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# Katy Times

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THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

## AI in Katy

Student describes its use in preparing writing assignments

*This article is the second of a series.*

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Years ago, when he was in middle school, Rutva Gupta was part of several student groups that revolved around writing. Today, Gupta is preparing for his senior year at Tompkins High School. He said he wanted to study either engineering or business, and he's considering Rice University, the University of Texas at Austin, and Texas A&M University, among other colleges.

Artificial intelligence is and will be a part of how he does his classwork to get him there.

"Basically, this past year we've seen the release of ChatGPT, and at our school — that's when this discussion of AI really became this real thing," Gupta said. "In the past, we've seen AI support the theory in the metaverse and things like that. But we never really took it seriously, and so people started using AI so prolifically with applications like ChatGPT. That's where I was also introduced to the world of AI."

See **AI**, page A3

## AI is here to stay

**Editor's note:** Rutva Gupta wrote the following essay using ChatGPT as an example of how artificial intelligence can be used in writing.

BY RUTVA GUPTA  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

For centuries, writing has been a continual venue for the expression of thought and knowledge, where the sole idea of a story rested upon the shoulders of a single author. Yet recently, the transcendence of our modern society was marked by the introduction of newer technologies—essentially a revolution in how we think. Thus, a second party has entered the realm of creativity: Artificial Intelligence (AI).

So what does the introduction of AI generally mean for writers today?

To answer this question we need to understand how AI works, and when considering writing, it is also important to consider the analogous effects of AI on art. Introducing AI to the art world has sparked controversy about how it would impact artists, with ethical concerns stemming from AI-produced artworks. "For instance, text-to-image AI generators like Midjourney and DALL-E 2 use images available in the public domain" (Garbarine, 2023), showing how many machine learning algorithms and generated art content stem from preexisting works online. Ultimately, in this regard, AI works to hurt artists who spend countless hours perfecting their craft, as they now have to compete with a machine that can generate art of the same quality in seconds. However, proponents of AI describe the positive impact that it would play on art and creativity, showing how entire arrays of genres with countless art pieces can be made. Creativity can be redefined to incorporate artists and AI alike, who can come together to form new ideas of expression. Ultimately, advocates of AI regard it as a node

See **ESSAY**, page A3

## Training for an unwanted scenario

Katy ISD, law enforcement agencies stage active shooter exercise

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

An active shooter scenario, particularly at a school with classes in session, is something nobody wants to see or experience. But such scenarios have happened, and law enforcement agencies conduct training exercises to deal with them.

Katy ISD Police, working with local, state and federal agencies, performed such a training exercise June 5 at Tompkins High School, 4400 Falcon Landing Blvd.

Katy ISD Police Chief Henry Gaw

See **TRAINING**, page A3



Fort Bend County sheriff's deputies enter Tompkins High School as part of an active shooter exercise staged June 5 at Tompkins High School, 4400 Falcon Landing Blvd.

KATY ISD



Jonel Sawyer of Harris County ESD 48 serves as a prop while perspective young firefighters secure her to a board.

GEORGE SLAUGHTER

## Camp Spark offers girls a glimpse of what it takes to become a firefighter

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Teamwork is important in being a firefighter. Jonel Sawyer can set one straight on that point—literally.

Sawyer is a battalion chief for Harris County ESD 48. She, along with firefighters from the district and

other entities, served as instructors at Camp Spark, a three-day camp that introduces girls ages 14-18 to the firefighting and EMT professions. Through classes and simulations, the girls can see for themselves what being a first responder is all about and think about pursuing it as a career.

The three-day camp was held June 6-8 at Hayes Elementary, 21203 Park Timbers Lane.

Back to Sawyer. In the camp she served as a prop, lying on a wooden board used to transport victims to an ambulance. The students tied her

See **SPARK**, page A3

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## Area Juneteenth celebrations scheduled

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy area celebrations are in the works for Juneteenth, the federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

Juneteenth has been observed for over a century, starting in Texas. While President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, Texans got the message after the war's end in 1865.

According to the Handbook of Texas Online, published by the Texas State Historical Association, U.S. Army Gen. Gordon Granger announced General Order No. 3, in which all slaves were declared free, on June 19, 1865 in Galveston. Local celebrations began that day, and soon they were happening across Texas, and eventually, the United States.

Juneteenth became a state holiday in 1979 and a federal holiday in 2021. Area Juneteenth ac-

tivities begin Friday in Brookshire and conclude Monday in Katy.

### Brookshire two-day celebration begins Friday

The City of Brookshire will be hosting a two-day Juneteenth celebration. The festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday with a dinner, gospel extravaganza and award ceremony at the Brookshire Convention Center, 4027 5th St. in Brookshire. Several local citizens will be honored for their community service at the dinner.

On Saturday, the city will celebrate with a Juneteenth parade, the assembly for which begins at 10 a.m. the Brookshire Police Department, address on U.S. 90. The parade itself begins at 11 a.m.

Saturday's festivities include a free family fun day from 12 p.m.-10 p.m. at the pavilion across the street from the Brookshire Municipal Building and convention center. The event will feature vendors, local disc jockeys and a kids' zone. The Brown Sugar Band

will perform from 1-3 p.m.

The event will also feature a barbecue cookoff and a domino tournament. For information about the barbecue cookoff, call 832-851-4282. For more information about the domino tournament, call 713-377-3217.

As part of the celebrations, a basketball tournament is set for the Hangar Unity Center, 4010 4th St. in Brookshire. For more information about the basketball tournament, call 346-304-8024.

### Volunteers sought for former slave cemetery cleanup Saturday in Kendleton

After discovering severe degradation of at least 20 tombstones of former slaves in Fort Bend County's Bates Allen Park, a group of volunteers has begun cleaning the tombstones and removing brush that restricts access to the gravesites.

Volunteers are encouraged to join the continuing cleanup effort, which begins at 8:30 a.m.

and is expected to end no later than 11:30 a.m. Saturday. The cleanup will be at Bates Allen Park, which is the site for the historic Newman Chapel Cemetery and Oak Hill Cemetery. The park is at 630 Charlie Roberts Lane in Kendleton.

Tools to cut brush will be provided, but chain saws, loppers/pruning tools, weed cutters are welcome. Water, kolaches, donuts, sunscreen and bug spray will be provided.

RSVPs are requested by Friday and can be made by visiting the website [signupgenius.com/go/10c084caea629a7f4c34-juneteenth](http://signupgenius.com/go/10c084caea629a7f4c34-juneteenth).

### Katy to hold parade, festival Monday

While Juneteenth has been observed since the mid-19th century, Katy will hold its first Juneteenth parade and festival Monday.

See **JUNETEENTH**, page A2

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Construction starts on Cross Creek Ranch fire station

The Fort Bend County Emergency Services District #4 has started construction of a permanent fire station within Cross Creek Ranch.

Located along West Cross Creek Bend north of Morgan Spur Road adjacent to Chrysalis Preschool, the 9,715-square-foot facility will have two bays and will house an engine company that is staffed with four firefighters/EMTs around the clock. Estimated to cost \$6,746,432, the station is expected to be complete in June 2024. Johnson Development donated the land for the fire station.

"This, of course, is a great benefit to the thousands of people who make their home here in Cross Creek Ranch, but also to the region," Rob Bamford, senior vice president and Cross Creek Ranch general manager, said.

The station will have six dorm rooms and three bathrooms. It will also have four pantries located near the kitchen, giving each shift their own pantry. The kitchen will be open to the living room and dining room. There will also be a strength and conditioning room. Rainwater will be collected for irrigation.

"This station is esthetically pleasing to the community and will blend in very nicely," Gilbert "Herc" Meier, Jr., fire chief, said. "The fire station will be built to the standard that the department has set in place which includes a state-of-the-art alerting system for our fire fighters, a patio where they can congregate and get fresh air along with a strength and conditioning room where they can focus on physical fitness. Most importantly, this great location allows us to take care of the Cross Creek Residents quickly. We are excited to be a part of the neighborhood. We hope you never need us, but we are here if you do."

Martinez Architects designed the station. Bass Construction, which is based in Rosenberg, is building the facility.

The district opened a temporary fire station in Cross Creek Ranch in January 2022.

"We are excited that we will be in our permanent home in the neighborhood soon," Meier said.



Helping break ground on a permanent fire station in Cross Creek Ranch are, from left, Fire Chief Gilbert "Herc" Meier, Jr., Brandi Crone, Jacob Rice, Ricardo Martinez, Daniel McClunkin, Robert Pechukas, Tommy Kuykendall, Fort Bend County Pct. 1 Commissioner Vincent Morales, Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 4 Board President Ed Krenek, Kim Stacy, Bob Bass and Buck Bass.

CROSS CREEK RANCH

Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 4 DBA Ful-shear Simonton Fire Department covers 106 square miles with an estimated population of 77,000 residents. The district serves the cities of Ful-shear, Simonton, Weston Lakes and outlying areas of Katy and Richmond.

### Dig World expands Father's Day weekend, summer hours

Dig World, a construction-themed adventure park at Katy Mills Mall, said it was expanding its hours for the summer months. Starting June 1, Dig World hours are:

- Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Fridays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sundays from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information, call the park at digworldtx.com.

### Fort Bend County Fair Summer Night Gala set for June 24

The first-ever Fort Bend County Fair Summer Night Gala is set for June 24 in building C at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Highway 36 South in Rosenberg.

The Fort Bend County Fair's BBQ committee is organizing and hosting the event, which will benefit the scholarship foundation and financially assist all four auctions during the fair.

"We are thrilled to have an event like this that allows us to raise money but to also introduce ourselves," Jennifer Williams, 2023 Fort Bend County Fair president, said. "Our mission is always helping the youth of Fort Bend County."

The Summer Night Gala will feature music by The Emotions. The band has been a stronghold providing entertainment in Texas. The night includes a steak dinner, live auction, bucket drawings, and a wine pull. Texas formal attire will be the vibe for the evening.

VIP tables are \$800, reserved tables are \$500, and individual tickets are \$75, and are on sale now. VIP tables include seating for eight, a steak dinner, beer, wine and mixers, a food and beverage server and several swag appreciation items. Tickets must be purchased before June 18. No tickets will be sold at the door.

The 2023 Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo is from Sept. 29-Oct. 8, with the BBQ cookoff on Sept. 22-23.

During the fair's 10-day run, a replacement heifer sale, school art project auction, junior livestock auction, and freezer sale are held. These activities enable students to earn money for their education and future livestock projects.

For more information, visit the website fortbendcountyfair.com or call the fair office at 281-342-6171.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

## STUDENTS SELLING RICE BAGS



RORY ROBERTSON

Lone Star Ricebags is a student-run business that makes and sells handmade, microwaveable rice bags that can treat aches, cramps and pains. Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson serves as advisor to the students. The students, along with other vendors, will be selling their wares at Katy Market Day, which will be held Saturday in downtown Katy.

## NEW ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT



Jaime Corona, left, is the new president of the Rotary Club of Katy. He took office at an officer installation banquet held June 8 at the Hilton Garden Inn Katy Mills, 2409 Texmati Dr. Pictured with Corona are District Governor Heather Rimato and Mayor Dusty Thiele.

DUSTY THIELE

## JUNETEENTH

from page A1

The parade begins at 11 a.m. at the Pin Oak Road-Roberts Road intersection. It will run west on Roberts Road, then turn south onto Danover Road to Woodland Park, 443 Danover Road. The public is encouraged to bring lawn chairs to enjoy the parade.

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan will be grand marshal of the parade.

The festival is from 12-3 p.m. at the park. It will feature art, a cultural exhibition, food, games, giveaways and prizes and

vendor booths. The festival will also provide a chance to meet and greet legacy families with longstanding ties to the Katy area. Among the pictures to display include those of the first African American students to integrate Katy High School in the mid-1960s.

The Katy Texas African American Heritage Society has worked to organize

and stage the events. Brenda Washington, the society's founder and president, said the group began in April 2022.



SHERIFF ERIC FAGAN

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## TRIBUTE

Christopher Beck Cardiff, 68, of Brookshire, Texas, passed away at his home surrounded by his family on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Chris was born on March 13, 1955, in Houston, Texas, to Robert and Eleanor Cardiff. He was raised in Pattison, Texas, and graduated from Royal High School in Brookshire, where he played multiple sports and was involved in several organizations. He earned his bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, where he met his soulmate, Susan. He lived out his passion rice farming in Katy, Texas, in his early years. Chris was a strong man of faith and was an active member of First Baptist Church of Brookshire for many years. In



CHRISTOPHER BECK CARDIFF  
1955-2023

recent years, he started attending LifeBridge Community Church in Sealy. Chris dedicated years of service to his community, serving on the Royal ISD school board, running the Brookshire Baseball Little League while

also serving as a coach, leading the Royal Athletic Booster Club, and serving as a Boy Scouts Cubmaster. He had a passion for the outdoors, and his favorite pastime was spending time with his grandchildren.

Chris is survived by the love of his life for 43 years, Susan, their three sons: CJ (Durelle), Daniel (Kelli), Jacob (Beth), seven adored grandchildren: Adalyn, Natalee, Kamden, Owen, Cooper, Taylor, and Cade. Chris is also survived by five siblings: Elizabeth Beamon, Lynn Cardiff, Cathy Cornett, Glen Cardiff, and Jeff Cardiff, numerous nieces and nephews, many loving friends, and three loyal pups.

Chris was preceded in death by his mother, Eleanor Cardiff, and his father, Robert

Cardiff.

Family was present to receive friends from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at the Schmidt Funeral Home in Brookshire, Texas.

Funeral Service was held at 10:30 AM on Monday, June 12, 2023, at LifeBridge Community Church in Sealy, Texas, with the Rev. Scott Heitschusen and Pastor Richard Rogers officiating.

Pallbearers were CJ Cardiff, Daniel Cardiff, Jacob Cardiff, TJ Divin, Colby Cornett, Ken Ward, and Michael Gillespie. Honorary pallbearers were Kamden Cardiff, Owen Cardiff, Cooper Cardiff, and Cade Cardiff.

Friends who wish may make memorial gifts to: Belle's Buds Rescue, PO Box 1211, Brookshire, TX 77423, www.bellesbudsrescue.org.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Schmidt Funeral Home, PO Box 248, 819 Waller Avenue, Brookshire, Texas, 77423 - (281)934-2424 - www.schmidtfunerals.com.

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

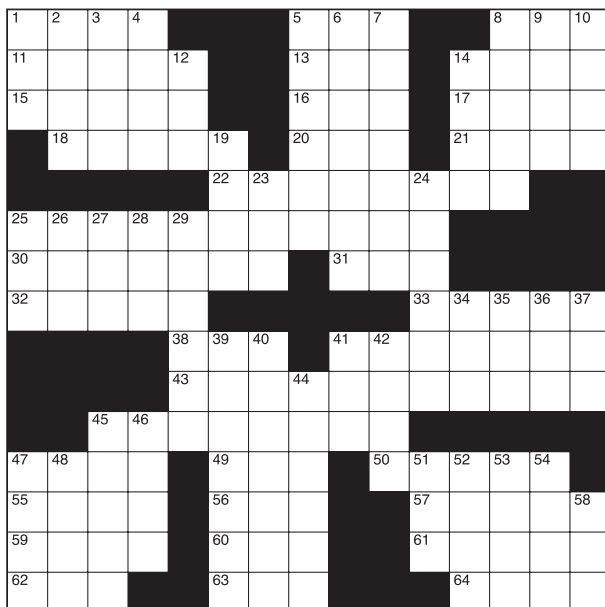
### CLUES ACROSS

- In a place to sleep
- Chemical compound (abbr.)
- A way to fish
- Classic Linklater film "\_\_\_ and Confused"
- Legume
- Indonesian island
- Smooth, creamy substance
- Arctic
- Wood sorrels
- Defied
- Cattle
- Tableland
- Honorably retired and retaining one's title
- Repossession
- Danced
- Adult males
- A type of section
- Type of Japanese animation
- Satisfaction
- Fit
- "Ain't No Sunshine" singer
- Failure
- Israeli city
- French river
- Cavalry sword
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Liquefied natural gas
- Afflicted
- Electronic counter countermeasures

- Popular HBO fantasy series (abbr.)
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Large body of water
- \_\_\_kosh, near Lake Winnebago
- Impudence

### CLUES DOWN

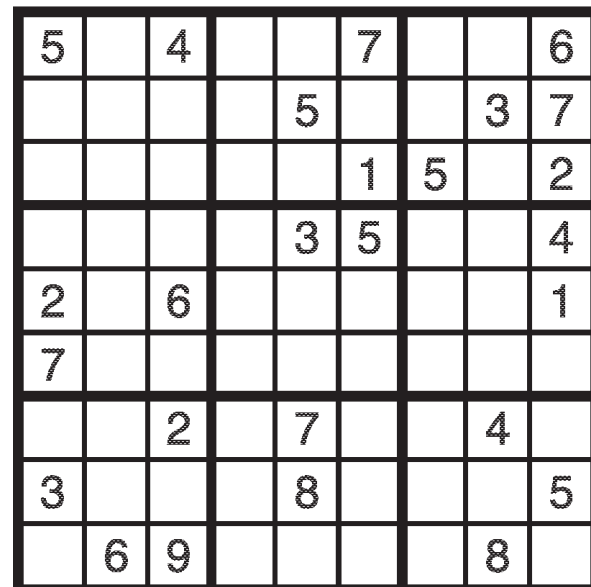
- Payroll firm
- Unit of transmission
- Rockers Better Than \_\_\_
- Bambi is one
- Highest parts of something
- Correct behavior
- Batty
- Cyprinid fishes
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Site of the famous Leaning Tower
- American rocker Snider
- W. African language
- Symbol to mark for removal
- \_\_\_ Squad
- Resident
- Federal savings bank
- Paddle
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- One point south of due east
- Winter melon
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series



- Anger
- Central European river
- First responders
- Spanish noble
- Persons with absence of skin pigment
- Defunct airline
- Small island (British)
- The extent of something from beginning to end
- Capital of Bangladesh
- Dutch cheese
- Imitates
- A contest of speed
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- UNLV's are Runnin'
- Criticize

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

Gutpa said he was a part of an AP, for advanced placement, program at Tompkins that covers the field of writing and how students prepare their research papers. Officials who oversee such programs passed regulations on AI usage, he said.

Teachers, understandably, want to ensure that a student's work is his or her own, and not plagiarized. Gutpa said many teachers use a website, turnitin.com, to perform that checking.

"Basically, this website is what teachers use to check that this paper was completely written by a student," Gutpa said. "It's a plagiarism checker."

Yet the website, while useful, has brought with it an unintended side effect, Gutpa said.

"Students who didn't use AI were also being flagged by this checker," Gutpa said. "When a student cheats of AI and they make AI do their work, the way to punish them is to give them a grade on the assignment, right? So, when students who were not using AI and getting flagged by this checker, they also received an unfair punishment in terms of a bad grade. That's something that a lot of my peers were experiencing. That's something that I actually also went through."

Artificial intelligence, ultimately, is a tool. In talking with his classmates, Gutpa said they think that the technology is something new that they have not seen.

"If it's able to do a lot of your work for us, that we should take advantage of that and that's something that a lot of students have use," Gutpa said.

Reaction from his teachers has been mixed.

"Generally, I've seen that teachers don't like this technology because it encourages cheating and students taking shortcuts," Gutpa said. "One of my teachers that teaches

me, they also had to deal with students using AI as a shortcut, but they recognize this technology is growing at a really rapid pace and this is becoming essentially a part of the students' life. This is something that's going to have to be incorporated. We're going to have to incorporate this into our regular education."

Gutpa used artificial intelligence to prepare an article, a sidebar to this story, about how artificial intelligence is here to stay. Artificial intelligence, he said, is a good starting place.

"If you want to do research on a topic, if you want to get some quick entry point into some new research idea, then you can ask any form of AI to summarize this topic for me and it will give you some list of key bullet points that you have to know and you have to look for in your research," Gutpa said. "It's a really good place to start when you are researching."

In a statement, Katy ISD said it continues to learn about artificial intelligence.

"The district is continually learning about the technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is not currently available to students via the District's Wi-Fi," the statement said. "The district's instructional practices for the writing process is designed to minimize the ability for students to imitate the works of others or AI. These practices include teacher-guided steps for brainstorming, developing outlines, multiple drafts, and executing revisions—steps that enable our teachers to closely monitor our students' writing growth and the characteristics of their compositions. The district also plans to provide teachers training in AI-detection applications as an additional tool to help protect the integrity of the writing process."

**SPARK**

from page A1

up to secure her. Then, together, the students picked up the board and moved it to another location.

Sawyer said this was not the first time she has served as a prop.

"They actually use me sometimes as a prop," Sawyer said after the drill. "I've got a lot of confidence in them. I haven't gotten hurt yet."

Sawyer is originally from New Orleans and has 23 years of firefighting experience. She's been with Harris County ESD 48 for about 11 years. She said a camp such as Camp Spark, which featured opportunities to ask questions and check out the equipment, gets the girls to better understand what firefighters do.

"I love it," Sawyer said. "It's a lot of fun."

Activities such as Camp Spark introduce students to firefighting and EMT work as a career opportunity. But there are other pathways one can take to become a first responder.

One example off this involves

Jerry Hales. He is the husband of Lia Hales, the district's community relations coordinator. She said Jerry Hales worked in the U.S. Secret Service before changing careers.

Another example involves Jason Tharp, who is the district's battalion chief for community risk reduction and public information officer. Before he got into firefighting, he said, he worked as an automobile mechanic. Following a layoff, Tharp said he began volunteering at a local fire station. That experience, he said, inspired him to get the necessary training and become a full-time, professional firefighter.

The need for firefighters, EMTs, and other first responders is strong as Katy and other Southeast Texas communities continue to grow.

Tharp said the district welcomed the chance to work with "citizen volunteers," who perform tasks around the station. In this way, he said, citizens can help the firefighters serve the community while getting a taste of

the work.

To be sure, such volunteers do not ride fire trucks, rescue victims or put out fires. Such tasks require proper training. Tharp said administrative openings are available through the district, but the priority is filling the operations positions—those doing the rescuing and firefighting.

Sawyer said there is more to the job than simply putting injured people in an ambulance.

"A lot of the community doesn't understand what we do," Sawyer said. "We do a lot of lifesaving things to help keep a person alive a lot of the time."

Sawyer said performing lifesaving tasks was only a part of what makes her job so rewarding.

"You meet a lot of people, a lot of great people, which to me is a satisfaction of the job," Sawyer said. "You meet these people, and they appreciate what you do."

Even when she's lying down on the job.

**TRAINING**

from page A1

described the drill as a full-scale response to a hypothetical active shooter incident. In the drill, he said, an active shooter entered the school cafeteria during a lunch period and began shooting. Law enforcement agencies responded to the scene, along with medical personnel to perform triage on the wounded. A parent reunification scenario was also staged for when the situation had been stabilized.

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan said in an active shooter situation, authorities stop the threat, establish and unify their response, administer first aid and evacuate the scene.

Gaw said he could not discuss the specifics of how the actions were performed, citing a need to protect first responders from potential threats if such procedures were made public.

Gaw said the drill enabled officials to test their plans, policies and procedures for an active shooter scenario. He said live ammunition was not used in the exercise. He said

the policies and actions all followed the National Incident Management System, or NIMS, which is part of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management System, or FEMA.

Greg Babst, Fort Bend County emergency operations management coordinator, said in performing such an exercise, officials look at a set of core capabilities to test. Such capabilities, he said, can include planning, coordination, communication, active rescue and dealing with the shooter. He said officials tested all those things in the exercise and would review the results against NIMS standards.

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski said threats to public schools were evolving and unpredictable. Training exercises such as the one performed at Tompkins, he said, enable Katy ISD Police and other district officials to work with outside law enforcement agencies to prepare for crisis scenarios.

Thirty-six area local and area agencies participated in or observed the exercise. Several of them were

Fort Bend County agencies, as Tompkins High School is in Fort Bend County. Gaw said similar training exercises will be performed in the future in Harris and Waller counties, as Katy ISD has campuses in those counties along with Fort Bend.

Four state agencies—the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Emergency Management, Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council, known as SETRAC—were part of the exercise.

Two federal agencies, the FBI Houston office and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, were also part of the exercise.

The district issued a public notice that the training exercise was to take place and road signs placed near the high school also informed the public. Fagan thanked the public for its cooperation as law enforcement and emergency personnel performed the exercise.

"Our top priority is student safety," Gaw said.

**ESSAY**

from page A1

for newer creativity, a stark contrast from the opponents of AI who argue its harm to an artist's career.

However, when considering writing, AI is regarded a little differently. Writing itself is generally acknowledged as a subunit of art, and newer AI models such as the famous ChatGPT work similarly to the aforementioned DALL E-2, by analyzing "large amounts of data to generate responses to user inquiries" (University of Arkansas, 2022), essentially pulling its information from online, which functions similarly to art but has a different result. For example, consider the question: "What is sleep?" Generated art can draw abstract concepts that tie into answering the question, thus it can't really go wrong. However, an interface such as ChatGPT may generate incorrect information in trying to answer the question. That's because swaths of online sources have to be considered in each generated response, and among this information are sources that

lack credibility and display outdated information.

But what is the point of this comparison? Well, it serves to illustrate that AI plays a different role in different genres of art. Writing itself is a form of art expression, yet it offers more literal expressions versus drawings and paintings which offer more abstract concepts. Thus, AI-generated writing often presents flaws with incorrect information, poor feedback, or a general lack of quality. This goes to show that as of now and in the immediate future, writing careers will be secure as a result of these limitations. Journalism will still require reporters to stress the importance of correct information. Authorship will still require novel writers to display emotions and quality that simply isn't achievable yet with AI. However, this doesn't mean that AI altogether is obsolete in its use. Far from it. The University of Arkansas illustrates the comprehensive use of AI for writers in how it offers a way for writers to express new

ideas, rephrase preexisting thoughts, or simply offer a way to fact-check information and correct grammar. Interestingly, I asked ChatGPT what it can offer me as an aspiring writer, and it offers an array of skills, ranging from offering data analysis on readers, to helping me come up with new content for my stories, and it even helped me analyze this article for any grammar errors, showing its practical uses in the field of writing.

So, to answer the initial question: AI is here to stay. Although many view AI with skepticism for its threats to the writing profession, there lies a unique opportunity for writers to improve their craft and work with AI altogether. Writing is a unique experience specific to you and with how fast the world is changing with newer technologies, it may benefit an author to change with it. Work to hone your skills with newer experiences, gained knowledge, and tools and one tool to help you presents itself in AI.

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**CORRECTION**

In its June 8 story "Education honors Katy student with outstanding student award for elementary education," the print version misidentified Julia Morrison in the photo caption. The Times regrets the error.

# A personal salute to Flag Day

It's long past time for me to put a flagpole in the center of my front yard—one that holds a large American flag that dances proudly in the summer breeze.

We bought such a flagpole for my father on his 70th birthday, shortly after he and my mother moved into a new house with a stately front yard.

He was proud of his flag—with good reason.

He was born during the Great Depression. As a boy, he was immersed in our country's great unified effort to defeat mighty foes during World War II.

He was drafted at the tail end of the Korean War and served for two years. When he returned home, America was an optimistic place to raise a family.

He and my mother would have six children. He would work very hard and watch his country, and his family, thrive and prosper beyond his wildest dreams.

Despite his modest Bell Telephone income, he was able to retire just shy of his 60th birthday.

He enjoyed retirement for 30 years—and enjoyed the flagpole we got him for 20 years—before God took him home last year.

Thanks to a uniquely blessed nation that offered unlimited opportunities for individuals to pursue life, liberty and happiness, my father was able to see his children become successful writers, artists, teachers and businesspeople.

Our country has never been perfect and our government requires constant monitoring, improvement and correction.

As we grow older and wiser we begin to understand how easy it is for the young to see only our country's imperfections and not the many things it has got incredibly right.

The freedom to speak our minds openly is one huge thing we got right—despite recent examples of people admitting they are afraid to express what they think publicly for fear of public retribution.

The first amendment to our Constitution guarantees us the free exercise of religion, a free press, the right to peaceably assemble and express grievances



**TOM PURCELL**  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

to our government and petition for change—and prevents the government from abridging our right to free speech, even unpleasant speech.

Until 1989, for instance, 48 state governments, as well as the federal government, forbid the desecration or burning of the U.S. flag by protesters, reports Smithsonian Magazine.

These laws were overturned by the Supreme Court in *Texas v. Johnson*, in which the court agreed that Gregory Lee Johnson's burning of the flag constituted "symbolic speech" protected under the First Amendment.

More from Smithsonian Magazine:

"If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable," wrote Justice William Brennan in the majority opinion. "The majority, which also included Justices Marshall, Blackmun, Kennedy and Scalia, found that the conviction was inconsistent with Johnson's First Amendment right to verbal and nonverbal expression."

A flourishing representative republic continually reexamines itself and corrects its imperfections, and on that score, our country has got more right than wrong.

That is why my father became prouder of his flag—and the great country it represents—with every passing year.

And that is why, this Flag Day, it's time for me to place my own majestic symbol of America in the center of my stately front yard.

*Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, which features pet advice he's learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.*



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# Ready to fire up those Father's Day memories?

It's difficult to wrap my mind around it, but this will be my 20th Father's Day as a father.

All those third Sundays in June have blurred together, but I certainly have warm memories of son Gideon's everyday march toward adulthood. (He marched. I hopped—because of %\$#@ plastic toys on the carpet.)

Ah, the embarrassing anecdotes I can someday share with my theoretical grandchildren!

Once upon a time, Gideon made a journal entry about a visit to the farmers cooperative where I work. The entry casually mentioned "watching the chicks dancing." Several months later, he did an annotated version. ("Earlier, when I said I was watching chicks dancing, I meant baby chickens, not girls.") I guess he didn't want posterity assuming the cooperative hosted Rat Pack parties.

His first-ever sighting of twins elicited an outburst of "There's two of that girl!"

On another occasion, Gideon started gushing about his beloved CD of children's songs. He said one of the songs was sung by a fish. I playfully asked him if it was a real fish. He innocently replied, "I don't know. It sounded like one!" Good thing I didn't actually bust a gut laughing, or he might have tried giving me a "burial at sea" with the toilet.

I remember a meltdown Gideon experienced when he was seven. He was inconsolable because my wife wouldn't let him play



**DANNY TYREE**  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

**I hope Father's Day 2023 really rocks for your family. May you have money for nothing and chicks for free.**

on the bird-splattered outdoors playground at a McDonald's. Putting my college child psychology course to good use, I took him aside and suggested that we send his mother packing and advertise for an open-minded new mommy who would let him play on a bird-splattered outdoors playground.

He stopped blubbering long enough to splutter, "But that's not what the Bible says! I'm glad he's a kind-hearted boy; I could imagine some of his less-spiritual peers responding to a similar offer with, 'Yeah! Let's find one named Jezebel!'"

That's far from the only McDonald's playground anecdote. When Gideon was older, my wife offered to take him to the playground as part (!) of a shopping excursion. All he heard was "McDonald's playground."

(This was par for the course. When he first studied American history, we had to drum it into his noggin that the teacher did not say George Washington was "first in war, first in peace, first in line for the tunnel at the McDonald's playground.")

Gideon wallowed in self-pity as he was dragged from store to store to store. I told him he shouldn't have expected just a playground visit, since "You know how Momma is."

"Yes, but I thought she would change!" he wailed. Ready for marriage at such a tender age.

At age eight, he announced he wanted to explore a bachelor's degree program for video game design. I told him that it's a highly competitive world out there and that he would have to be the best at whatever career he settled on. He would need to offer something extra—whether he wound up designing video games, building bridges or constructing the time machine that he always dreamed of.

After mulling it over, he very solemnly suggested, "I could put a cup holder in the time machine."

I hope Father's Day 2023 really rocks for your family. May you have money for nothing and chicks for free.

Last paragraph, when I mentioned chicks for free...

*Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetytrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."*

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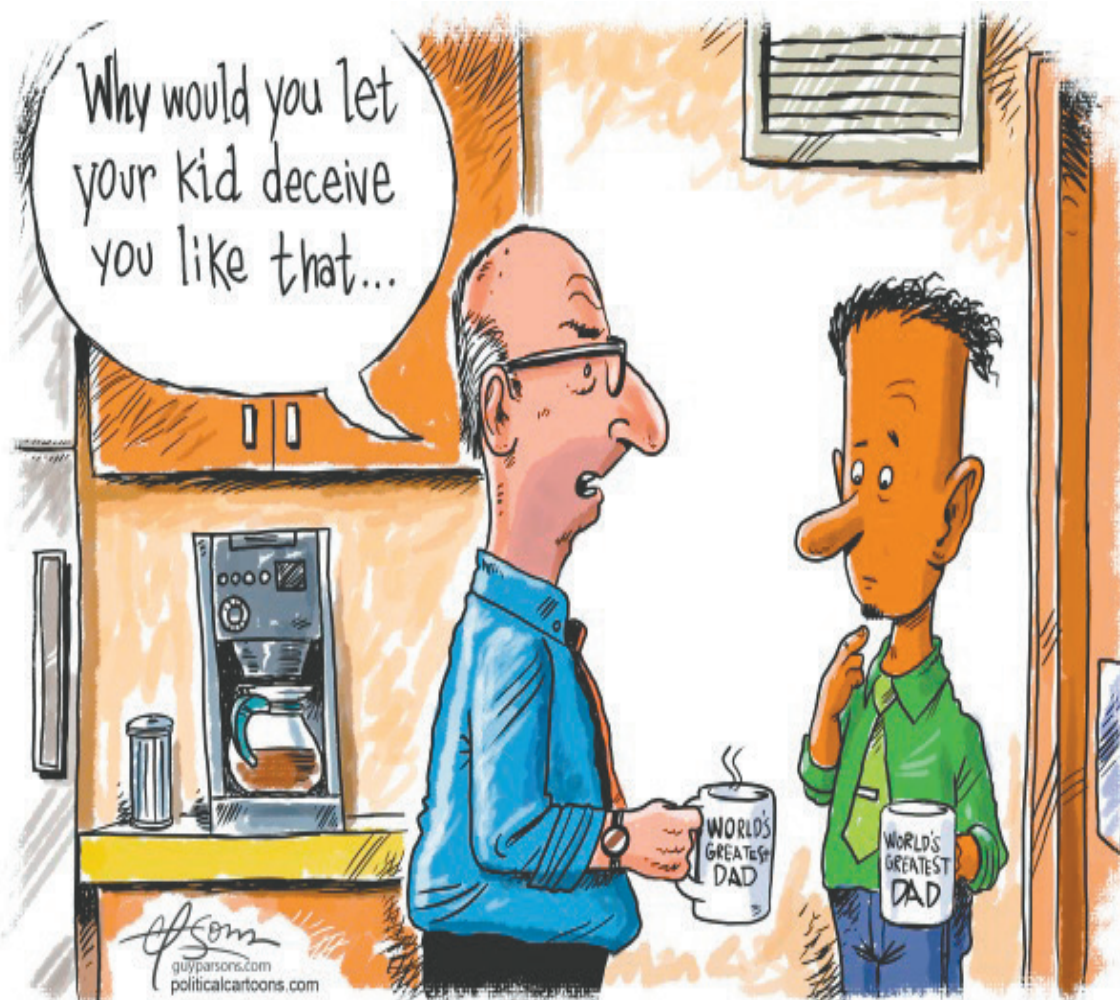
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## TRIBUTE

George "Gus" DuFour, a beloved husband and father and papa, passed away on June 6, 2023, leaving behind a lifetime of cherished memories. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota on December 2, 1955, Gus was the son of George DuFour and Shirley Ann Smith. At the age of 10, he moved to Texas and settled in Katy, where he spent the last 50 years of his life.

Gus's journey through life was marked by remarkable experiences and significant connections. He attended Katy High School from 9th through 11th grade and graduated from La Salle High School in 1975. On July 26, 1974, Gus married his beloved wife Kathleen Coursey in Katy, Texas.

Gus had a vibrant and diverse range of interests. He found joy in drag racing, playing drums, and passionately supporting the Green Bay Packers. He was known for his enthusiastic involvement as an Ultimate Dance Dad and unofficial dance judge, always being the loudest Papa in the crowd. Gus loved traveling, camping, savoring chili, milk, and Oreos, and eagerly following the Chicago Fire TV show. He had a playful side, finding humor in TikTok fart videos, and cherished the simple pleasures of back scratches and head rubs.

Blue, red, and Packers



**GEORGE EDWARD "GUS" DUFOR**  
1955-2023

Green were Gus's favorite colors, reflecting his unwavering loyalty and pride. His dynamic personality traits endeared him to everyone he met. Gus was known for his loyalty, stubbornness, hard work, bravery, and his ability to bring laughter as a jokester. He had an honest and loving nature, combined with an infectious spirit of dreaming big. With a big-hearted and selfless demeanor, he was always there to support others and fight for what he believed in. Gus had a goofy side and could light up a room with his sense of humor. He was reliable, dependable, and a natural leader who never met a stranger.

Gus's commitment to serving others extended beyond his personal life.

He dedicated his time and energy to the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department for 24 years, from 1984 to 2008, embodying his courageous and giving nature. Throughout his career, Gus held various occupations, including working for Katy Butane, Entex, Harris County, and serving as a Katy ISD security guard.

Gus's generosity and love extended beyond his immediate family. He opened his heart and home to children from different countries, hosting Maret from Finland, Peter from Denmark, Nicole from Germany, Lou from France, Max from Denmark, and Philipp from Germany. His selflessness and kindness knew no boundaries.

George "Gus" DuFour will be dearly missed by his wife Kathleen, his family, and the countless lives he touched. His memory will be forever cherished as we celebrate his remarkable life and the legacy of love and joy he leaves behind.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen DuFour; children, Amy Morales and Ralph of Katy, Mandy DuFour and Scott of Katy, and Allie Mata and Jay of Katy; grandchildren, Baylee DuFour, Connor Morales, Camryn Morales, Breanna Morales, Kaylee Morales, and Savannah Ravelo; brother, Richard DuFour and Mary of Minnesota; sis-

ter, Becky Smith and Keith of Katy; sisters-in-law, Joanne DuFour of Katy, Mary Park and Harvey of Bellville, and Jan Coursey of Katy; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Shirley DuFour; in-laws, Robert and Berniece Coursey; siblings, Charles DuFour, John DuFour, and Cheryl Peek; nephew, Scooter Peek; brothers-in-law, Lynn Peek and David Coursey; and sister-in-law, Renee Coursey.

Pallbearers will be Robert Park, David Park, Baby Dave Coursey, George Miller, Craig Arning, David Potts, Corkey Sandman, and Freddy Williams. Honorary pallbearers will be Ralph Morales, Connor Morales, Scott Jenkins, Jay Mata, Harvey Park, and "The Great 8" members.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel, in Katy, where funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 16, 2023 with Rev. Gregory Ballard officiating. Interment with Fire Department honors will be at Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

Funeral services held under the direction of **Schmidt Funeral Home**  
1344 W. Grand Parkway South ~ Katy, Texas 77494 ~ (281) 391-2424

## POLICE K-9 FUNDRAISER



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Miss Wiggins IV—named in honor of a character in the Carol Burnett Show—is a 14-month-old black Labrador. She and some friends joined her for a fundraiser benefiting the Katy Police K9 division June 10 at Southland Bar and Grill, 5990 Stockdick Road. Pictured with Miss Wiggins IV are, standing from left to right, Rev. David Greene of the Fort Bend County West Lions Club, realtor Angela Shaver of NextHome Top Realty, and Bart Jones of Canine Companions. Cassandra Gibson-Jones, also of Canine Companions, is kneeling with Miss Wiggins IV.

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## KATY ISD HOLDS CERTIFIED TEACHER JOB FAIR



Katy ISD held its summer certified teacher job fair June 6 at Paetow High School, 23111 Stockdick School Road. The job fair gave the district's elementary and secondary teams the opportunity to meet and interact with job applicants. To see the available jobs in Katy ISD, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is [bit.ly/3CpQgYz](https://bit.ly/3CpQgYz). Right: Cardiff Junior High, home of the Colts, was among the schools represented at the Katy ISD summer certified teacher job fair.

KATY ISD PHOTOS



## EDUCATION BRIEFS

### Royal Sound Machine to perform in 2024 at Disney World

The Royal Marching Sound Machine will be bound for Disney World in summer 2024. The trip will include opportunities for fun and for learning, and the students will take part in the recording of a Disney movie soundtrack. The Royal ISD Board of Trustees approved the trip. Over the coming months, fundraisers will be held to offset trip expenses.

This year, the band achieved sweepstakes honors, meaning that they received superior ratings from all judges in their marching, concert and sight-reading competitions. The last time this was achieved at Royal was 1976, when school Trustee Elton Foster was a Falcon band member. In addition, numerous musicians advanced beyond the district level, the band performed in dozens of community events, and the band won \$2,000 at a Waller County Battle of the Bands event. Five class of 2022 graduates received fine arts scholarships, several of which are valued at over \$51,000.

### HCC Katy campus to host college & community resource fair and open house

Houston Community College



ROYAL ISD

These Royal Sound Machine members will be among those performing in 2024 at Disney World.

is hosting college and community resource fairs to increase community engagement and community resource visibility. It is seeking to collaborate with local businesses in this effort.

The Katy campus, 22910 Colonial Pkwy., will host its community fair and open house from 5-8 p.m. July 12. For more information, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is [bit.ly/3J9b4an](https://bit.ly/3J9b4an).

### Royal health science students treated to first-ever banquet

Royal High health science students enjoyed their first annual

banquet on May 18. Students transformed the health science classroom to celebrate their accomplishments and the 2023-24 officers:

- Isaac Martinez, president.
- Rebeca Arvizo, vice president.
- Kyla Thomas, secretary.
- Daniel Hernández, treasurer.
- Danahe Alcantar, reporter.
- Yésica Rodríguez, parliamentarian.

### Two students from Katy earn degrees list at West Texas A&M University

Two students from Katy earned



ROYAL ISD

Students at the Royal High health science banquet played games, including one in which they donned personal protective equipment.

their degrees in May at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas.

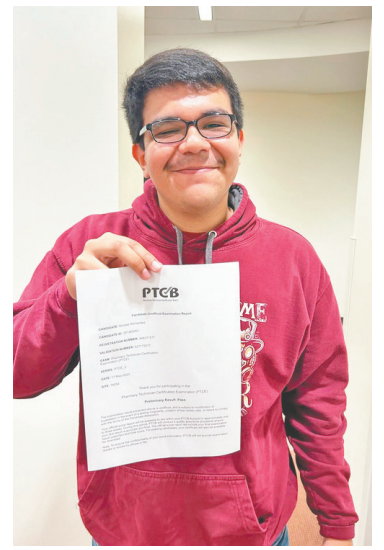
Elizabeth Rivas earned her master's degree in the educational diagnostician program. Lina El C Youssef earned her master's degree in finance and economics.

Overall, the university awarded 828 baccalaureate degrees and 289 master's degrees to spring graduates at the May 13 commencement ceremonies, following procedural confirmation from the university's seven deans.

### —CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

Royal High student Nicholas Hernandez passed his pharmacy technician certification through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board.

ROYAL ISD



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Drew Markle waits for a pitch during Tuesday's GHBCA Senior All-Star game at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.  
PHOTOS COURTESY INSTAGRAM:@LOUIES.PICS

## Katy senior class raised standard in baseball program

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy came up four wins short of their ultimate goal this year.

From the start of the year the Tigers had a mission to make it to Round Rock and claim their first state championship.

Katy nearly found a way to get there, battling through a loaded district and playoff schedule to make it all the way to the Region III Final and giving Pearland all it could handle over two games. Behind it all was a determined senior class that refused to ever give in and fought tooth and nail to get as far as they did this season.

"Without those seniors, we're not here, we would not have done what we just did," said Katy head coach Wes Hearne. "It has nothing to do with me and everything to do with them. I couldn't ask for a better group, I'm proud of the entire team, but I could not be more proud of this senior class. They showed how to lead, how to grind and how to go about their business. Hopefully these young guys learned a lot from them because they taught me a lot."

The 11 seniors for the Tigers created a new standard in a baseball program that already had high standards. After reaching the regional semifinals last season, the seniors weren't satisfied — they set their sights on something higher and this season helped Katy reach the regional finals for the first time since 2006.

"This senior class was really special and I'm proud that I'm part of it," said senior pitcher Lucas Moore. "It was special to be in the dugout with all of them, to practice with them every day and to overcome everything we have overcome."

The Tigers overcame that adversity through hard work all season, as they came to battle every practice and worked to raise the standard to even higher levels. The hope for every senior on the team is that the underclassman can take the reins and finish what these seniors started.

"Last year we started with raising that standard by getting to the fourth round," Moore said. "We just raised it even higher this year and I know that's the goal for these guys coming up to keep doing that. There's only

See **SENIORS**, page B3

## Katy ISD athletes showcase talent at GHBCA All-Star Games

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

A number of Katy ISD athletes represented their schools at the GHBCA All-Star games on Tuesday, showcasing the district's talent to those watching across the Houston area.

In total, 11 athletes participated in the event, with Katy ISD having 15 players invited to attend.

The senior All-Star game was stacked with Katy ISD talent. The North team had two Katy players in Cole Kaase and Brady Englett and Anthony Diaz from Paetow also was named to the team while the south had five Katy ISD play-

ers, with three Tompkins players being named to the roster in Drew Markle, Ty Dagley and Kaden Bertrand while Cinco Ranch's Charlie Atkinson and Seven Lakes' Lawson Moreno joined them. Taylor's coaching staff coached for the South team as well in what ended a 2-2 tie.

Those players made their presence felt in the senior game. Moreno got the start for the South Team and pitched three shutout innings, allowing just two hits and striking out one in his appearance. Bertrand and Dagley both made appearances on the mound while Markle was strong in the field and Charlie Atkinson was also strong in the field but

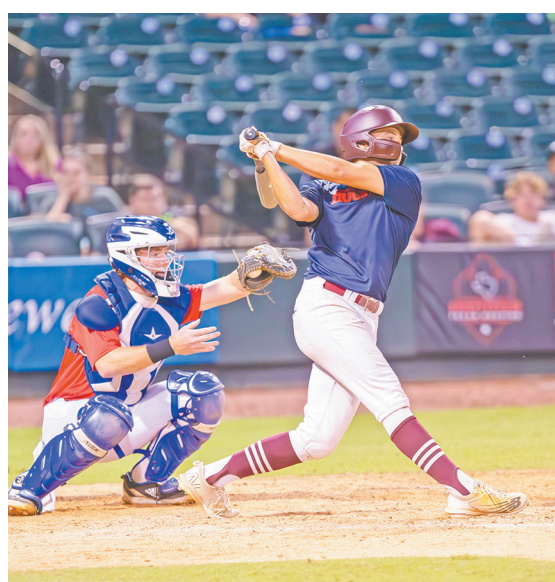
unlucky at the plate, having a couple of hard hit balls going for outs.

The Katy duo of Kaase and Englett was strong as well for the North Team. Englett had a strong day behind the plate while Kaase pitched a scoreless inning as well as going 2-2 from the plate with two doubles and a run scored.

It was a bittersweet day for Katy's Englett and Kaase, who three days earlier had their high school careers end on the same field, but they were happy to be able to represent the Tigers again.

"It was a great experience," Kaase

See **ALL-STAR**, page B3



PHOTOS COURTESY INSTAGRAM: LOUIES.PICS

Connor Ficarra hits during Tuesday's GHBCA Futures All-Star game at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

## Cinco Ranch, Seven Lakes young talent hopes to build on strong seasons

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes had successful years.

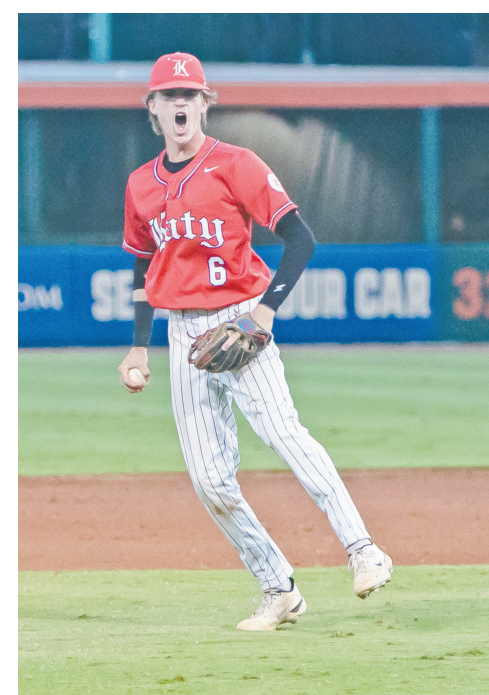
The Cougars had their best year ever in baseball, advancing to the regional semifinal for the first time as a program and finishing the year 33-7 with a 14-2 record while hanging with state tournament team Pearland in two very tough games.

Seven Lakes meanwhile battled

in one of the toughest districts in Texas to make the playoffs before falling to state ranked Ridge Point in the bi-district round for the second straight year, finishing the season 19-14 overall and 9-7 in District 19-6A play.

But one thing is for sure, the underclassman of both squads aren't satisfied just because they achieved success this year.

See **FUTURE**, page B3



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Josh Dunayczan celebrates after making a play during Friday's Regional Final between Katy and Pearland at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

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DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Aidan Morrison and Noah Bosso fight to bring down a ball during a Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal game between Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch at Legacy Stadium.



TYLER TYRE



Above: Hunter Merritt runs past a defender during a Class 6A Region III Final between Seven Lakes and Deer Park at Abshire Stadium in Deer Park. Left: Kortay Koc fights for a ball during a Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal game between Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch at Legacy Stadium. Below: Katy's Tyler Morgan was named to the THSCA Class 6A Boys Super Elite Team.



# Morrison named MVP, Vela is top Goalkeeper for Super Elite Team

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Aiden Morrison capped off his junior year with yet another award, being named the MVP of the Texas High School Coaches Association Super Elite Team.

The Super Elite Team is chosen from players around the state who are of good moral character and elite in their sport. Morrison was chosen over top soccer players from across 6A.

Morrison was a captain and leader for the Spartans in his junior year, leading them to a district championship as well as a regional and state championship in the most successful season in Seven Lakes' history.

He was not alone joining the team from Seven Lakes — Ben Aviles Vera was named the goalkeeper of the year for Class 6A after a terrific year for him and the back line. Vera allowed just 18 goals in 30 games this year, as teams scored an average of only .6 goals per game against the Spartans all year.

Kortay Koc and Hunter Merritt also were named to the team for Seven Lakes as both made huge offensive contributions during the team's run to its state championship. Katy's Tyler Morgan was also named to the team after a strong year where he was a leader on the Tigers' back line. Morgan is a signee to Johnson and Wales University at Charlotte.

Following is the full THSCA Class 6A Boys Soccer Super Elite Team:

- MVP:** Aidan Morrison, SEVEN LAKES HS
- OPOTY:** York Merrill, DRIPPING SPRINGS HS
- Midfielder OTY:** Cooper Tea, SACHSE HS
- DPOTY:** Haris Dunic, SACHSE HS
- Goalkeeper OTY:** Ben Aviles Vera, SEVEN LAKES HS



Ben Aviles Vera during a Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal game between Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch at Legacy Stadium.

### Super Elite Team

- Ricardo Cerda, MACARTHUR HS
- Kassen Dilworth, SAMUEL CLEMENS HS
- Gael Gallegos, J.B. ALEXANDER HS
- Jesse Garfias, WAXAHACHIE HS
- Kortay Koc, SEVEN LAKES HS
- Christopher Lopez, DUNCANVILLE HS
- Hunter Merritt, SEVEN LAKES HS
- Tyler Morgan, KATY HS
- Jair Robles, MACARTHUR HS
- Diego Robles, SA JOHNSON HS
- Mason Russell, DRIPPING SPRINGS HS
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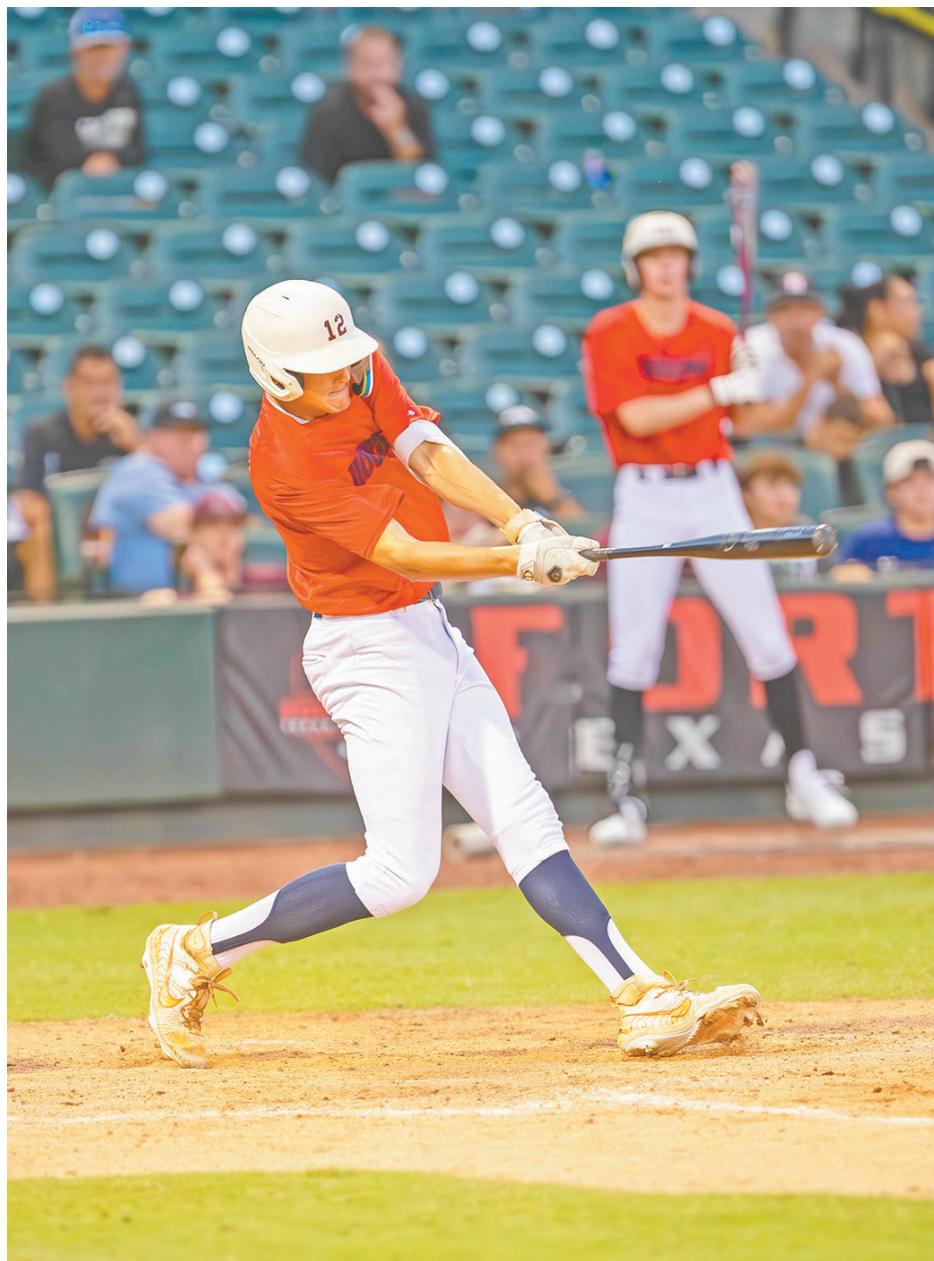
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PHOTOS COURTESY INSTAGRAM: LOUIES.PICS

Nate Johnson hits a sac fly during Tuesday's GHBCA Futures All-Star game at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

## FUTURE

from page B1

"Everyone on the team, the rest of the guys and me are all working every single day," said Seven Lakes junior Nate Johnson after Tuesday's GHBCA Futures All-Star Game. "We want to be better and take that next step — we're in the weight room, were hitting and taking ground balls. All of us are just trying to do anything to keep getting better."

Johnson along with Cinco Ranch's Brock DeYoung and Connor Ficarra took part in the futures game which showcases some of the most elite underclassman talents around the Houston area.

The Cinco Ranch duo enjoyed the process and being able to play together in the game.

"It was really cool to be able to do this and to have Connor do it with me,"

DeYoung said. "He's one of my close friends at Cinco and so to do it with him was awesome. It showed us a lot to come out here and be a part of this."

But being around that environment just pushed the players to want to go further even more. Cinco's underclassman got a taste of a deep playoff run this year and the success of winning district and they think they can build on that and continue to take things to the next level.

"We definitely want to go even further next year," DeYoung said. "This year we made the jump and it showed us that we can compete with anyone. We have to keep working and getting better but I really think that we have the type of team coming back that can bring it against anyone and go even further next

year."

That fire isn't only burning in Cinco though, for Johnson the fire comes from fighting so close in the bi-district round for the second straight season, but narrowly coming up short, losing 3-2 in extra innings against Ridge Point in the deciding game of the series and falling to the Panthers in close fashion for the second straight year. The goal for Johnson and Seven Lakes is to get over that hump and find a way to push into the later playoff rounds.

"It still hurts and it's burning for sure," Johnson said. "But you want to play against the best and Ridge Point is a really good team. We're going to come back stronger though, there's always next year and I think we can be a really good team."

## SENIORS

from page B1

one place for them to go now and that's to make it to Round Rock and win the whole thing."

The run was a magical one for the seniors, but also gave an opportunity for the underclassman to experience the high pressures of playoff baseball, which they thrived under. Katy will be losing big members of their team, as seven starters will graduate and each of the

team's three main starting pitchers will depart as well. But they have people to step up in those shoes, with the underclassman pitchers ready to take the next step and depth both on varsity and beyond, as Katy's JV and sophomore teams both won district championships this year.

"I have to give so much credit to Coach (Tom) McPherson for building this program to where he

left it," Hearne said. "I was fortunate enough to step in to this special place as head coach this year. We're going to be counting on these young guys, but I know they can step up. These young pitchers are phenomenal and we have some guys coming back who have incredible talent. We'll scrap and claw and we will do everything in our power to try and get back here again next year."



PHOTOS COURTESY INSTAGRAM: LOUIES.PICS

Drew Markle runs towards second base during Tuesday's GHBCA Senior All-Star game at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.



PHOTOS COURTESY INSTAGRAM: LOUIES.PICS

Above left: Ty Dagley looks on from first base during the GHBCA Seniors All-Star game at Constellation Field in Sugar Land. Above right: Kaden Bertrand pitches during the GHBCA Seniors All-Star game at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

## ALL-STAR

from page B1

said. "Getting to play in a last high school game and being around these guys was awesome. It means a lot to us because we get to represent Katy again and we get to come back here and go out on a happier note."

Katy's Caleb Koger, Paetow's Garrett Smith and Morton Ranch's Justin Cryer all earned invites to the senior game as well but weren't able to attend after it was moved from Monday to Tuesday due to weather.

The Futures game featured three Katy ISD players, with Cinco Ranch sending a duo in Brock DeYoung and Connor Ficarra on the Blue Team and Seven Lakes having Nate Johnson on the Red Team. Cinco

Ranch's Lucas Franco as also invited to the game but was unable to attend.

The game ended in a 11-4 win for the Red Team. Johnson did his part in helping the team, driving in a run on a sacrifice fly to tie the game early on and making some plays in the outfield as well. Ficarra and DeYoung both went hitless but contributed to their team in different ways and all were happy they were involved in the game.

"I just wanted to contribute to my team and I'm glad I was able to do that," Johnson said. "I had two strikes on me when I got the sac fly and I just told myself I needed to get a ball in play. I'm just glad I was able to tie the game."



Brady Englett swings at a pitch during Tuesday's GHBCA Senior All-Star game at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

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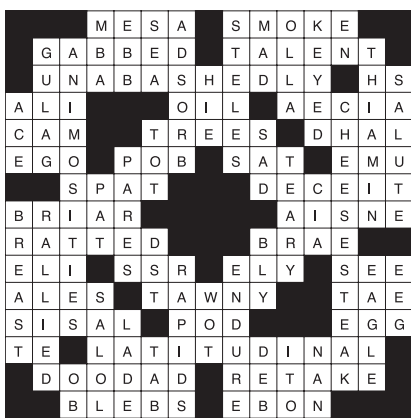
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7	2	5	9	3	1	6	4	8
1	3	6	4	5	8	7	2	9
9	8	4	6	2	7	1	3	5
4	5	9	3	7	6	8	1	2
6	1	2	8	4	9	3	5	7
3	7	8	5	1	2	9	6	4

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Harris-Waller Counties M.U.D. No. 5 in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on June 30, 2023, for **Sunterra – Sol Club West Amenity Improvements**.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including sidewalks, site furniture, site grading, underground drainage, pavilion structures, pickleball courts, sportsfields, fencing, irrigation, lighting & electrical, planting, and turf.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Forms are provided with Spec Book)

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each set. **This sum is non-refundable** and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Harris-Waller Counties M.U.D. No. 5 in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

“The responsible person or persons that, in the Board’s judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District’s proposed improvements.”

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

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The facility is at FRY ROAD MINI STORAGE. 20150 Park Row, Katy, TX 77449 Bidding will open at 10:00 am on June 22, 2023 and end at 12:00 pm on June 28, 2023. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Janis Adetu, Tiara Williams, Yvonne Clay, Coery Farrow, Tim Petty, Sierra Mothershed.

**INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be electronically received, until 2 p.m. Local Time, **Thursday, July 13th, 2023** and then publicly opened and read at the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for **“Elyson Section 48, 53, 50 and Park Landscape”**, Harris County, Texas. In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>.

Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of pedestrian trail, park shelter, playground, sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **Tuesday, June 27th, 2023, at 10 a.m.** Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from [www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com): search **NWC1305**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through [www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com). Bidder must register on this website in order to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

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

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

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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 [cginm@royal-isd.net](mailto:cginm@royal-isd.net)

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**WET DIGESTER SOLIDS HAUL AND DISPOSAL**

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR REMOVING, TRANSPORTING, AND LEGALLY DISPOSING OF WET DIGESTER SOLIDS FOR THEIR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025. SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL **2:15 P.M., THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. SPECIFICATIONS AND THE BID PROPOSAL FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT [BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM](mailto:BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM).

THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT BIDS THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew  
City Secretary  
City of Katy, Texas

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**WATER TREATMENT CHEMICAL SUPPLY**

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR WATER TREATMENT CHEMICAL SUPPLIES FOR THEIR WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025. SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL **2:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. SPECIFICATIONS AND THE BID PROPOSAL FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT [BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM](mailto:BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM).

THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT BIDS THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew  
City Secretary  
City of Katy, Texas

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**SLUDGE CAKE HAUL AND LANDFILL DISPOSAL**

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR SLUDGE CAKE HAUL AND LANDFILL DISPOSAL FOR THEIR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025. SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL **2:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. SPECIFICATIONS AND THE BID PROPOSAL FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT [BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM](mailto:BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM).

THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT BIDS THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew  
City Secretary  
City of Katy, Texas

**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](http://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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**Katy Times**

# Big 12 Conference to establish Big 12 Mexico

## Houston to play Kansas in Big 12 Mexico tip off

### STAFF REPORT

The Big 12 Conference announced the launch of Big 12 Mexico, the Conference's first international extension that will see Big 12 men's and women's basketball, women's soccer and baseball games held in Mexico. Big 12 Mexico's first contest will be a men's and women's basketball matchup between Kansas and Houston, held in Mexico City at Arena CDMX in December of 2024. Following the launch of Big 12 basketball in Mexico, Big 12 women's soccer and baseball will participate in exhibitions against clubs from the region.

Additionally, the Big 12 will explore establishing a football bowl game in Monterrey, starting in 2026. This would be the first bowl game ever held in Mexico.

"Mexico is a natural extension to the Big 12 footprint, and I'm thrilled to introduce Big 12 Mexico as the Conference's first-ever international presence," said Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yormark. "Through Big 12 Mexico, our student-athletes will have the opportunity to compete in an international setting, and our Conference will have the chance to showcase our brand across Mexico."

Leading up to the launch of Big 12 Mexico and throughout 2023, FOX Sports and ESPN will help see the Big 12 product across Mexico and Spanish-speaking communities through their ESPN Deportes (U.S. - based), ESPN Mexico and ESPN on Star+ (Mexico - based channels and OTT service) and FOX Deportes (U.S. - based) channels, which will air select Big 12 football and basketball games. Additionally, the Big 12 will look to secure for the first time Spanish radio broadcasts for Big 12 Football and Basketball Championships in 2023-24 and beyond and will



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston guard Jamal Sheard (1) calls out to his teammates during an NCAA men's basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Southern Methodist Mustangs on Jan. 5, 2023 in Houston. Houston won, 87-53.

implement a robust Mexico digital strategy.

The Big 12 Conference will team up with Mexico City-based live entertainment agency Zignia as a co-promotional partner. Zignia will support with marketing and sales of Big 12 Mexico events, as well as provide the Conference with their depth of resources. Additionally, On Location, an Endeavor-owned company, will assist with all school travel and VIP packages, while Endeavor will assist the Conference in all facets of its international digital strategy. The Big 12 Business Advisory Board will also continue to provide key insights and counsel as the Conference grows its presence in Mexico.

Beyond hosting Conference games across multiple sports, Big 12 Mexico will see the Conference execute a variety of community outreach programming, commercial partnerships, merchandise and activations. This includes the Conference partnering with notable musicians and artists and launching an influencer marketing campaign in the region.

Five current and future Big 12 Conference campuses - Baylor, Houston, TCU, Texas and Texas Tech - are located less than 400



Above: Houston guard Tramon Mark (12) goes to the basket during an NCAA men's basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Southern Methodist Mustangs on Jan. 5, 2023 in Houston. Houston won, 87-53. Right: Houston Cougars guard Laila Blair (14) goes to the basket for a layup during an NCAA women's basketball game between Houston and Tulsa on Jan. 8, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

miles away from Mexico, while the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University have campus extensions in Mexico. Mexico City - the largest city in North America with a greater area population of over 22 million - has played host to MLB, NBA, NFL, and is home to the G League's Capitanes de Ciudad de México.



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**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JAMES ROLAND BARRETT, DECEASED**

Notice is here given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of James Roland Barrett, Deceased, were issued on June 7, 2023, under Cause No. 515671, pending in Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, to Patricia Teague, Independent Administrator.

Claims may be presented in the care of the attorney for the estate addressed as follows: Carl Dawson, Ryan & Dawson, 770 S. Post Oak Ln., Ste. 600, Houston, Texas 77056. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this March 8, 2023

/s/ Carl Dawson  
Attorney for the Estate  
770 S. Post Oak Lane, Suite 600  
Houston, Texas 77056  
State Bar No. 05599100  
(713) 960-1555

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AN UPDATE ON THE BRAZOS RIVER FLOOD STUDY (TWDB Commitment No. G1001319)**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.**  
**WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM**  
**836 AUSTIN STREET**  
**HEMPSTEAD, TEXAS 77445**

The Commissioners Court of Waller County, Texas, at the above-described date, time, and location, will conduct a public hearing in order to provide an update on the Brazos River Flood Study (TWDB Commitment No. G1001319). The purpose of the study is to identify existing drainage issues and potential projects in the Brazos River Watershed within Waller County. The Public Hearing will cover the project scope, results of the existing conditions analysis, and the identified potential project locations.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and may testify at the hearing.

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**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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# Texas baseball wins Coral Gables Regional, set for Super Regionals

BY ZACH SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Texas is one step away from Omaha.

The Longhorns won three straight games in Coral Gables to advance to the Super Regional for the third year in a row. They will travel to Palo Alto to take on Stanford in a best-of-three series beginning Saturday.

"I'm glad we're advancing," Texas baseball head coach David Pierce said. "We'll be ready to go. I just think that we prepare well and try to stay consistent," Pierce said. "We've been really fortunate with good players."

Texas and Stanford begin their series with Game 1 Saturday at 5 p.m. Game 2 will be Sunday, and Game 3 will be Monday if necessary.

"A lot of the guys come to Texas to go to Omaha, and this was one of the steps," freshman Jared Thomas said. "More importantly, we came to win. I think the team came here with a little more edge."

Stanford defeated San Jose State, Cal State Fullerton and Texas A&M to win the Stanford Regional and advance to a fourth-straight Super Regional. The Cardinal were selected as the No. 8 national seed after winning the Pac-12 regular season championship by five games.

Texas the No. 2 seed in the Coral Gables regional, won three straight games to advance to super regionals.

Lucas Gordon struck out eight batters and allowed just one run on five hits across seven innings in the series-opening 4-2 win over Louisiana on Friday, while Dylan Campbell finished 2-for-4 to extend his hitting streak to 36 games, breaking the Big 12 record.

Lebarron Jonshon Jr. was lights out in his first career complete game



Texas shortstop Mitchell Daly (19) during an NCAA college baseball game between Texas and LSU on Feb. 28, 2023, in Austin.

on Saturday, throwing 129 pitches and giving up just one run on seven hits with eight strikeouts in a 4-1 win over Miami.

Texas closed out the regional on Sunday, scoring nine runs in the third and holding on late for a 10-6 win over the Hurricanes.

"I'm just proud of our team," Pierce said. "We got behind early and did a great job of continuing to play the game. Fortunately, we had a big inning. We weren't our best offensively, but that's why you call it a team."

"We got punched early and we

punched back," Pierce said. "We knew Miami wasn't going down quietly."

The Longhorns finished the regular season strong, beating West Virginia at home, but dropped back-to-back games at the Big 12 tournament to fall just out of the NCAA Tournament regional hosts.

"Not being at home and playing on a new field, I think that lit a fire under us and helped us play tie a little bit more controlled aggression and just going out there and doing anything we can do to win the game," Thomas said.



RAY BORCHERT | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins senior Jace LaViolette takes a swing during Game 3 of the Falcons' Region III-6A semifinals against Strake Jesuit last year at Cy-Falls High.

## Tompkins graduate LaViolette makes All-Freshman team

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins graduate and Texas A&M freshman Jace LaViolette was named to the SEC All-Freshman team last week.

LaViolette helped lead the Aggies to a 38-27 record and a 14-16 record in SEC play while the Aggies made a run to the regional final in Stanford.

LaViolette was strong all season for the Aggies, hitting .286 with 63 RBIS, 21 home runs and 50 runs scored and 18 steals while having 64 hits. He led the Aggies in home runs RBI and stolen bases on the year.

He also had a day in A&M's Regional Final loss, picking up a team high three hits in the game along with his 21st home run of the season, which was the Aggies' only run of the game in a 7-1 loss. He was named the SEC player of the week once this season. His 21 home runs is also a school record for a freshman, breaking a 36 year old record.

Along with that LaViolette was named to the Freshman All-America Team by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper, becoming the 14th Aggie in program history to garner the honor and the first since 2020.



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