Subscriptions are available for \$35 per year in Harris, Waller and Fort Bend counties and \$45 elsewhere. Subscribe at www.katytimes.com or by mailing payment and delivery information to Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678. Periodical-rate postage paid at Katy, Texas 77494.

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Address billing inquiries at 281-391-3141.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678.

ABOUT OUR NEWSPAPER:
The Katy Times is a member of the Texas Press Association. The weekly newspaper is published every Thursday. Visit our Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.katytimes.com for more news and information.

KATYTIMES.COM

Katy grad wins award for elementary education

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Julia Morrison, a 2019 graduate of St. John XXIII College Preparatory School in Katy, is the 2023 recipient of the Lorena B. Stretch Award for Outstanding Student in Elementary Education from the Baylor School of Education. She is the daughter of Richard and Allyson Morrison of Sugar Land. The award is named for Lorena Stretch, who was dean of the School of Education from 1935-57 and the school's longest-serving dean.

Morrison graduated summa cum laude from Baylor University with a BSEd in elementary education and a minor in Spanish. During her senior year at Baylor, she was a student teaching intern in fourth grade at South Bosque Elementary School in Midway ISD in the classrooms of mentor teachers Amber



Julia Webster

Brown and Lindsey Pick. In the fall, Morrison will be teaching at Adolphus Elementary in Lamar Consolidated ISD.

Morrison said she chose a career in education because she has always loved school and was in awe of her teachers.

"When I realized I could study how to be a teacher in

"Her high expectations, rapport, preparedness, and content knowledge keep students engaged and eliminate behavior problems."

—LISA PLEMONS, Julia Morrison's Baylor intern supervisor

college, I was ecstatic," Morrison said. "Baylor School of Education's program exposed me to some of the best elementary teachers, who modeled how incred-

ible it is to make learning fun and accessible to all students. I fell in love with planning lessons that would make my students excited to learn. There is nothing more fulfilling than giving students a safe space where they are excited to try something new."

Morrison's Baylor intern supervisor, Lisa Plemons, said that she stood out as confident and always prepared.

"Each of her lessons is designed to a detail that exhibits a depth of content knowledge and the students she's teaching," Plemons said. "Her high expectations, rapport, preparedness, and content knowledge keep students engaged and eliminate behavior problems. Her

instruction is provided like a veteran teacher, varying the activities, knowing areas of possible misconceptions, and strategically sequencing the content to make it most accessible for students to learn and engage. She's impressive."

Said mentor teacher Amber Brown: "It has been such a joy to have Julia Morrison be a part of our fourth-grade classroom. From the relationships she has made with students to the creative, student-centered lessons, Julia's impact

on our classroom can be felt and seen in many ways. Ms. Morrison's future students and colleagues will be so blessed to have Julia on their team."

While at Baylor, Morrison was a member of the School of Education's Student Advisory Council, serving on the Special Events and Service Committee, and worked as a student assistant in the School of Education's library. She was a member of St. Peter Catholic Student Center in Waco and served as the outreach officer.

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Katy ISD announces 2022-23 valedictorians and salutatorians

Katy ISD has announced the top two students from each high school who have ranked highest academically in their respective graduating classes. Many of them are now moving on to renowned colleges and universities throughout the nation. The 2022-23 valedictorians and salutatorians are:



HALEY LUCY SAXMAN



JULIANA YILI ZHOU

• Cinco Ranch High School: Haley Lucy Saxman is the valedictorian and expects to major in business at the University of Pennsylvania. Saxman has a 4.8852 GPA. Juliana Yili Zhou is the salutatorian and expects to major in computer science at Rice University. Zhou has a 4.8615 GPA.



PIYUSH AANKUSH HOLE



EVAN JIN

• Jordan High School: Piyush Aankush Hole is the valedictorian and expects to major in computer science at Texas A&M University. Hole has a 4.8657 GPA. Evan Jin is the salutatorian and expects to major in the computer science honors and business honors program at the University of Texas at Austin. Jin has a 4.8636 GPA.



HUDSON ANDREW RHODES



ROHAN BALA SRINIVAS

• Katy High School: Hudson Andrew Rhodes is the valedictorian and expects to major in biology at the University of Texas at Austin. Rhodes has a 4.7925 GPA. Rohan Bala Srinivas is the salutatorian and expects to major in biomedical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Srinivas has a 4.7692 GPA.



SODAIS KADER GHULAM



JASMINE VISHUN BENU

• Mayde Creek High School: Sodais Kader Ghulam is the valedictorian and expects to major in computer science at the University of Texas at Austin. Ghulam has a 4.8361 GPA. Jasmine Vishun Benau is the salutatorian and expects to major in finance at the University of Texas at Austin. Benau has a 4.8281 GPA.



LOGAN JOHN PEDERSEN



ALEX FAITH HEILIGER

• Morton Ranch High School: Logan John Pedersen is the valedictorian and expects to major in chemical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin after serving a two-year mission. Pedersen has a 4.8302 GPA. Alex Faith Heiliger is the salutatorian and expects to major in psychology at the University of Houston. Heiliger has a 4.7143 GPA.



MOHAMMAD MUTAZ YAGHI



FATIMA NOOR SHAIKH

• Paetow High School: Mohammad Mutaz Yaghi is the valedictorian and expects to pursue a dual degree in business and international studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Yaghi has a 4.7069 GPA. Fatima Noor Shaikh is the salutatorian and expects to major in biology at the University of Texas at Austin. Shaikh has a 4.7031 GPA.



AKASH JOSEPH



AAVUSHI AJAY GANDHI

• Seven Lakes High School: Akash Joseph is the valedictorian and expects to major in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Joseph has a 4.8955 GPA. Aayushi Ajay Gandhi is the salutatorian and expects to major in human biology at Stanford University. Gandhi has a 4.8889 GPA.



MELISSA DENG HUANG



MINKYU 'MIKE' LIM

• Taylor High School: Melissa Deng Huang is the valedictorian and expects to major in computer science at the University of Texas at Austin. Huang has a 4.8615 GPA. Minkyu "Mike" Lim is the salutatorian and expects to major in business at the University of Texas at Austin. Lim has a 4.8333 GPA.



SANJANA PERUNGULAM

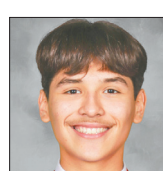


ALEX HAI SHI

• Tompkins High School: Sanjana Perungulam is the valedictorian and expects to major in medical studies at the Rochester Early Scholars Program with a concentration in cell and developmental biology at the University of Rochester. Perungulam has a 4.8857 GPA. Alex Hai Shi is the salutatorian and expects to major in economics and sociology at Cornell University. Shi has a 4.8676 GPA.



SKYLER BARTELS



VLADIMIR MORENO

Royal ISD announces 2022-23 valedictorian and salutatorian

Royal ISD has announced its top two students Royal High School.

Skyler Bartels is the valedictorian and expects to major in mechanical engineering at Texas A&M University.

Vladimir Moreno is the salutatorian and expects to major in chemical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.

Other students finishing in the top 10% are, by class rank, Luis Diaz and Leonardo Robles (tied for third), Stephanie De La Rosa, Jorge Aguinaga, Zunaira Noman, Litzie Gonzalez, Jonathan Kosmalski Olivar, Ian Arteaga, Raychel Mayes, Salma Reyes, Isabell Bishop, Jesus Martinez, Jesus Rico and Cynthia Rivera. David Guerrero and Demarys Torres tied for 17th.

Katy ISD provides free summer meals for all children

Katy ISD continues its commitment to ensuring all children in the Katy area have access to healthy, well-balanced meals through its Summer Meals Program. From May 30-Aug. 3, designated Katy ISD schools will begin offering breakfast and/or lunch at no cost for kids 18 and younger. Summer meal sites include:

• Opportunity Awareness Center (OAC)/ Raines High School: Breakfast, 7:30-8:15 a.m.; lunch, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. May 30-Aug. 4, closed week of July 4.

• Memorial Parkway Elementary: Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.-8:20 a.m.; lunch, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 5-29.

• Rhoads Elementary: Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.-8:20 a.m.; lunch, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 5-29.

• King Elementary: Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.-8:20 a.m.; lunch, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 5-29.

• Morton Ranch High School - Ninth Grade Center: No breakfast; lunch, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. June 5 - July 21, closed on July 4 and 17 only.

• Paetow High School: No breakfast; lunch, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. June 5-July 21, closed the week of July 4 and on July 17-18.

• Mayde Creek High School - Ninth Grade Center: No breakfast; lunch 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. June 5-July 27, closed the week of July 4 and on July 17-18.

"Summer meals will consist of a hot breakfast and/or lunch, which will be served in the school cafeteria area," Donna Pittenger, nutrition & food service executive director, said. "Any child under the age of 18 can obtain a free meal. They do not need to be a Katy ISD student. All meals must be eaten on the campus and parents are welcome to purchase a meal to enjoy with their children."

Children must be present to receive a meal and identification is not required.

Non-profit organization seeking local families for hosting high school exchange students

World Heritage Student Exchange Programs, in cooperation with local high schools, is looking for local families to host boys and girls ages 15-18 for the next academic year. Students from all over the world—places like Germany, Spain, Italy, Japan and Ukraine, to name a few—are excited to study in the United States.

Loving and caring host families are the cornerstone of its program and vital to its mission of bridging the gap between people, cultures, and nations. By generously opening a home to a young person from overseas, a family helps continue the commitment to increasing international peace, understanding and unity.

Preparations are well underway for the 2023-24 program year and the arrival of new future leaders this fall. World Heritage students come with an enthusiasm to practice their English and experience American culture—food, sports, shopping and more. They also love to share their own culture with their host families—who welcome them not as guests, but as family members—giving both the students and families a rich cultural experience.

In addition, World Heritage students have pocket money for personal expenses, along with health, accident and liability insurance. World Heritage students are selected for participation based on academics and good citizenship. Host families can choose their students from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

To become a host family, or to find out how to become involved with World Heritage in your community, call 800-888-9040 or visit the website at host.world-heritage.org.

Baylor University School of Education honors Katy student with outstanding student award for middle grades education

The Baylor University School of Education has honored Savannah Webster, a 2018 graduate of Faith West Academy, with the 2023 Award for Outstanding Student in Middle Grades Education from Baylor School of Education.

Webster graduated from Baylor University with a BSEd in middle grades mathemat-



Savannah Webster

ics and a minor in recreational ministry. She is the daughter of Laney Webster and Jason Webster of Katy.

During her senior year at Baylor, she was a student teaching intern in the seventh-grade mathematics classroom of Austin McClinton, Baylor BSEd SOE graduate of 2016 and current Baylor student in the MA in School Leadership, at Midway Middle School in Midway ISD.

This fall Webster will be teaching algebra and coaching varsity basketball and junior varsity volleyball at Vail Christian High School in Vail, Colo., while serving as a full-time staff member of Young Life.

Webster said she chose education because students need someone they can go to when they need encouragement, support, and care.

"God has totally given me a passion for teaching and coaching," Webster said. "I had so many great teachers and mentors in high school, and I hope to be someone that my own students look up to one day. I want to create an environment where my students feel safe and loved so that they are put in the best position to learn and grow."

Mentor teacher Austin McClinton said, "Mentoring Savannah has been the most rewarding experience of my career. She is never afraid to step out and try something new, continuously looks for ways to improve, and naturally takes on leadership responsibilities. Savannah has a huge heart and pours into her students each and every day. It's obvious watching her that she's living out her purpose and making a tremendous impact on kids' lives that are fortunate enough to be under her care."

Webster's Baylor intern supervisor, clinical professor Dr. Rachele Rogers, said Webster shows "pure joy" and excitement when learning instructional strategies that will help engage and challenge her students.

"Savannah is not satisfied until each student experiences success," Rogers said. "She has often talked with me about struggling students and sought out new strategies to support their learning. While Savannah is an outstanding educator, her desire and ability to form relationships with her students are also exceptional. She has spent countless hours coaching and attending students' extra-curricular events. Savannah has and will continue to impact many lives."

While a student at Baylor, Webster was a member of Chi Omega and served as the intramural chair. In addition to teaching at Midway Middle School, she also coached volleyball and basketball there.

Student from Katy earns Honor Roll spot at McPherson College

Kassidy Weaver, a student from Katy, has made the spring 2023 Honor Roll at McPherson College, a four-year private college located in central Kansas.

Students must be enrolled full-time and earn a grade point average of 3.55 or higher during the last term to qualify for the honor roll. Students earning a grade point average of 3.25 to 3.54 are named to the honorable mention.

McPherson College offers more than 20 bachelor and pre-professional programs with a curriculum emphasizing entrepreneurship and career-focused education. It was ranked this year by U.S. News & World Report on its "Best Colleges" list and recognized for the eighth year in a row as a "Great College to Work For" in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



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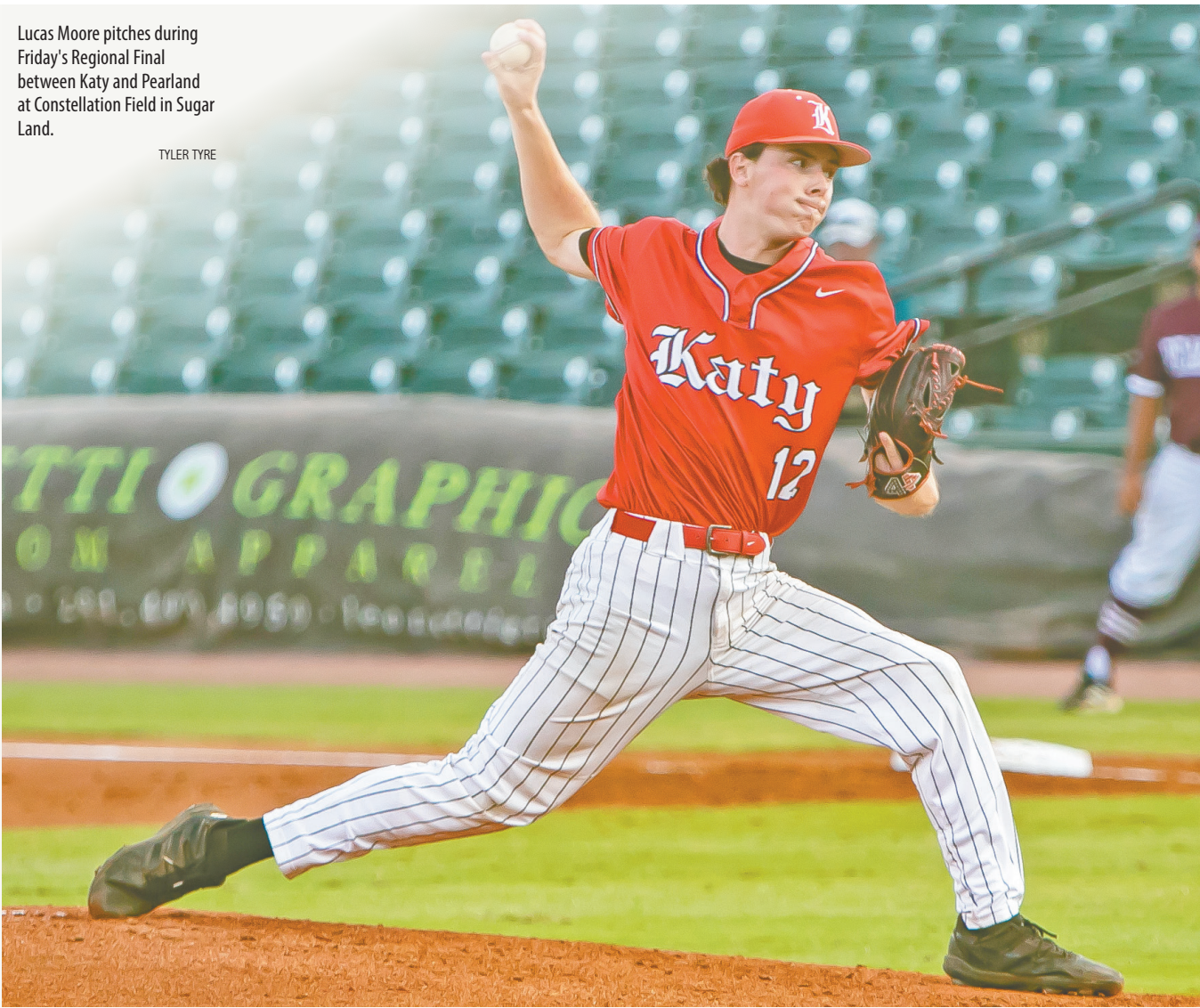
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Lucas Moore pitches during Friday's Regional Final between Katy and Pearland at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

TYLER TYRE



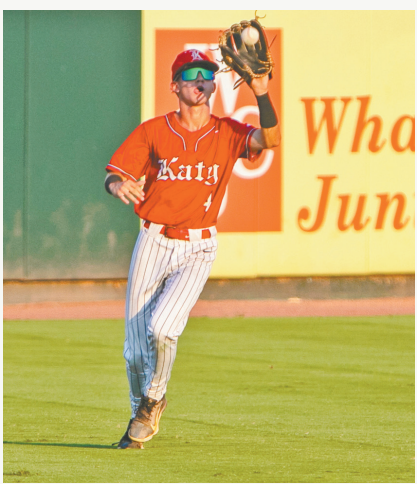
HISTORIC KATY SEASON ENDS IN REGIONAL FINAL

Katy drops game one of regional final to Pearland

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy couldn't get anything going on Thursday. For the first time these playoffs, the Tigers couldn't bounce back in a game, as they managed just two hits in a 7-0 loss to Pearland in game one of the Class 6A Region III Finals. "The positive is that this happened this week and not next week," said Katy head coach Wes Hearne. "We have a chance to come back from this one but next week it's one and done. The biggest

See **GAME 1**, page B3



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Andrew Hilton catches a fly ball during Friday's Regional Final between Katy and Pearland at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Graham Laxton makes a throw to first base during Friday's Regional Final between Katy and Pearland at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

Game 2: Tigers fall to Pearland

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy is inches away. Inches away from a game three. Inches away from keeping their state tournament hopes alive and inches away from finding a way into extra innings against Pearland. The Tigers took Pearland to the very last out in game two of their regional final series, but in the end, a bloop and an error with two outs in the seventh inning ended Katy's season, as the Tigers fell 2-1 to the Oilers and Katy came up two games short of a state appearance. "We're one bloop away from still

playing. All the way until the last out of the game they gave everything," Katy head coach Wes Hearne said. "Even in the end we have three guys converging on the ball and all three of them completely sold out. Right to the very end they're leaving their feet and doing everything possible to make a play. It just wasn't meant to be tonight, but I am so proud of them."

Lucas Moore did a tremendous job on the mound, getting through a strong Pearland order. The Oilers scored a run in the third inning, getting a leadoff triple and then an RBI

See **GAME 2**, page B3

Katy pitching staff led the way in deep postseason run

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy's pitching staff embraced any role they were put in this season. From staying in the moment to taking on different roles and allowing others to step up, every pitcher on the Katy staff stepped up in the playoffs and it's a huge reason why the Tigers reached the regional final.

"This staff is special in that they are extremely unselfish and they play for each other," said Katy head coach Wes Hearne. "They want to win and so they're doing whatever it takes. Lucas (Moore) has found his stuff and he's been great the past two weeks, Caleb (Koger) has been a rock for us all season, Cole (Kaase) has embraced being our closer or coming in wherever we need him and he's done a fantastic job. And the young arms we have, every single one of them has been huge for us."

"We've got a lot of arms with a lot of talent. The great thing is that we aren't limited in any way, I can lead on any of those guys in any situation. I am confident in their ability to do their job and get us out of tough spots."

—WES HEARNE
Katy head coach

Over the course of Katy's first eight playoff games, the Tigers gave up just 18 runs, giving up barely over two runs per game while holding teams to three runs or less in all but one game over the course of its run, including three shutouts.

And the success came from everyone on the pitching staff. The Tigers' senior trio shut down every team they faced. In Koger's first four starts the playoffs he gave up two runs, Moore bounced back from a tough outing in the bi-district round and was very solid over his next four appearances while Kaase made an impact both as a starter and a reliever over the course of the playoffs.

"We've got a lot of arms with a lot of talent," Hearne said. "The great thing is that we aren't limited in any way, I can lead on any of those guys in any situation. I am confident in their ability to do their job and get us out of tough spots."

See **PITCHING**, page B3



COURTESY INSTAGRAM:@LOUIES.PICS

Lucas Moore pitches during a Regional Semifinal between Katy and Clear Springs at Langham Creek.

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University of Houston's season ends in AAC semifinals

STAFF REPORT

The Houston baseball team split a doubleheader with Tulane in the semi-finals of the American Athletic Conference Tournament at BayCare Ballpark, as the Cougars' season came to an end with a game two loss to Tulane in the ACC Semifinals.

With the loss in the second game to the Green Wave, the Cougars were officially eliminated from the tournament.

The Cougars finished the year with a 36-23 record, it is the fourth straight season they will miss the NCAA Tournament.

GAME ONE

Each time the Green Wave (16-40) scored, the Cougars (36-22) responded with at least one run and took the lead in the bottom of the fifth inning on a Zach Arnold solo home run and a Tulane fielding error that scored junior utility player Justin Murray.

In the sixth, graduate transfer Drew Bianco homered and Murray added an RBI single to push the lead to three. Brennan Lambert hit a 2-run home run in the seventh to pull Tulane within one, but that was as close as the Green Wave would get, as junior reliever Brendan O'Donnell came on for a 7-out save.

Senior outfielder Brandon Uhse recorded three hits and scored three times for the Cougars, while Lambert had three hits and drove in three for Tulane.

Sophomore pitcher Kyle Ayers (4-1) took the win for the Cougars,



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

The University of Houston's season ended in the semifinals of the AAC Tournament with a loss to Tulane.

while Ricky Castro (4-6) suffered the defeat for the Green Wave.

GAME TWO

Teo Banks hit a pair of home runs for Tulane and finished 3-for-

5 with six RBI. The Green Wave scored five in the third to break open the game. The Cougars (36-23) pulled within two at 6-4, but Tulane scored three in the top of the seventh and added two insurance runs in the eighth.

Four Green Wave players scored multiple runs, including Banks and Gavin Schulz, who scored three times each.

Murray hit two home runs for Houston, going 4-for-5, while also pitching three scoreless innings

from the mound.

Michael Fowler (1-3) earned the win for the Green Wave, allowing one run with six strikeouts in 2.2 innings of work. Sophomore relief pitcher Dan Wright (2-3) took the loss for the Cougars.



Far left: University of Texas pitcher Hailey Dolcini pitches during a game last year. Left: Citlaly Gutierrez and Texas lost back-to-back games at Tennessee to see their season come to an end in the Super Regionals.

PHOTOS COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ATHLETICS

Texas' season ends in Super Regionals

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The Texas softball season came to an end in the Super Regionals on Saturday after the Longhorns dropped their second-straight game to Tennessee.

Texas battled late but fell 5-2 in Game 1 of the best-of-three series on Friday before struggling to get the offense going in a 9-0 loss in Game 2 on Saturday.

"It's always tough to finish the year out, especially when we let ourselves down a little bit there with five errors and nine runs allowed," Texas head coach Mike White said. "That's just a tough way to finish it. You just aren't going to win too many games with only two hits."

Texas finishes the year 45-15-1 overall and finished

second in the Big 12 with an 11-7 conference record.

The Longhorns advanced to the Big 12 Tournament title game and dominated the Austin Regional, throwing a no-hitter to open the tournament against Seton Hall and beating Texas A&M in back-to-back games to advance to the Super Regionals for the fourth time in four years.

"We have a lot of work to do, but I feel confident and proud of our team," White said. "We have a really good group of young women and we have a lot to build on and this season was just a start for us."

In the first game of the series, Tennessee jumped out to an early lead after a four-run second inning. Bella Drayton drove in a run in the third for Texas, and Ashton Maloney added

another run with a sac fly for Texas in the sixth.

On Saturday, Texas held Tennessee — the No. 2 scoring offense in the country — to just one run through five innings. But the Volunteers scored eight runs in the final two innings to end the Longhorns' season.

Citlaly Gutierrez gave up just four hits and allowed three runs (two unearned) with two strikeouts in 5.2 innings. Vanessa Quiroga and Camille Corona picked up the only two hits of the game for Texas.

"We have to use this weekend as motivation for next season and just keep on building on what we have," Gutierrez said. "We have a lot of young talent, so I think over the coming years, we are going to have something special."



The Katy Times will be closed on
Tuesday, July 4, 2023
in observance of Independence Day.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **July 6 edition** is **3 p.m.** on **Thursday, June 29.**

Have a safe and happy holiday from The Katy Times staff!

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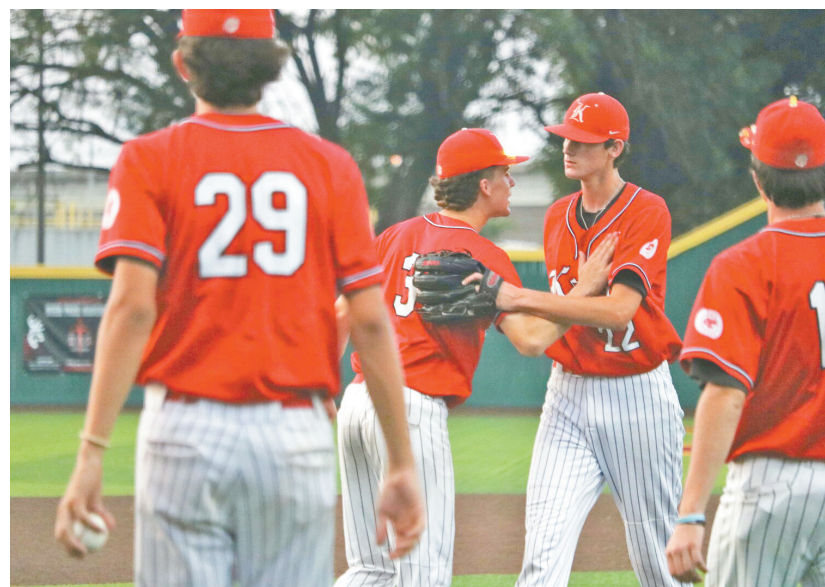
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Cole Kaase celebrates with Cade Nelson after an inning during a Regional Semifinal between Katy and Clear Springs at Deer Park.

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TYLER TYRE

Caleb Koger congratulates Cade Nelson after an inning during a Regional Semifinal between Katy and Clear Springs at Deer Park.

PITCHING

from page B1

It wasn't limited to Katy's seniors though, as the Katy underclassman made their mark. Cade Nelson, Aaron Brashear, Aiden Barrientes and Connor Udland, all sophomores, made winning impacts out of the bullpen during the playoffs.

Nelson became the breakout star for Katy during the playoffs; the sophomore excelled in a number of tough situations he has been put in. Going into the regional final, Nelson had four relief appearances where he allowed no runs and just one hit over 7.2 innings while striking out 13 batters, becoming a weapon for the Tigers any time they need to go to the bullpen.

"He's been phenomenal for us," Koger said. "Every time he comes in he steps up. He has such good stuff and he throws heat. None of us can

say enough about Cade."

That bolstered Katy's confidence all the way to the end and gave them courage and hope even after a setback in game one against Pearland, though Katy's season would end after a game two loss.

"Everyone on this pitching staff is a stud," Moore said. "We have seven or eight guys who can all really throw the ball and every single one of them can be trusted with it. It doesn't matter what situation we're put in, we have the pitching to win it. If someone steals a game off of us we know that our pitching is going to step up and take the next one and we'll take any game three that comes around. Any one of us can play any role, we have seven dudes and we just know whoever is up there is going to make it happen."

GAME 2

from page B1

single from Jace Caceres, but Moore limited the damage, escaping having a runner on third with one out to keep the Tigers close.

Katy's offense made solid contact in the early innings but wasn't able to get a run until they finally broke through in the fifth. Andrew Hilton hit a double to lead off and was sacrificed over by Reese Ruderman. Pearland then made an error in the field, as Anthony Avalos couldn't field a grounder from Nayden Ramirez which allowed Hilton to come home and tie the game.

"These guys are my family," Moore said. "All of us, we're all each other's family. It was unfortunate at the end, but you couldn't ask for more from any of these guys. We got here to round five, we gave it everything we had and we had an absolutely phenomenal year. I love these guys."

Moore continued his phenomenal pitching all the way into the bottom of the seventh inning, when he was finally pulled with runners on first and second with no

outs. Moore allowed just one earned run on three hits through six innings while striking out one and walking one.

Cade Nelson came on in relief and nearly escaped the jam, getting two pop outs. But Pearland won it when Brett Smajstrla hit a fly ball into shallow center field that the Katy second baseman, shortstop and centerfielder all converged on and nearly made a play on before it glanced off of Josh Dunayvzan's glove and allowed the winning run to score.

While the season may have ended for the Tigers, it was still a huge success where they earned their first

regional final appearance since 2006, and Moore knows that the underclassman will continue to build on the tremendous season.

"We've set the bar really high, but they can be just as good," Moore said. "As good as we were, they can be just as good. They already have the commitments, the talent and the arms. They're going to be really good. It's big shoes to fill but they've set themselves up for success."

"(The underclassmen are) going to be really good. It's big shoes to fill but they've set themselves up for success."

—LUCAS MOORE



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Graham Laxton tags out a runner during Friday's Regional Final between Katy and Pearland at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

GAME 1

from page B1

thing for us is we have to come back out tomorrow swinging. We haven't had our backs to the wall all post-season so now we get to see how we can respond."

It was a pitchers battle early in the game. Caleb Koger got through the first three innings of the game without any trouble and Pearland's Nico Partida worked around a bases loaded jam in the second inning as neither team got on the board in the early innings.

The game turned in Pearland's favor in the fourth inning. After

a ground out the Oilers got two runners on with walks and both came around to score on an Isaiah Castaneda single. The Oilers got a third from a sacrifice bunt before Brett Smajstrla drove in another with two outs to give the Oilers a four-run lead.

Katy went to its bullpen to start the fifth, but it came with struggles. Pearland loaded the bases again and got a run from a wild pitch, but Arvey Huerta limited the damage by getting a strikeout and a double play to end the inning. Pearland

added runs in both the sixth and seventh innings to seal the game.

Katy wasn't ever able to get the bats going after the second inning. The Tigers weren't able to get a runner in scoring position over the final five innings as Katy wasn't able to mount a comeback.

"Their guy hit his spots really well and pitched a good game," Hearne said. "He didn't really keep us off balance, but he was able to pitch exactly where he wanted to. We put the ball in play but just weren't able to put many barrels on it."



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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's On-Premise Permit (BG) by Toyama LLC dba Toyama, to be located at 1433 FM 1463 RD Suite 600, Katy, Fort Bend County, Texas. The owner of said corporation is Mu He and Xin Zhao.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ROYAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT is requesting proposals for RFQ 001-2023 for Architectural Services for the 2023 Bond Projects at Royal ISD. Proposals will be Hand Delivered to Royal ISD, Attn: Bids and Proposals, 3714 FM 359, Pattison, Texas 77466, OR Mailed to Royal ISD, Attn: Bids and Proposals, PO Box 489, Pattison, TX 77466, until 1:00 PM, Friday, June 23, 2023. RFQ documents may be obtained by emailing cginn@royal-isd.net

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to City of Pattison for construction of the City Hall Renovations, LJA Job No. 1817-0001, will be received at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, until 3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 29, 2023, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

Scope of Work includes but is not limited to the demolition of existing walls, electrical, and plumbing and construction of new walls, flooring, electrical, and plumbing inside the existing City Hall

Bidding Documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or at <https://www.civcastusa.com/>.

City of Pattison will hold a non-mandatory pre-bid conference at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 8, 2023. An additional non-mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 13, 2023. No additional site visits to City Hall will be granted outside of the two pre-bids. City of Pattison reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Successful Bidder, if any, is the Bidder offering the best value for the Owner based on the published criteria provided in the bid documents and on its evaluation. (Texas Local Government Code 252.043 and 271.116)

Bid security in the form of bid bond or cashier's check payable to City of Pattison in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid submitted, must accompany each Bid.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract and bidder/contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the bidder/contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

Bidder/Contractor declares that it has not received from a governmental body a notice of noncompliance with a provision of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Texas Government Code, or, if such notice has been received, bidder/contractor has taken adequate steps to ensure future compliance with such subchapter and has provided or upon request will provide documentation of same.

Dates of Advertisement: 06/01/23; 06/08/23

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT TO REVISE A SUBDIVISION PLAT FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

APPLICATION: Jackie Fox Noland, William Walker Reynolds IV, and Amy Fox Reynolds also known as Amy Lynn Fox, are requesting to be allowed to revise Tracts 26 and 27, of INDIAN OAKS ESTATES. The revision will reconfigure Tracts 26 and 27 of INDIAN OAKS ESTATES but keep them as two separate tracts. These newly configured tracts would consist of 2 residential lots or tracts. INDIAN OAKS ESTATES is situated in the Samuel Hady Survey, Abstract 31, Waller County, Texas recorded in Volume 219, Page 56, in the Deed Records of Waller County, Texas. This replat request, if approved, will only revise the applicants' property.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on **July 12, 2023**, at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin St., Hempstead, Texas, 77445.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **IH 10 Water & Wastewater Extension Project, until 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, 2023.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

This project involves the installation of approximately 1,140 LF of 12" Sanitary Sewer line and 1,200 LF of 12" Water line that will cross Interstate 10 in Katy. Bids shall include all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required to complete this project.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:

- Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the City of Katy.
- Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. local time via Zoom.us.** Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY.**

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81906424168>
Meeting ID: 819 0642 4168
Dial In: 1-346-248-7799 US (Houston)

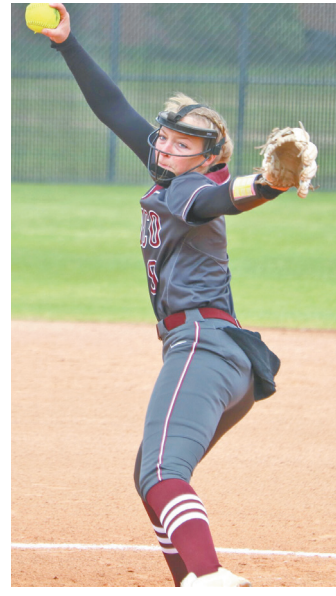
A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents.

First Publication: 6-8-2023
Second Publication: 6-15-2023

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PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

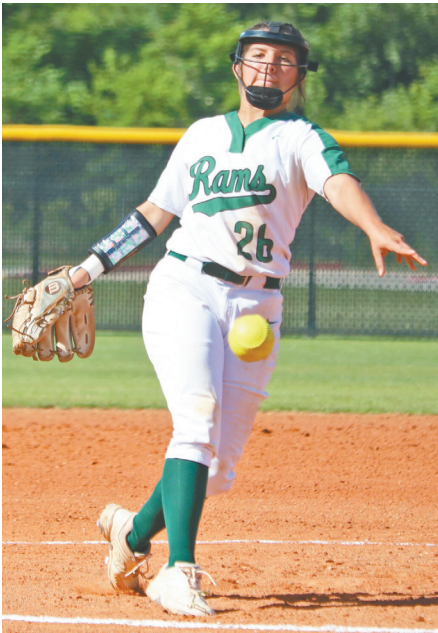
Above: Chela Kovar pitches during a bi-district round game between Cinco Ranch and Fort Bend Travis at the Cinco Ranch softball field. Left: Cameryn Harrison pitches during an Area Round game between Katy and Bellaire at the Katy softball field.



COURTESY KATY ISD

Mayde Creek's Jill Voss was named the District 19-6A coach of the year.

Harrison named District MVP for the second straight season



Alyssa Gonzalez pitches during a District 19-6A game between Cinco Ranch and Mayde Creek at the Mayde Creek softball field.

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cameryn Harrison was named the District 19-6A MVP for the second straight year after leading Katy to another district title and an area round appearance.

Harrison, Katy's ace and one of the teams top hitters, led the way for Katy on the season, as the Tigers finished with a 31-6 record, including going 15-1 in district play. Katy freshman catcher Maddie Smith joined Harrison on the superlative list by being named district newcomer of the year.

Faith Piper was named the defensive player of the year in the district after a strong year at short stop for Cinco Ranch, which she also led off for. The Cougars finished the year second in district and also made it to the area round. Cinco Ranch finished the season 21-11 and 12-4 in district play. Mayde Creek's Alexia Ruiz was named the offensive player of the year in the district after being a big part in the Rams' bounce back season. Mayde Creek narrowly missed out of the



Faith Piper throws to first after making a diving stop during a District 19-6A game between Cinco Ranch and Mayde Creek at the Mayde Creek softball field.



Maddie Smith hits during an Area Round game between Katy and Bellaire at the Katy softball field.

ALL-DISTRICT 19-6A SOFTBALL

District MVP Cameryn Harrison, Katy	
Defensive Player of the Year	Offensive Player of the Year
Faith Piper, Cinco Ranch	Alexia Ruiz, Mayde Creek
Newcomer	19-6A Coach of the Year
Maddie Smith, Katy	Jill Voss, Mayde Creek

playoffs, with a 7-7 district record. Mayde Creek's Jill Voss was named the district's coach of the year for her effort leading the Rams.

Cinco's Chela Kovar and Mayde Creek's Alyssa Gonzalez took home first team pitcher honors in the district for their efforts while Katy, Cinco Ranch and Tompkins led the way on the first team with four overall selections each.

At right is the full All-District 19-6A softball team.

1st TEAM PITCHERS

Name	Grade	School
Alyssa Gonzalez	12th	Mayde Creek
Chela Kovar	12th	Cinco Ranch

1st TEAM INFIELD

Eva Tyler	9th	Mayde Creek
Haley Gore	10th	Katy
Kaitlyn Flores	11th	Mayde Creek
Katherine Brunner	12th	Taylor
Madeline Williams	12th	Jordan
Madison Royse	9th	Cinco Ranch
Montgomery Henderson	10th	Katy
Morgan Brown	12th	Tompkins
Payton Watson	12th	Katy
Peyton Ebel	9th	Tompkins
Samantha Guillory	12th	Paetow
Savannah Henningson	11th	Cinco Ranch

1st TEAM OUTFIELD

Ashtyn Reichardt	11th	Katy
Kendall Bregenzer	12th	Cinco Ranch
Madison Rosario	11th	Cinco Ranch
Meagan Brown	12th	Tompkins
Tayden Alexander	12th	Tompkins

1st TEAM UTILITY

Ella Kate Smith	9th	Katy
Ryan McIntosh	9th	Jordan

2nd TEAM PITCHERS

Amy Abke	12th	Seven Lakes
Ariana Hughes	10th	Taylor
Lauren Soeken	10th	Katy

2nd TEAM INFIELD

Amanda Croteau	12th	Cinco Ranch
Cady Bowyer	12th	Jordan
Debanhi Carrizales	12th	Mayde Creek
Dulce Franco	10th	Seven Lakes
Emma Wingate	12th	Seven Lakes
Gissel Morales	12th	Cinco Ranch
Michelle Meeks	11th	Morton Ranch
Samantha Crumin	11th	Tompkins

2nd TEAM OUTFIELD

Brooke Fechner	10th	Katy
Izzy Allen	11th	Taylor
Kima Sepic	9th	Mayde Creek
Leah Gershman	10th	Tompkins
Michelle Taboada	11th	Seven Lakes
Sarah Petree	10th	Seven Lakes
Sophie Hassell	10th	Cinco Ranch

2nd TEAM UTILITY

Kaelyn Lerma	10th	Taylor
Kaley Garland	9th	Seven Lakes
Jade Catherwood	12th	Paetow
Jiselle Lopez	11th	Morton Ranch

HONORABLE MENTION

Alicia Briones	12th	Paetow
Aislyn Duhon	10th	Jordan
Aneesa Ocanas	10th	Mayde Creek
Ashley Abel	12th	Seven Lakes
Avery Porter	10th	Katy
Avery Rodriguez	9th	Tompkins
Bethany Fan	10th	Taylor
Emily Johnson	12th	Seven Lakes
Julissa Aquino	9th	Mayde Creek
Katie Schmidt-Pena	11th	Cinco Ranch
Madison Burciaga	12th	Morton Ranch
Makenna Holloway	12th	Taylor
Paige Bunting	12th	Katy
Samantha Vitols	12th	Mayde Creek
Tessa Woods	12th	Taylor

2023 ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

Katy High School Paige Bunting 12 Paige Schultz 11 Avery Porter 10 Ashtyn Reichardt 11 Emma Sheedy 12 Ella Kate Smith 9 Maddie Smith 9 Jordyn Foster 12	Mayde Creek High School Alyssa Gonzalez-12 Marissa Ramirez-11 Alexia Ruiz-10 Samantha Vitols 12 Kima Sepic-9th Kaci Cardona-10th Julissa Aquino-9th
Seven Lakes High School Ashley Abel/SLHS/12 Amy Abke/SLHS/12 Ella Greathouse/SLHS/9 Emily Johnson/SLHS/12 Olivia Martinez/SLHS/12 Valeria Morales/SLHS/11 Michelle Taboada/SLHS/11 Haley Welch/SLHS/11 Cielle Whittaker/SLHS/10 Emma Wingate/SLHS/12	Jordan High School Megan Anton/ 12 Cady Bowyer/12 Halle Brazan/ 11 Aislyn Duhon/10 Madeline Jovanovic 9 Bella Leccese/ 10 Addison Marshall/ 10 Madeline Williams/ 12
Morton Ranch High School Madison Burciaga/MRHS/ 12 Michelle Meeks/ MRHS/11 Jiselle Lopez/MRHS/11 Iliana Sifuentes/MRHS/ 12	Taylor High School Izzy Allen 11 Katherine Brunner 12 Bethany Fan 10 Taylor Gray 11 Makenna Holloway 12 Ariana Hughes 10 Kenna Irvin 10 Meredith Saurage 12 Katelyn Wentzler 10 Tessa Woods 12 Sophia Ybanez 10
Tompkins High School Tayden Alexander/OTHS/12 Meagan Brown/OTHS/12 Sam Crumin/OTHS/11 Peyton Ebel/ OTHS/9 Leah Gershman/OTHS/10 Cami Hearn/OTHS/10	Paetow High School Jade Catherwood-12 Samantha Guillory-12 Madison Mitchell-12 Alanna Winters-12 Alicia Briones-11 Mia Galarza-11 Shy'lynn Brown-10 Abigail Martinak-10 Makayla Staten 10 Amanda Vasquez-9 Leilani Perez-9.
Cinco Ranch High School Amanda Croteau 12th Chela Kovar 12th Madison Royse 9th Kendall Bregenzer 12th Emma Schoeneberg 10th Madison Rosario 11th Faith Piper 11th Gissel Morales 12th Sophie Hassall 10th Savannah Henningson 11th Aubrey Ramirez 9th Bailey Hockett 11th	

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Katy Times

Shead withdraws from NBA draft, will return to Houston

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jamal Shead, the University of Houston point guard, announced last week that he would withdraw his name from the NBA draft and return to the Cougars for his senior season.

Shead pulled his name a day before the deadline where players have to choose to stay in or withdraw from the draft. He comes off a season where he averaged 10.5 points, 4.5 assists and 1.7 steals per game while leading the American

"This chapter has pages left to be written."

—JAMAL SHEAD, University of Houston point guard

Athletic Conference in assists for the second season in a row and helping the Cougars reach the Sweet 16.

He will come back to a strong front three that will help Shead thrive. Houston has added two high scoring transfers this spring in Morton Ranch graduate and former Baylor Bear LJ Cryer and Damian

Dunn, who transferred after two strong years at Temple.

"When writing your own story, don't let anyone else hold the pen," Shead posted to Twitter. "I will be withdrawing my name from the NBA Draft to return to Houston. This chapter has pages left to be written."

Houston Cougars guard Jamal Shead (1) talks with head coach Kelvin Sampson during an NCAA men's basketball game between Houston and Wichita State on Jan. 8, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN



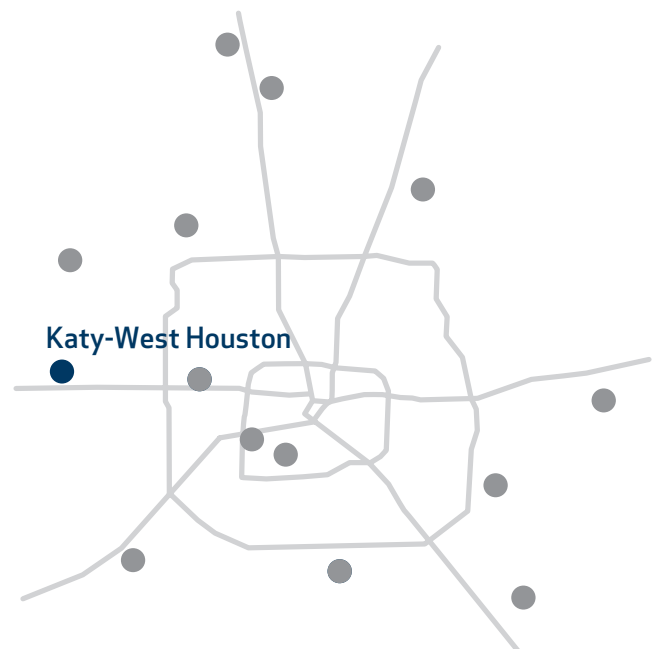
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