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THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

School board hears projections for 2024-25 budget, staff

Public comment focuses on naming of Katy High School baseball field

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Katy Independent School District's Board of Trustees met Monday, March 18th in a work-

study session at the board room at 6301 S. Stadium Lane, hearing updates on the current year's budget as well as projections for the 2024-25 budget and projected staffing levels.

Chief Financial Officer Chris Smith presented the March budget update to the board – one in a series of reports, this one on the general fund. Smith projected that the current 2023-2024 budget will end with a \$8.1 million deficit. He then presented two projections for the 2024-2025 budget – first

showing a \$32.4 million deficit but showing a second projection that the administration had worked on, finding reductions and cost savings which would reduce the deficit to \$13 million. The figures for the 2024-2025 budget do not include plans for salary increases, he said. Smith said that to make up the shortfall, the district was working on raising "average daily attendance" on which state funding is based. A one percent increase in ADA would result in about a \$5.5 million increase in state funding,

he said. The board is expected to adopt the final 2024-2025 budget in August.

Chief Human Resources Officer Brian Schuss presented preliminary staffing numbers for the 2024-2025 school year, showing the planned addition of 392 new staff members, of which 282 are classroom teachers. Of the new teachers, 207 positions are being created with two new secondary schools opening in the fall of 2024 – Freeman High School and Nelson Junior High School. The

staffing projections are based on an estimated enrollment of 95,505 students or an increase of about 1,100 pupils over current levels – a slower rate of enrollment growth, he said. By comparison, the district added 622 new positions for the current school year. The district also increased the student-teacher ratio at the secondary level by about half a student per classroom – a move that reduced the need for about 50 secondary teachers.

See **KISD**, page A3

AMERICAN LEGION CELEBRATES 105TH BIRTHDAY



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEMORIES BY ASHLEY MARIE

The American Legion celebrated its 105th anniversary with a special dinner on Friday, March 15th hosted by local Post 164 at the Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road. Cutting the birthday cake are (left to right) Post Commander Peter Betura, 105-year-old World War II Army veteran Thelma Williams and American Legion District 22 Commander James McGuire. Snapping a photo of the cake is State Representative Michael Schofield, who also spoke at the event.

'Women of Katy' returns with symposium event on March 28th

Event themed 'Empowering Women in Business and Community'

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Katy Business Association announced on March 12th the inaugural Women of Katy Symposium, scheduled for March 28th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Alamo Drafthouse in LaCenterra, 2707 Commercial Center Blvd, in Katy. This event, open to the public, aims to empower female industry and community leaders, women business owners, and members of the Katy community, said a joint press release from the two organizations.

See **WOMEN**, page A3

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month: 5 tips to prevent colorectal cancer

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in men and women in the United States. As Colorectal Awareness Month in March comes to a close, Dr. Hani Zamil, a gastroenterologist at Houston Methodist West Hospital, shares five tips to help prevent and reduce the risk of colorectal cancer.



DR. HANI ZAMIL

See **CANCER**, page A3

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March 21, 2024
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MOBILITY IMPROVEMENTS



PHOTO TAKEN FROM ARKK ENGINEERING STATUS REPORT AND PROVIDED COURTESY OF COUNCILMEMBER DAN SMITH

Engineering design work is in progress to align Pitts Rd at Morton Road. The first phase (shown in red) will re-align the intersection with four-way stops. When Morton Road is constructed, the traffic signals and second boulevard lanes will be added (shown in blue). "The current timeline has this project starting later this year," said Councilmember Dan Smith in a March 13th Facebook post.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

City of Katy workers put the finishing touches on the intersection of Kingsland Blvd. and Cane Island Parkway on March 18th. The City of Katy announced on March 13th via its Facebook page that beginning March 18th, the westbound lanes at the intersection would be open for traffic. The new Home Depot, slated to open April 11th, is on Cane Island Parkway just north of this intersection.

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Katy Home & Garden Show offers free tickets to readers of the Katy Times

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Katy Home & Garden Show and Barndo Expo returns to the Katy ISD Ag Center on March 23 - 24 for its 18th year. The Ag Center is located at 5825 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road in Katy.

Locally owned and operated by Katy native Jeff Cade and his wife, small businesswoman, Robyn Cade, this show also supports many small and local businesses. Shopping at the show not only helps the local economy but supports area community businesses, many of whom could be a neighbor or family friend.

Find hundreds of home improvement and garden experts plus The IKEA Fresh Ideas Stage with informative seminars like building and financing a barndo, spring gardening tips, dog training, personal and home safety and much more.

With the show just days away, the Cades want to thank Katy's residents for supporting the show and local businesses for the last 18 years.

Enjoy free tickets courtesy of the Cades and The Katy Times by accessing the link below. It is a wonderful way to support all the local businesses in the show. The Katy Times is the title sponsor of the event.

<https://katyhomeandgardenshow.com/katy-track.php?coupon=vip-ktimes>

Need directions, hours and exact seminar times? Please visit <https://katyhomeandgardenshow.com/>

27th edition of Katy Sip N Stroll to benefit Christ Clinic

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Sip N Stroll -- Katy's premier culinary and wine experience -- returns for its 27th edition on Saturday, April 6th, offering more than 35 restaurant food tasting stations, and featuring five dessert booths in "Sweet Tooth Alley" including Alchemy Bake Lab and HTX Nitro Creamery and more. Add in over 300 beverage selections to this all-inclusive experience and it's the perfect spring fling date night.

Katy Sip N Stroll spring edition features the 11th annual Premier Culinary Awards presented by GOYA Foods. A panel of esteemed culinary judges select the winning area restaurant and chef who will proudly show off their award plate in their dining establishment. You'll find local favorites such as Hongdae 33 Korean BBQ, Soto's Cantina, TJ Birria Y Mas, Gauchos Do Sul, Mala Sichuan, LaCoste Seafood & Grill, Nando's PERI-PERI, Pearl & Vine, and Half Shells Seafood.

Sip N Stroll is packed with must-see features starting first with "All Things Bubbly" with an array of sparkling wines from around the world. The VIP Zone with lounge seating, premium food and wine selections, the BIG keepsake glass, VIP swag bag and a full hour of all grounds access before general admission guests arrive.

Kroger Experience Alley offers 60-feet of culinary and beverage treasures including Boar's Head charcuterie, Murray's Cheese, and bakery favorites. Not to be missed is the White Claw "Super Claw" Lounge with a full array of White Claw flavored vodka, seltzers, cocktails, and cocktail-friendly foods. Then there's the Spirits Patio with craft spirits offering selections to fit every favorite, and refreshing cocktails.

Lively sounds fill the Texas skies as two live bands keep the crowd swaying. Shang and Byron's 2 Man Band with sing-along and dance-along favorites on the Aruba Tourism Party Stage and the Nowhere But Up Band featuring Angelique and Oscar Maldonado on the Back Lot Music Stage. Plus, DJ London is live in the ARK Ballroom.

ABOUT THE EVENT BENEFICIARY, CHRIST CLINIC

Christ Clinic began in 2000 as an outreach ministry in Memorial Lutheran Church in Katy, operating as a weekly wellness clinic in the church's gym. In 2007, the clinic moved to a new facility with four exam rooms and began operating three days a week. Christ Clinic was established as an independent 501 (c) 3 in 2012. Christ Clinic promises to provide compassionate, high-quality healthcare services to all members of our community, regardless of their beliefs or background. The Katy Sip N Stroll is proud to support fundraising for Christ Clinic which is entirely supported by private donations and serves persons right here in the Katy community and surrounding area to provide health care services to persons without healthcare. www.sipandstroll.com. For more information about the Christ Clinic, visit christclinic Katy.org/home.

Speaking of ballroom, the Charity Party Wagon Raffle is front and center with a wagon packed full of wine, unique beverages, spirits, swag, and so much more and one lucky winner will roll out with more than \$1,000 of beverages to stock a bar for a long time or to host a block party for your favorite friends. Add in the wine pull, auction, and other fundraising channels and 100% of the funds raised in these areas go to help residents right here in Katy with their healthcare needs provided by Christ Clinic. This 24-year old health care charity clinic is fully funded by private donations and served 20,000 patient interactions in 2024 alone, providing nine areas of specialty care for persons without healthcare benefits.

The 27th edition, Co-Presented by Kroger and BMW of West Houston, will once again take place at The ARK by Norris Event Center, 21402 Merchants Way, Katy, TX 77449. Free parking and a free shuttle service will whisk guests from their parked vehicle to the front entry. Private Deluxe Hospitality Tents are available for your own group where you, your closest friends, and business associates can secure your own "cabana." See the website for details and reservations.

Community sponsors and partners of the festival include Kroger and BMW of West Houston as Co-Presenting, Goya Foods, Aruba Tourism, Alexander Valley Vineyards, White Claw, Winebow Imports, Hess Persson Estates, Michael David Winery, Renewal by Anders-

en, ACME Party & Tent, Kelley Sweet Photography, Katy Times, Swoon, Pet Talk, Houston West Chamber of Commerce, Infiniti Graphics, Melissa Chapman Photography, My Neighborhood News, SRG Photography, and SpeedPro.

General admission tickets (\$75) and VIP Zone tickets (\$110) are on sale at www.sipandstroll.com. All tickets are all-inclusive, and attendance is limited. A sellout is expected once again. For a complete list of the amazing participating restaurants, beverages, sponsors and exhibitors, see www.sipandstroll.com.

ABOUT FOOD & VINE TIME PRODUCTIONS

Food & Vine Time Productions, producer of Katy Sip N Stroll, is proud to have raised over \$2 million dollars through various channels since its inception in 2002 for local charities and deserving non-profits. The first large scale event in the Metro founded by Food & Vine Time Productions, Wine & Food Week is the first multi-day, multi-faceted, comprehensive destination culinary and wine event in the Houston Metro and the first nationally to promote locally sourced and sustainable products. Founder Constance McDerby with life and business partner, Clifton McDerby have been promoting and furthering the diverse culinary scene to avid followers since 2002. Diffusing the mystique of wines, FVTP events make wines approachable by educating attendees from the novice to the aficionado.

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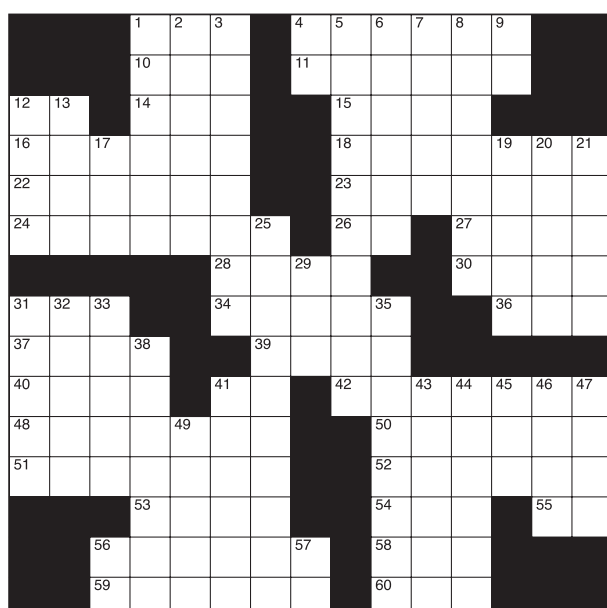
CLUES ACROSS

- Small Eurasian deer
- Irish county
- A major division of geological time
- Broadway actor Lane
- Canadian province (abbr.)
- Human gene
- Two
- A famous one is blue
- Utter repeatedly
- Ring-shaped objects
- Spoils
- Occurs
- Commercial
- Near
- Products you may need
- Pledge thrown down as a challenge
- TV network
- Silk or cotton garments
- Soviet Socialist Republics
- Retired American football coach Dean
- Hot dish
- A type of gin
- Atomic #84
- Sawhorse
- About ground

- Medicine man
- Seedless raisin
- Capital of Albania
- Appendage
- OJ trial judge
- By the way (abbr.)
- Bicycle parts
- Barbie's friend
- Moved one's neck to see
- Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- Make up for
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Salary
- Influential world body
- Engravers
- Declared as fact
- One who steals
- Jewelry
- Hospital employee (abbr.)
- Nonsense (slang)
- Town in Galilee
- Value
- A fake name
- Sheep in their second year
- Town in Surrey, England
- Appropriate for a particular time of year
- Creative works
- Recesses



- W. Pacific island group
- Tolkien character
- Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
- Pioneer
- Scribe
- Painted a bright color
- Lowest members of British nobility
- Actress Thurman
- Type of sugar
- Crest of a hill
- N. American people of British Columbia
- Device
- The Mount Rushmore State

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Keep Katy Beautiful hosts Spring Community Garage sale on April 6th

Registration is live for the Keep Katy Beautiful Community Wide Garage Sale, taking place on Saturday, April 6, 2024, KBB announced via its Facebook page. City of Katy residents can visit: cityofkaty.com/garagesale to sign up. A full map of participating addresses will be available once registration closes

at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2nd. "It's more than just a sale—it's a chance to promote recycle, reduce, reuse, and rebuy," the organization said. "Let's come together as a community to declutter, find treasures, and make sustainable choices." Get ready to turn your unwanted items into someone else's new favorite find! Whether you're a seller or a buyer, this event is your opportunity to participate in a day of community spirit and eco-friendly shopping.

Katy ISD's Education Foundation GROOVE24 spring fundraiser is April 6th

The KISD Education Foundation is taking over the Katy location of Whiskey Cake at 23139 Grand Circle Blvd., Katy, from 7 to 10 p.m. on April 6th for its spring fundraiser. The event will feature

live music, a wine and spirit pull, dinner stations, an Empress Gin bar, exclusive Bourbon tasting and an expanded casino. All Groove proceeds benefit the Katy ISD Education Foundation and its Inspiring Imagination teacher grant program through which it has invested more than \$3 million in Katy ISD classrooms. Tickets to the bash, which start at \$140.00, may be purchased at katyisdeducationfoundation.org/groove-1. A ten percent discount is offered for the purchase of six or more tickets.

KATY AARP Chapter Meeting April 9TH; group also offers tickets to upcoming Broadway Across America shows

The Katy chapter of AARP will meet Tuesday, April 9th, at

Midway BBQ, 6191 Highway Blvd in Katy. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Afterwards, entertainment will be provided by The Larry Glass Band which plays a variety of the most requested songs from country and pop/rock classics from the 1930s to 1970s. The audience can listen, dance, or sing along. Visitors are welcome. Allow time to purchase any food before the meeting starts.

In addition to the meeting, the KATY AARP 2655 also has tickets to the Broadway Across America's play Hairspray on Saturday, June 8, and The Lion King on Thursday, July 11, at the Hobby Center. If interested, please contact Pat Baker at the City of Katy Fussell Senior Center at 281-391-4837. Transportation is provided. You must be 50 years or older to ride on the Harris County bus.

Katy Police Officers Association to hold annual Fish Fry on April 11th

The 42nd annual Fish Fry & Auction will be held Thursday, April 11th at the Leonard Merrell Center at 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy. Meals, which include catfish fillet, hush puppies, green beans, potatoes and iced tea, will be served from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the auction will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets for the all-you-can-eat dinner are \$20.00 for adults and free for children aged six and under, and may be purchased by using the QR code on the department Facebook page at [facebook.com/search/top?q=katy%20police%20department](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=katy%20police%20department). For more information, call the Katy Police Department at 281-391-4848.

WOMEN

from page A1

The Women of Katy Symposium is designed to provide tangible resources that attendees can immediately implement in their careers, businesses, and personal lives. With a diverse range of session topics including navigating chaos to calm, accessing capital, enhancing digital presence, and advancing careers or businesses, participants will gain valuable insights and actionable strategies.

"We are thrilled to host the Women of Katy Symposium, a platform dedicated to empowering and equipping women with the tools they need to succeed," said Stacy Jacobs, Vice President for Business Development of the Katy Area Chamber. "This event underscores our commitment to fostering a supportive environment for female professionals and entrepreneurs in our community."

Attendees can expect a dynamic program

featuring networking opportunities, access to business resources, engaging panel discussions, and a catered lunch. Registration is required for attendance, and tickets can be purchased through the event website at womenofkaty.com.

"We believe in the power of collaboration and knowledge-sharing," said Olivia Martin, President of the Katy Business Association. "The Women of Katy Symposium provides a unique platform for women to come together, learn from each other, and drive meaningful change in our community."

The two organizations collaborated last fall to host their first "Women of Katy" event which featured a panel of entrepreneurs who shared their advice and experiences. The 2023 event, which sold out, was held at Perry's in LaCenterra.

KISD

from page A1

Student-teacher ratios at the elementary level were unaffected. Reducing the need for these 50 positions will net a cost savings of about \$3 million, he said.

Following the board meeting, Katy ISD Superintendent of Schools Ken Gregorski issued the following statement:

"Katy ISD is recognized as a state-acclaimed school district for fiscal integrity and responsibility. Though, like many other school districts, our district is approaching an increasingly difficult task of maintaining balanced budgets year after year. The state's inaction on school funding has compelled districts throughout Texas to operate on deficit budgets.

"Put plainly, without an increase in state funding for public education, our district is facing a challenging budget scenario that will necessitate future reductions and a renewed focus on revenue-generating programs to achieve a balanced budget for the 2024-2025 school year. With that said, I want our staff and community to understand that as we begin budget planning for the next school year, our priorities are to:

- Retain ALL of our exceptional teachers and staff within our district

- Strategically modify some program models to create greater efficiencies
- Protect core student programs and services
- Phase out programs that have shown limited return on investment
- Ensure all standards for student academic performance remain intact."

Also at Monday's meeting the board also discussed potential renovations at various campuses, including track repairs and resurfacing at Seven Lakes High, Tompkins High, Morton Ranch Junior High, West Memorial Junior High and WoodCreek Junior High. Other proposed repairs and renovations included Katy Junior High, Katy High School band and orchestra building, Cimarron Elementary and Nottingham Country Elementary.

The board discussed and considered the naming of the Katy High School baseball field for former coach Tom McPherson, and heard comments from three speakers -- a parent and two former KHS baseball players -- during the public comments session.

The board will vote on the matter at the regular board meeting scheduled for Monday, March 25 at 5 p.m.

CANCER

from page A1

1. Understand your risk.

"Understanding your family history is crucial," said Zamil. "Sharing this information with your physician will help in the creation of an individualized screening plan based on your risk."

- Know your family history and inform your healthcare provider of any family members who have had colorectal cancer.
- Individuals aged 45 and older are at an increased risk, so it's crucial to start regular screenings at this age.

2. Embrace a healthy lifestyle

- Maintain a balanced diet rich in fiber, fruits and vegetables.
- Limit red and processed meat consumption, as they may contribute to an increased risk of colorectal cancer.
- Engage in regular physical activity to promote overall health.

3. Stay hydrated

"Proper hydration supports digestive health," said Zamil. "When you're not hydrated, there's the potential for toxins to build up in your body and cause digestive issues. Aim for at least eight glasses of water a day to keep your colon healthy."

- Drink eight glasses of water a day.
- Set alarms or alerts on your phone as reminders to stay hydrated throughout the day.

4. Quit smoking

• Smoking is linked to an elevated risk of colorectal cancer. Quitting improves your overall health and helps to reduce your risk of cancer.

"Quitting can be tough," said Zamil. "If you're having trouble, reach out to your doctor to create a plan that works for you."

5. Regular screenings

"I cannot overstate the importance of regular screenings for colorectal cancer," said Zamil. "Regular screenings, such as colonoscopies, are essential for colorectal cancer prevention. Detecting cancer early saves lives and gives the best possible outcomes."

- Schedule regular screenings, such as colonoscopies, to detect and remove precancerous polyps before they develop into cancer.

• Discuss with your healthcare provider to determine the most suitable screening method for your individual risk profile.

By incorporating these tips into your lifestyle and being proactive about your colorectal health, you can take significant steps to reduce the risk of colorectal cancer. Zamil emphasized, "Prevention starts with awareness and action. Schedule an appointment with your physician to discuss your risk factors and create a personalized plan for your colorectal health."

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Easter Worship

The community is invited to celebrate the Easter holiday in any of these area churches.

A4 THE KATY TIMES
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

KATYTIMES.COM

Free Easter photos and family memories at Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's invites families to celebrate Spring by offering free photos with the Easter Bunny at all retail locations. Families are encouraged to make a free advanced reservation online to receive a free, studio-quality 4x6 color photo. Photo package upgrades will also be available. Stores will offer free foam bunny picture frames and giveaways for participants, while supplies last.

The offer is available Saturday, March 23 through Sunday, March 31, 2024, according to a company press release. Photo hours*:

- Saturday, March 23:



11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- Sunday, March 24: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Monday, March 25: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 26: 5

p.m. - 8 p.m.

- Wednesday, March 27: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Thursday, March 28: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Friday, March 29: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Saturday, March 30: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Sunday, March 31: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The offer is valid at Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's locations across North America. The Katy location of Bass Pro Shops is at Katy Mills Mall, 5000 Katy Mills Cir, Ste 415, Katy, TX 77494.

Visit www.basspro.com/easter or www.cabelas.com/easter for more information and click on your local store for more details.



Katy Heritage Society hosts members-only eggstravaganza on March 29th

The Katy Heritage Society will host its annual members-only Easter Eggstravaganza on March 29th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Katy Heritage Park, 6001 George Bush Drive in Katy. Admission is \$5.00 each for KHS members and RSVP/tickets are required for all attendees.

The event will feature a petting zoo, a visit from the Easter Bunny,

crafts, face painting, and home tours (subject to change and availability and weather restrictions). No refunds or exchanges. All purchases are a donation to a nonprofit and guarantee no exchange of goods or services. Membership to the Katy Heritage Society is just \$25.00. Join the society and RSVP for this family-friendly event at katyheritagesociety.com.

Join us for
Holy Week Services

Maundy
Thursday

March 28 @ 7:00pm

He is Risen!

Easter Services
March 31

7:00am - *Outdoor Service*
10:30am - *Sanctuary*

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6035 S. Fry Rd, Katy 77450 | www.grandlakespc.org

Suvida Health Care hosting family-friendly Easter event on March 22

Bring the whole family and come have Easter fun with Suvida Health Care on Friday, March 22nd! The healthcare clinic will have games, giveaways and refreshments

from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at their Katy location at 323 S. Mason Road, next to Fiesta. For more information, please text or call 346-396-0119. Free event.

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Easter Sunday

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 AT 10 AM
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RESURRECTION
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EASTER

*sunrise
service*

7:00 AM

*outdoor food
& fellowship*

9:30 AM

*sanctuary
service*

11:00 AM

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TYLER TYRE | Sports Editor
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MARISSA FERREIRA | Page Designer

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KATYTIMES.COM

Texas A&M Corps of Cadets announces 2024-25 Leadership

Katy graduate among 12 students assuming senior leadership roles

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION, March 14, 2024 — The Corps of Cadets — Texas A&M's largest, oldest and most visible student organization — has selected its senior leadership for the 2024-25 school



TRISTAN LANCIOS

year, the school announced in a March 14th press release. Tristan Lanclos, a graduate of Katy High School, is among the elite group.

Four cadets were identified to fill the most senior leadership positions of corps commander, deputy corps commander, chief of staff and sergeant major:

- Corps Commander: Deandre Macri, Fort Huachuca, Arizona.
- Deputy Corps Commander: James Guandolo, Dallas, Texas.
- Chief of Staff: Carl Witherell, New Braunfels, Texas.
- Sergeant Major: John Andruss, Victoria, Texas.

Eight cadets were selected to

serve as major unit commanders or sergeants major for the Corps' four major units:

- 1st Brigade Commander: Luke Sims, Broussard, Louisiana.
- 1st Brigade Sergeant Major: Madison Cronin, Hot Springs, Arkansas.
- 1st Regiment Commander: Jordan McConnell, Panama City Beach, Florida.
- 1st Regiment Sergeant Major: Jessica Vogt, Commerce City, Colorado.
- 1st Wing Commander: Aidan Polster, Savannah, Texas.
- 1st Wing Sergeant Major: Sam Chew, Bryan, Texas.
- Aggie Band Commander: Tristan Lanclos, Katy, Texas.
- Aggie Band Sergeant Major: Avery Owens, Northlake, Texas.

Cadets complete a thorough selection process that consists of an application and an interview with a panel of peers and staff. All applicants are evaluated on academic performance, performance in the Corps, success in previous leadership positions, peer/staff evaluations, and their leadership vision for the future.

Dating to 1876, the Corps of Cadets is the oldest and largest student organization at Texas A&M University. The Corps prepares cadets to lead at the community, state and national levels and produces some of the nation's finest leaders in the public, private and military sectors.

Carnegie Hall selects Katy student for National Youth Orchestra

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Carnegie Hall announced March 12th the names of the 103 outstanding young musicians selected from across the country for the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYO-USA) — including Leah Wu of Katy, who attends Obra D. Tompkins High School.

The 16-year-old bassoonist also participated last summer in NYO2, Carnegie Hall's national youth ensemble for younger teens aged 14-17. According to her profile on the organization's website, Leah participates in the Houston Youth Symphony and is part of the Tompkins Academic Decathlon team.

The members of the 2024 orchestra—ages 16-19, hailing from 34 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico—have been recognized by Carnegie Hall as being among the finest players in the country following a comprehensive and highly selective audition process. This summer's orchestra features 15 musicians who previously played with NYO-USA, as well as a total of 30 musicians who gained experience through NYO2, and one musician who previously performed as part of NYO Jazz. All three of Carnegie Hall's national youth ensembles



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Bassoonist Leah Wu of Katy, who attends Obra D. Tompkins High School, has been selected for the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America.

are offered free of charge, ensuring that all invited musicians have the opportunity to take part each summer.

This summer, NYO-USA musicians will travel to New York in late July for an intensive two-week training residency at Purchase College, State University of New York (SUNY). Celebrated conductor Marin Alsop leads NYO-USA at the orchestra's annual Carnegie Hall concert (August 5), presented as part of World Orchestra Week (WOW!)—a week-long celebration of international youth orchestras—followed by a South American tour which includes stops in Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and

more. Both at Carnegie Hall and abroad, the orchestra will perform Barber's Symphony No. 1, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, with Jean-Yves Thibaudet as soloist, and Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade.

"We're thrilled to announce the roster of remarkable young musicians who will join NYO-USA for this upcoming summer," said Clive Gillinson, Carnegie Hall's Executive and Artistic Director. "These superb players will come together to train with some of the leading professional musicians in the country. The members of NYO-USA will represent the best of America as musical performers and as cultural ambassadors, both in New York during the festival and on tour."

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Psalms 94:19

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Katy ISD Destination Imagination teams advance to state contest

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On February 17, 160 Katy ISD Destination Imagination teams showcased their imagination and creativity at the annual Destination Imagination Gulf Coast Regional Tournament, the largest region in Texas. Elementary, junior high and high school students from Katy, Fort Bend, and Cy-Fair independent school districts, as well as several private schools, participated in this year's tournament.

Last year, 22 Katy ISD teams advanced to the state level. This year, 33 teams are headed to the Lone Star Finals State Tournament to be held on April 12 - 13 in Arlington, Texas. Additionally, Katy ISD had five senior-level teams compete in an advanced instant challenge called "Extreme." "Houston We Have a Problem" from Seven Lakes High School won first place and "Ordinary Extras" from Seven Lakes, Jordan, and Tompkins High Schools took second place. Both teams will advance to state.

"Advancing from the Destination Imagination regional competition to the state-level event speaks volumes about the hard work and collaborative spirit exhibited by these students throughout the school year. Their dedication is truly commendable," said Dr. Joan Otten, director of the Gifted/Talented & Advanced Academics Department at Katy ISD. "Katy ISD takes immense pride in witnessing students from across the district engage in this transformative tournament, recognizing its profound influence on their future endeavors," she added.

Destination Imagination is an extraordinary non-profit organization that provides educational programs for students to learn and experience creativity and teamwork. In preparation for a tournament, students choose a "Challenge," prepare a solution to the challenge, and present their solution in a highly creative skit. Additionally, all teams participate in an "Instant Challenge," which is a test of their improvisational skills. Their final score is a combination of the two events. Over 100,000 students in more than 30 countries participate in Destination Imagination annually.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION TEAMS (1ST-3RD PLACE)

School(s)	Team Name	Place
Beck JH/ McMeans JH, Woodcreek JH, Exley Elementary	DinoMite!	1st Place
Griffin Elementary	The Pinballers	1st Place
Seven Lakes HS/ Jordan HS/ Tompkins HS	Ordinary Extras	1st Place
Alexander Elementary	Bright Lights	1st Place
Beckendorff JH	Team T-R. EX	1st Place
Cinco Ranch HS	Chocolate Fudge Dinosaurs	1st Place
Hayes Elementary	Girl Power	1st Place
Jenks Elementary	Solvers of the Impossible	1st Place
McMeans JH	5 to Infinity	1st Place
Memorial Parkway Elementary	The Candy Nerds	1st Place
Seven Lakes HS	Houston We Have a Problem	1st Place
Seven Lakes HS/Jordan HS	The Ultimate Knights	1st Place
Tays JH	Tricky Twix	1st Place
Williams Elementary	Dino Nugget Destroyers	1st Place
Wilson Elementary	The Talented Tribe	1st Place
Wolman Elementary	Think About It	1st Place
Alexander Elementary	Phoenix 5	2nd Place
Alexander Elementary	Blooming Blossoms	2nd Place
Davidson Elementary	Mission Impossible Dragons	2nd Place
Davidson Elementary	Scientific Dreamers	2nd Place
McMeans JH	SKAMM'D	2nd Place
McMeans JH	Industrialists	2nd Place
Morton Ranch HS	The Nerd Herd	2nd Place
Nottingham Elementary	Chocolate Fudge Cookies	2nd Place
Seven Lakes HS	Hexavenom	2nd Place
Stanley Elementary	Mighty Marshmallows	2nd Place
Stanley Elementary	Stampeo Warriors	2nd Place
Tompkins HS	Epic Failers	2nd Place
Hayes Elementary	Shooting Stars	3rd Place
Holland Elementary	Highlighters	3rd Place
Kilpatrick Elementary	DI Dashers	3rd Place
Pattison Elementary	Out of This World	3rd Place
Seven Lakes JH	Act on Impulse	3rd Place
Alexander Elementary	The Shooting Tie Dye Sharks	3rd Place
Bryant Elementary	The Starry Knights	3rd Place
Jenks Elementary	Shape Shifters	3rd Place

"HIGH INSTANT CHALLENGE" MEDALS

School(s)	Team Name	Special Award
Griffin Elementary	The Pinballers	High IC
Cinco Ranch HS	Two-Toed Dinosaurs	High IC
Tays JH	Tricky Twix	High IC
Tompkins HS	Epic Failers	High IC
Alexander Elementary	The Shooting Tie Dye Sharks	High IC
Bryant Elementary	The Starry Knights	High IC
Jenks Elementary	Shape Shifters	High IC
Kilpatrick Elementary	The Imaginators	High IC
Rylander Elementary	Fantastic Four	High IC
Shafer Elementary	Fantastic fantasy	High IC
Tays JH	The Pinball Titans	High IC

SPECIAL AWARDS

School(s)	Team Name	Special Award
Beck JH/ McMeans JH, Woodcreek JH, Exley Elementary	Team DinoMite!	Renaissance Award
Seven Lakes HS/ Jordan HS/ Tompkins HS	Ordinary Extras	Spirit of Discovery and Imagination Award
Holland Elementary	Houston We Have a Problem Highlighters	Renaissance Award DaVinci Award

HCC Katy to offer Logistics & Global Supply Chain Management degree

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston Community College (HCC) students will now be able to earn a degree in Logistics and Global Supply Chain Management at the Katy campus, 22910 Colonial Parkway, beginning in Fall 2023 semester. The Katy campus will offer both a Level 1 certificate and an Associate of Applied Sciences degree in a field that is part of every industry and involves all the activities that make the global flow of goods and services possible.

"With the growth of industry and business warehousing in West Houston and the Katy area, offering the logistics program at our Katy campus only makes sense," said Dr. Zachary Hodges, HCC Northwest President.

The Logistics and Global Supply Chain Management program incorporates business logistics, operations, project management, and supply chain technology classes into a global supply chain focus. This multifaceted approach prepares students for careers in all industries. Some of the representative career titles and job positions for this program plan include logistics coordinator or specialist, production/operations planner, warehouse and distribution supervisor, import/export freight coordinator, retail and wholesale coordinator, and freight forwarding opportunities across truck, rail, ocean and air transportation.

"This program benefits those who are new to the field as well as those currently working in logistics supply chain," said Shari Carter, HCC Program Director of Logistics & Global Supply Chain, Maritime Transportation, and International Business. "Those who are already working in the field may need an industry certification to show proficiencies in logistics supply chain technology across material handling, software knowledge, and abilities to optimize their effectiveness through enhanced education to provide the necessary efficiencies within the rapid technology advances in the workforce."

Graduates of the program will enter a profession that, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, has a projected job growth of 30 percent within the next decade. The earning potential for graduates ranges from an average of \$60,165 at entry level, \$104,610 at mid-level, to \$168,726 at the senior level.

To learn more about the Logistics & Global Supply Chain Management program, visit hccs.edu/logistics or call 713.718.2614.

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WEEK OF MARCH 22

SCORES & SCHEDULES

SOFTBALL

Friday

- Katy vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 6 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Mayde Creek, 6 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.

Tuesday

- Katy vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 6 p.m.

BASEBALL

Friday

- Mayde Creek vs. Cinco Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 6 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Katy, 6 p.m.

Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 6 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Katy vs. Jordan, 6 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Friday

- Katy vs. Taylor, 7:15 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Tompkins, 7:15 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 7:15 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Morton Ranch, 7:15 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Friday

- Tompkins vs. Paetow, 7:15 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Jordan, 7:15 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Cinco Ranch, 7:15 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m.

Homecoming: Morton Ranch graduate Hunter signs with Texans

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

When Houston needed an impactful edge rusher this offseason, there was an obvious choice.

The Texans knew there was already a player in free agency with roots in the Houston community, a player that the team knew could come in and make a big impact and a player that was ready to return home.

The Texans secured one of the biggest moves of the offseason thus far when they signed Morton Ranch graduate Danielle Hunter to a two-year, \$49 million contract.

"It means a lot (to represent Morton Ranch)," Hunter said. "I was at the school when it first started, I was part of the first playoff game Morton Ranch had and they've continued to climb ladders ever since. It's very important to give back to where I came from. They

See **HUNTER**, page B3



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

AJ Atkinson hits during Thursday's game between Katy and Morton Ranch at the Katy baseball field. Left: Aiden Barrientes pitches during Thursday's game between Katy and Morton Ranch at the Katy baseball field.

Katy downs Morton Ranch in big win

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy has been led by its pitching staff all year.

The Tigers have been dominant on the mound and in their first three district games, Katy hadn't given up a single run.

It's a unit that the team can count on night in and night out,

and even on Thursday when the Tigers allowed their first runs of district, others stepped up as Katy's bats led the Tigers to a 12-3 victory over Morton Ranch.

"Our only struggle this year has been the offense," said senior outfielder AJ Atkinson. "The pitching has been unbelievable, and the defense has

been there so really in practice, it's been a focus on just hitting and getting our confidence up at the plate. You can see how it's worked out and if we keep hitting like we did today, we can make a deep run this year."

Atkinson was a huge part of that offensive surge on

See **BASEBALL**, page B6

Taylor stays perfect in district with win over Seven Lakes

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor has started out district hot.

The Mustangs weren't given an easy start to the season, going up against reigning district champion Cinco Ranch before taking on Seven Lakes, which was also a playoff team last year. But despite that, Taylor (11-6-1, 3-0) has proven they can be among the best in the district, sweeping the Cougars and following that up with a 4-1 win on Tuesday over the Spartans (8-7-2, 0-1) to stay in a tie for first in District 19-6A

with Katy and Paetow.

"We're a team that can't be taken lightly this year," said senior shortstop Chase Marshall. "We come out and we are going to compete every single game. We can compete with any team, it's showed with how we've played so far."

See **TAYLOR**, page B3

Taylor celebrates after Zach Larsen scored during Tuesday's game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Taylor baseball field.

TYLER TYRE



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Houston heads into NCAA Tournament as No. 1 seed

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Things couldn't have gone better in the schools first year in the Big 12.

The Cougars locked up a Big 12 title by going 15-3 in conference play and followed that up by advancing to the Big 12 Title game in the conferences tournament before falling to Iowa State in the final.

The Cougars were rewarded for this by clinching a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year and for the third time in school history, along with the 1983 team that reached the national championship game.

The Cougars secured the second overall seed behind only the University of Connecticut. UConn received the top overall seed based on winning the Big East regular season and post season championship.

Houston will be the No. 1 seed in the south region, but will have big competition, facing the likes of Marquette, Kentucky and Duke in their region. Houston will face No. 16 seed Longwood in the first round of the tournament, 8:20 p.m. Friday. A win would send the Cougars to face either Nebraska or Texas A&M in the second round of the tournament as they try to get to the sweet 16, which will be held in Dallas for the South Region.

Marquette is the two seed in the region while Kentucky is the three seed, Duke is the four seed, Wisconsin is the five seed and Texas Tech is the six seed.

Houston has been one of the top teams in the nation on defense and lead the country in scoring defense, allowing only 57 points per game along with field goal percentage, allowing just 37.9% of shots and turnover margin, where they are a +7.1. They are led by a strong group that includes Morton Ranch graduate L.J. Cryer, who is averaging 15.3 points, 2.2 rebounds and 1.9 assists per game while shooting 40.4% from the field and 38.9% from 3-point range.

Houston enters the tournament at 30-4 overall and it is the third straight season Houston has won 30 plus games. This is Houston's 25th appearance overall in the NCAA Tournament and marks the first time in school history that the school has made six straight tournaments, as Houston tries to make it to the final four for the seventh time in school history. Houston will be trying to bounce back after the teams 69-41 loss to Iowa State in the Big 12 Tournament Championship.

"We'll pick ourselves up, we have had a great year," University of Houston coach Kelvin Sampson said after the Iowa State Loss. "Forty minutes is not going to define these three months, we'll get some guys healthy and get back at it and be ready."



Houston Cougars assistant coach Kellen Sampson (left) and head coach Kelvin Sampson call out to their players during a Big 12 college basketball game between Houston and the Iowa State Cyclones on February 19, 2024. Houston won, 73-65.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Above: Houston guard Jamal Shead (1) moves the ball during a Big 12 college basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Iowa State Cyclones on February 19, 2024. Houston won, 73-65.



Houston guard L.J. Cryer (4) shoots a three-point basket during a Big 12 college basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Iowa State Cyclones on February 19, 2024. Houston won, 73-65.



Houston forward Joseph Tugler (25) shoots the ball during a Big 12 college basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Iowa State Cyclones on February 19, 2024. Houston won, 73-65.

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Damien Larson
512-797-9785 damien@bentarrow.net



David Harris hits during Tuesday's game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Taylor baseball field.

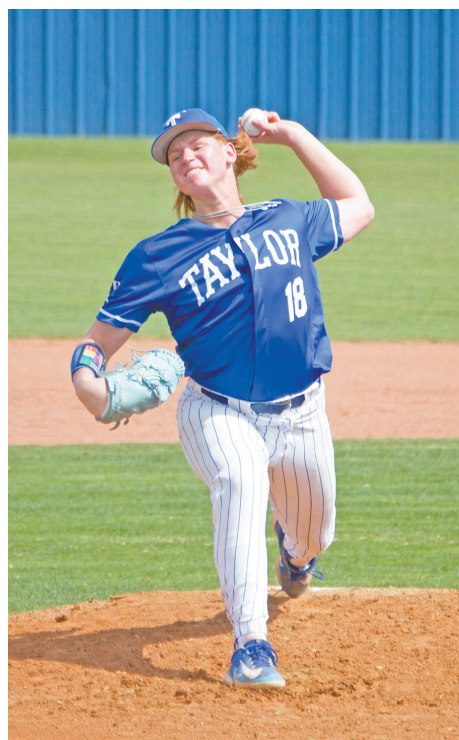
TAYLOR
from page B1

A huge part of the Mustangs' success has been their pitching and the performance of sophomore pitcher Bryce Krenek, who has started each of the teams three district games so far. Through those three games, Krenek has only allowed two runs, both of which have been unearned and he was tremendous on Tuesday, pitching six innings and striking out 13 while only allowing one unearned run on two hits to lead Taylor to the win.

"He's just a competitor," said Taylor head coach Russell Krenek. "He didn't have his best stuff today, but he still competed and gutted it out and it's hard for guys to hit him. Bryce has so much run on his pitches and he can mix in four of them, so it keeps everyone on his toes. He's done a really good job."

Taylor took the lead in the bottom of the second inning when Zach Larsen hit a double and then came around to score on a passed ball. It stayed that way until the fourth inning when Seven Lakes got a man in scoring position that came around to score on a single from Christian Villamizar to tie things. It remained tied until the sixth inning, when Taylor found a breakthrough. The Mustangs got one on and Alex Satterfield gave the team the lead on a double before David Harris hit a sacrifice fly and Christian Jaquay brought in a fourth run with an RBI single of his own.

It went to the bottom of the inning and Seven Lakes threatened, getting two men in scoring position, but Michael Brupbacher



Bryce Krenek pitches during Tuesday's game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Taylor baseball field.

struck out the final batter of the game to end things.

"Our dugout is just always cheering people on and I think it's led to us being calm up there and being able to come up big in late innings," Bryce Krenek said. "We're loud, always energetic and it's never lazy. That kind of energy just reassures the offense and we've fed off of that."

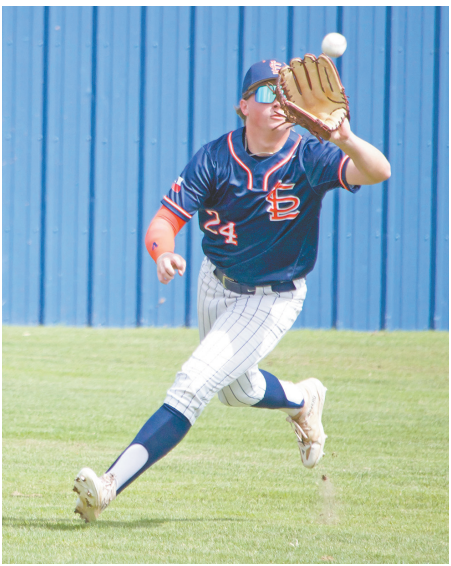
The Mustangs will face Seven Lakes again Thursday before being off from district play Saturday and Tuesday.

"There's a belief in this locker room and that's the best feeling as a coach," Russell Krenek said. "They know they're never out of a game and they understand that we are going to be in a lot of close ballgames but we have a team that can be good in those moments and grind away those wins. It takes us all, everyone has embraced their roles and they are doing exactly what they need to do."

District 19-6A

TAYLOR 4, SEVEN LAKES 1

SL: 001 110 0 - 1 2 1
Taylor: 010 003 x - 4 5 3
W: Bryce Krenek. L: Ty Berra. Highlights: (SL) James Levin, 4.1 IP, 3H, 0 ER, 3 SO, 2 BB; Christian Villamizar, 1-2, 1 BB, 1 RBI; Ty Berra, 1-3. (T) Bryce Krenek, 6 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 13 SO, 3 BB; Alex Satterfield, 1-3, 1 RBI; David Harris, 1-2, 1 RBI; Christian Jaquay, 1-3-1 RBI. Records: Taylor, 11-6-1, 3-0; Seven Lakes, 8-7-2, 0-1;



Owen Wade makes a catch in left field during Tuesday's game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Taylor baseball field.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Texans head coach DeMeco Ryans during an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on November 5, 2023 in Houston.

HUNTER
from page B1

helped me to be where I'm at today and that's a big part of who I am."

Hunter has become one of the best pass rushers in the NFL since being drafted by the Vikings. Over his eight years in Minnesota, Hunter has 87.5 sacks and 316 solo tackles, making three pro bowls. He comes off a season where he had 16.5 sacks and 54 tackles, but the Vikings struggled to a 7-10 record and finishing third in the NFC North.

Hunter wanted to be in a place where he could compete. He realized the Texans could provide that when he came back to Houston after the regular season and was at NRG Stadium for the wildcard round matchup between the Texans and Browns. Hunter saw the way that this Texans team competes, heard the noise in the crowd and immediately knew that a return home in free agency would be something his was interested in.

"I was actually at the game against the Browns and I liked what I saw there," Hunter said. "The whole feeling, you could see the vibes on the field, the way these guys played for each other and how they swarmed the ball on defense. That was a big part of me wanting to be here and I'm excited about that."

Hunter should be freed up playing alongside defensive rookie of the year Will Anderson Jr. and a revamped Texans defensive line. They'll be close in number too, as Hunter will not continue wearing No. 99 as he did in Minnesota and will instead wear No. 55 out of respect to JJ Watt.

"That's JJ's number, he's done a lot with that number and I'm not even going to mess with it," Hunter said. "To be able to do what he did in that number and everything he's done for this community. I want to leave that to him."

But no matter the number, this is shaping up to be an exciting Texans team and one that Hunter is excited to be a part of.

The Texans continued their moves by trading for pro bowl running back Joe Mixon and making a trade back out of the first round, sending the No. 23 overall pick and a seventh-round selection to the Vikings in exchange for the No. 42 overall pick, a sixth-round pick this year and a second-round pick in 2025.

"It means a lot and it's an honor to be able to come back and play in front of my family and all the people that I grew up with," Hunter said. "I know they've been pretty excited and they can't wait to come to a game and see me play."

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December 17 Puzzle Answers



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

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE
The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2024-04, The Application Of **Gerald S & Jennifer Schneider**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **6210 Pecan LN**, In The "R-1" Single Family District. Property Description: Lot 6, Block 6, Of The Pine Forest Section 1 Subdivision, Harris County, Texas.

A Request For A Variance To The Platted Building Setback Of Twenty-Five (25) Feet For A Residential Addition.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

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CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 9, 2024

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, April 22, 2024

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone Approximately 4.9998 Acres Of Land In The Thomas Cresap Survey, Abstract 369, And The Charles W. Schrimpf Survey, Abstract 412, in Fort Bend County, From "M" Industrial District to "C-2" General Business District.

Katy ISD Provides Evaluations for Students with Suspected Disabilities

The Katy Independent School District Department of Special Education provides evaluations for students with suspected disabilities to identify every student with a disability living within the district's boundaries. These evaluations are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education or Section 504 program.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their success in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Katy ISD Department of Special Education at 281-396-2066. The Department of Special Education will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to obtain academic and non-academic benefit. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions.

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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 **10th Street Bridge Replacement Project, until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2024.** 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.

The project involves **bridge and retaining wall construction, channel improvements, grading and storm sewer installations** as well as all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the 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.
- Negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value).
- 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 Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **April 2, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m. at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.**

Equal Opportunity in Employment - all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. 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. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

First Publication: March 21, 2024
Second Publication: March 28, 2024

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

The City of Pattison invites all citizens to a final public hearing at 5:05 p.m. on March 28, 2024 at the City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, TX 77466, to review performance and obtain comments regarding its 2021 Texas CDBG Program Community Development Contract CDV21-0131. Disabled persons or those who require auxiliary aids or services who wish to attend this meeting should contact the City Secretary at 281-934-3715 at least two days before the meeting to make arrangements. La ciudad de Pattison invita a todos sus ciudadanos a una audiencia pública el 28 de Marzo del 2024, a las 5:05 p.m. en la sala municipal localizada en 3410 First Street, Pattison, TX 77466, para evaluar el desempeño y obtener comentarios sobre el contrato CDBG del 2021, numero CDV21-0131. Las personas discapacitadas interesadas en atender a la audiencia pública que requieren de acomodaciones o servicios especiales, deben comunicarse con la City Secretary at 281-934-3715 no menos de dos días antes de la junta para hacer arreglos necesarios.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to **Parkside Capital on behalf of Katy West Municipal Utility District**, will be received at the office of **Quiddity Engineering, LLC**, 6330 West Loop South, Suite 150, Bellaire, Texas 77401, until 10:30 a.m. Local Time, Thursday, April 4, 2024, and then publicly opened and read for "Katy Court Lift Station No. 2 for Parkside Capital on behalf of Katy West Municipal Utility District, City of Katy, Texas." In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams. Details for the Microsoft Teams information will be provided to all plan holders on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 via Civcast. It will be each bidder's responsibility to ensure they receive the Microsoft Teams details prior to the bid opening.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: **Construction of Katy Court Lift Station No. 2.**

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A pre-bid conference will not be held.

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 Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. 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 one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search Katy Court Lift Station No. 2/05415-0013-01. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications and plans for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except the time for 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 bidder agrees that the Contract Documents can be terminated if the bidder knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

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BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Jordan tops Paetow in battle of unbeatens

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday

Jordan stayed undefeated in district by beating Paetow 12-6 with a big effort at the plate, with Caden Hoff driving in four runs and hitting a home run to lead the way. Thomas Eugate started on the mound and went four innings, allowing three runs on nine hits while striking out one. Jordan improved to 10-5 overall and 3-0 in district with the win.

Bobby Richardson drove in a run in the top of the first to give Jordan the lead and Cole Keppler doubled that lead in the third on a RBI single. Paetow got one run back in the third on a Yarel Delgado RBI single, but Jordan answered back as Hoff hit a three run home run in the fourth.

Adniel Quiles-Torres got another run back for Paetow in the bottom of the inning, with the Panthers trimming the lead to two on a fielders choice, but Jordan scored seven more runs in the fifth. Paetow scored three runs on an error in the bottom of the sixth to make it 12-6 but that was as close as it got before Paetow closed out the game to win.

Delgado and Adniel Quiles-Torres had Paetow's two RBIs in the game. Elijah Chisam started on the mound for the Panthers and went three innings, allowing five earned runs on three hits while walking eight and striking out two. Paetow fell to 15-4 overall and 4-1 in district with the loss.

Cinco earned its first district win in a huge effort, coming from behind against Tompkins, while Taylor and Paetow stayed perfect in district with wins on Thursday.

Cinco comes from behind to beat Tompkins

Cinco Ranch earned its first district win in a thriller, beating Tompkins 10-9 and scoring four runs, including a walk off in the seventh inning to clinch the victory.

Connor Ficarra and Brock DeYoung led the Cougars at the plate, both driving in two runs in the win. Brayden Hodge started the game on the mound for Cinco and pitched 2.1 innings, allowing five runs on four hits while walking three. The Cougars improved to 10-5-3 overall and 1-3 in district with the win.

Tompkins took the lead in the first inning when Gavin Brewer hit a single that drove in two, but Cinco came back to tie it in the bottom of the inning, as Ficarra drove in one on a single and Paul Acosta hit a double to tie it. The Cougars took the lead in the bottom of the second, when Lucas Franco hit a 1-run single and Ficarra followed that up with a double that drove in another. Tompkins came right back to retake the lead in the third though, loading the bases, with Ian Palacios clearing the bases on a 3-run double, the Falcons added another in the fifth inning on a Brayden Foor hit an RBI double.

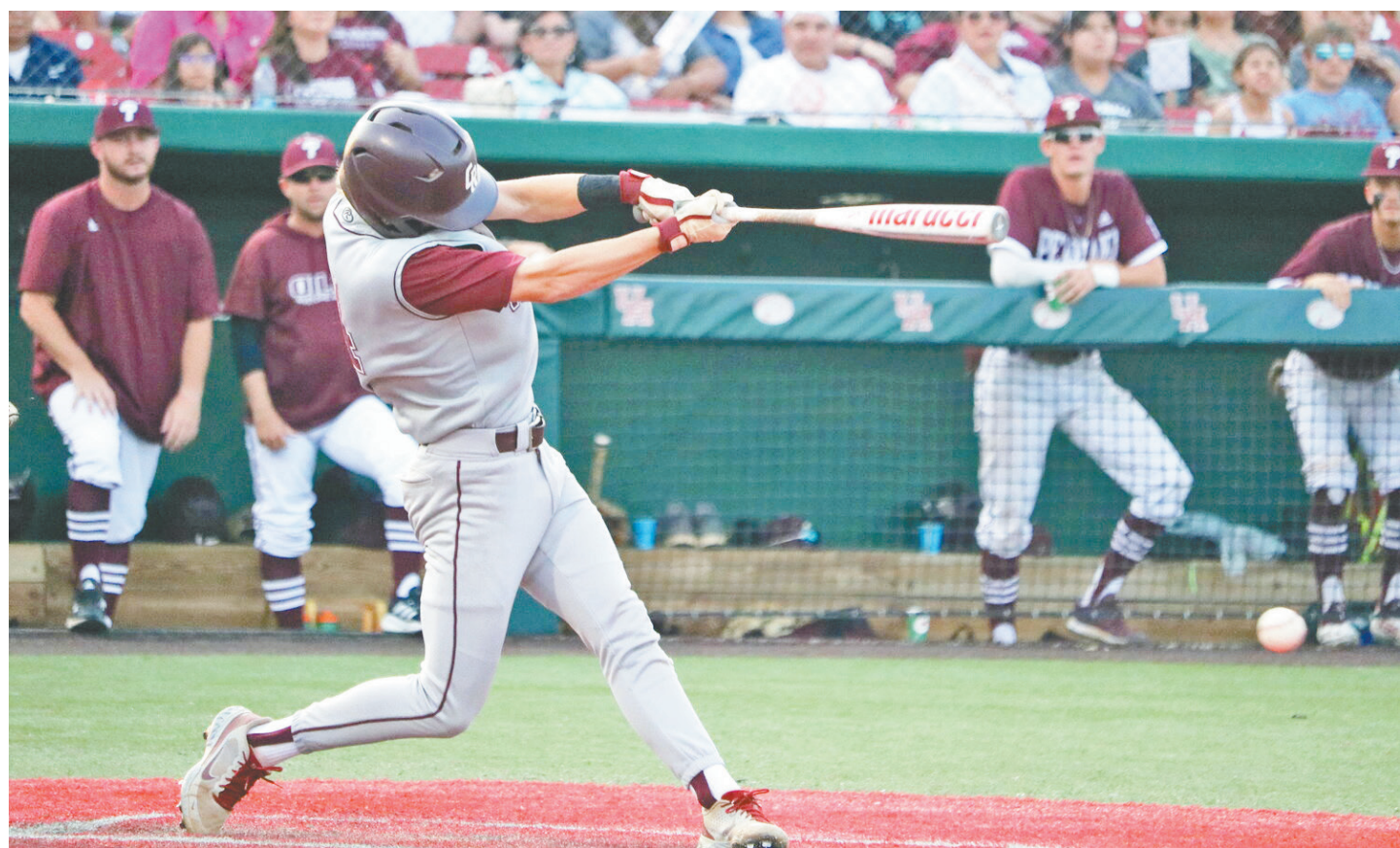
Cinco started to come back in the fifth and trimmed Tompkins lead to one on a Zach Franco sacrifice bunt, but Tompkins answered back in the top of the sixth when Chase Simon hit a sacrifice fly to drive in a run, before Cooper Markle hit an RBI single to make it a three run game. Lucas Franco trimmed the lead back to two in the bottom of the sixth when he hit a sacrifice grounder, but it went back to three runs on a bases loaded walk in the bottom of the sixth.

Cinco Ranch came back to take the win in the seventh. The Cougars got two men on and then scored on an Ethan Muniz single, before DeYoung came up and hit a 2-run double to tie the game before winning it when he came around to score on a wild pitch.

DeYoung became Cinco Ranch's all time hit leader in the game and is on 109 hits through his varsity career.

Palacios led the way offensively for Tompkins with three RBIs while Brewer had two.

Chase Simon took the mound for Tompkins and pitched five innings, allowing four earned runs on nine hits while striking out and walking three. Tompkins fell to 9-10 overall and 1-3 in district play with the loss.



Brock DeYoung hits during Friday's regional semifinal between Cinco Ranch and Pearland at The University of Houston.

Taylor stays perfect with strong win over Seven Lakes

Taylor had another big win on Thursday, beating Seven Lakes 8-1 behind their strongest offensive performance in district thus far.

The Mustangs were led on the mound by Easton Wolf, who pitched 5.2 shutout innings, allowing just four runs while striking out eight and walking three. Pete Dworaczyk, Alex Satterfield and David Harris each had two RBIs. Taylor improved to 13-7-1 and 4-0 in district with the win.

Harris drove in the first runs of the game in the second inning when he hit a single and an error made it 3-0 after three innings. Taylor added two more in the fourth on a single and got a sixth run in the fifth inning on a wild pitch. Satterfield then hit a double in the top of the seventh to make it 8-0, and although Seven Lakes got one run in the bottom of the seventh that was all they could muster.

Riley Sherowski took the mound for Seven Lakes and went three innings, allowing two earned runs on four hits while striking out and walking three. Seven Lakes fell to 9-8-2 overall and 0-2 in district with the loss.

Paetow downs Mayde Creek, stays unbeaten in district

Paetow kept up its perfect start to district play on Thursday with a 16-4 win over Mayde Creek, Hector Millan led the team at the plate with four RBIs, while Yarel Delgado, Maddox Prentice and Adniel Quiles-Torres had two RBIs each. Camden Philips started on the mound for Paetow and pitched five innings, allowing two earned runs and striking out two while walking one.

Paetow got out in front early in the first inning, getting a run on a passed ball and another on a single from Delgado before Prentice hit an RBI single and Quiles-Torres drove in two on another single. Allan Soto kept it going with another one run single, Paetow got two more on errors, Delgado drove in another on a double and Prentice hit another RBI single to make it 10-0 after one inning.

Mayde Creek got two runs back on an error in the third inning and scored a third when Drew Desormeaux hit a single to drive in a run. Charlie Radley answered back for Paetow, hitting a RBI single before Matthew Scott drove in a run on a single and Millan hit an inside the park grand slam, getting Paetow to 16 runs in the fourth inning. A sacrifice fly was all Mayde Creek could get in

the fifth as Paetow secured the win.

Daniel Burgos started on the mound and went .2 innings, allowing eight earned runs on seven hits and walking two. Desormeaux provided the team's lone RBI. Mayde Creek fell to 2-14-1 overall and 0-4 in district with the loss.

Tuesday March 12

Katy and Paetow stayed tied atop the District 19-6A standings with wins on Tuesday, while Tompkins bounced back with its first district win of the season with a strong performance.

Udland shuts out Morton Ranch

Connor Udland had a huge performance on the mound on Tuesday, shutting out Morton Ranch in a 10-0 win for Katy where the Tigers run ruled the Mavericks in five innings. Udland pitched five innings and struck out seven, only walking two and allowing just one hit in the game. At the plate, Ashton Ballew had three RBIs and three runs on two hits, including a home run in the win. Katy improved to 10-7 overall and 3-0 in district play with the win.

Ballew got the scoring started in the top of the first, after hitting a single, Ballew came around to score on a wild pitch, with the Tigers getting another run on a passed ball. Ballew then scored again in the third inning on an error. Katy broke things open in the fifth inning, with Udland starting things off with an RBI single and Katy got a fifth run on a passed ball, Jeremy Mazariegos then singled home another run and Katy got a seventh run on another passed ball. Ballew then stepped to the plate and hit a 3-run home run to increase the lead to double digits. Udland closed the game out with two strikeouts and then a ground out.

Zane Heiliger started on the mound for Morton Ranch and went 4.2 innings, allowing six earned runs on six hits while striking out three and walking two. The Mavericks fell to 6-9-1 overall and 0-3 in district play.

Tompkins holds off Cinco Ranch

Tompkins was able to outlast Cinco Ranch for a 2-1 on Tuesday behind a strong performance on the mound from Hudson Melaerts, who pitched seven innings and allowed just one run on one hit while striking out seven innings and walking two. Nate Piazza and Gavin Brewer had the two RBIs for the Fal-

cons as they improved to 9-9 on the season with a 1-2 district record.

Both of Tompkins' runs came in the third inning. Piazza hit a single to drive in the first and Brewer followed that up with a sacrifice fly, bringing in the second. The game stayed that way until the sixth inning, when Ethan Muniz hit a sacrifice grounder, trimming the Falcons lead to one run. That was all Cinco could manage though as Tompkins held on for the win.

Josh Morelli had a good day on the mound for Cinco, allowing two runs on three hits through six innings while striking out six and walking two. Muniz had the Cougars lone RBI and Luis Gomez had Cinco's only hit as they fell to 9-5-3 overall and 0-3 in district play.

Paetow's offense explodes against Mayde Creek

Paetow had a huge day at the plate in a 17-3 win over Mayde Creek, with Paetow staying perfect in district, improving to 3-0 with a 13-3 overall record on the year. Elijah Chisam earned the win on the mound for Paetow after starting and going 4.1 innings, allowing two runs on three hits while striking out six and walking three, while Matthew Scott led the way at the plate, with four RBIs.

Paetow struck first in the top of the first inning, getting a run on a passed ball, but Mayde Creek came back to take the lead in the bottom of the inning, getting runs on a sacrifice grounder and an RBI single to go up 2-1. Paetow came back to tie the game in the top of the third when Scott hit a one-run single and then took the lead in the fourth inning off an error before another error and a single from Scott brought in two more before the end of the inning.

Paetow kept things going in the fifth. Charlie Radley hit an RBI single and Yarel Delgado drove in two on a pop fly single. Scott then hit a triple to bring in one more before Maddox Prentice hit a single, driving in one to make it 10-2.

Mayde Creek scored one more run on an error in the fifth, but couldn't get any more and Paetow's offense exploded for seven more runs in the seventh to seal the victory.

BJ Lumkins started on the mound and went 3.2 innings for the Rams, allowing no earned runs on three hits while striking out three and walking four. Mayde Creek fell to 2-10-1 overall and 0-3 in district play with the loss.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT

MSE Operating Corp. 10220 SW Citation Drive Beaverton, CA 97008 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a disposal permit to dispose of oil and gas waste by injection into a formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject into the Frio formation, Rorick, David, Jr. "B", well number 3. The well is located 6.2 miles Northeast of Katy, TX in the Delhi, North field in Harris County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4,650 to 5,087 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, As amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P O Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. (512-463-6792).

WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 37
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDER ADOPTING DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 37 (the "District"), at a meeting held on March 14, 2024, adopted an Order Adopting Drought Contingency Plan (the "Order"). Violation of any of the rules contained in the Order will subject the violator to penalties, including disconnection of water and sewer service, a fine of up to \$5,000.00 per breach and/or day and may include payment of any costs or damages resulting from the violation.

A copy of the Order is on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where it may be read in full.

/s/Matthew C. Deal
President, Board of Directors

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 9, 2024

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, April 22, 2024

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone Approximately 2.63 Acres Of Land In The James Conner Survey, Abstract 157, In Fort Bend County, From "R-1" Single-Family District To "C-1" Commercial District.



BASEBALL

from page B1

Thursday, the senior had two hits, one a home run and one a double and drove in three runs in the early innings as Katy built a big lead and held on against the Mavericks.

Katy had the bats rolling early and got its first run in the bottom of the first on a passed ball before Atkinson came to the plate and delivered a two-run home run. Jeremy Mazariegos and Carlos Morales both hit RBI singles and Katy scored another on a passed ball, leading 6-0 after the first inning.

“Our offense gets a whole lot longer when AJ is seeing the ball like that and hitting like he can,” said Katy head coach Wes Hearne. “Seeing him smile out there and just finally breathe a little bit was nice. If we can get him going and everyone continues to hit the way they can, this will be a really fun group.”

Katy’s pitching got into a little bit of trouble in the second inning as Morton Ranch loaded the bases, but Arvey Huerta came in and kept the Mavericks off the scoresheet, getting Katy out of the inning with its lead intact.

Atkinson added to the Tigers’ lead in the bottom of the inning with an RBI double and the Tigers kept going, getting runs on two bases loaded hit by pitches and a single from Morales that brought in two runs. Huerta had a very good day in relief, pitching 1.2 innings and allowing no earned runs on two hits while striking out three. It’s something that Huerta has done all year in becoming a reliable option out of the bullpen whenever Katy needs him.

“He’s turned into a guy we can trust in any situation,” Hearne said. “He came in bases loaded no one out in a tournament and didn’t give up anything. That showed us that he can pitch in any situation. It’s been really nice knowing we can trust him no matter when he’s thrown in. Arvey just makes our staff even deeper.”

Morton Ranch scored three runs in the game and two came in the third inning on a sacrifice grounder and a single from Zane Heiliger, adding a third in the fifth inning on a passed ball. Katy’s final run came in the sixth inning on an error. Aiden Barrientes came on in relief after the third inning and had a good first game back from injury, only allowing one run and striking out six in three innings of relief before Aaron Brashear closed things out with three strikeouts in the top of the seventh.

“This whole staff just has the same energy and we all want to throw hard and throw strikes,” Barrientes said. “If someone doesn’t have their best day, we pitch them up and we have each other’s backs. One of us is going to get the job done and so we don’t have to put too much pressure on ourselves.”

Katy will try to keep things going against Mayde Creek as they are one of four teams yet to lose in district so far. And if the offense can keep improving, things are looking bright for the Tigers.

“We’ve been practicing really well, and I think that’s the key is to keep that up and we’ll keep improving,” Atkinson said. “We have to have confidence and keep swinging the bats. Our pitching will always be there — we just have to keep getting better at the plate and not underestimate anyone because this is such a good district.”

District 19-6A

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MORTON RANCH 13

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W: Cade Nelson. L: Leo Banuelos. Highlights: (MR) Zane Heiliger, 2-4, 1 RBI; Isaac Cantu, 1-2, 1 RBI, 1 BB. (K) Aiden Barrientes, 3 IP, 2 H, 1 R, 6 SO, 3 BB; AJ Atkinson, 2-2, 3 RBIs, 2 R, 1 HR, 1 2B; Connor Morales, 2-3, 3 RBIs; Jeremy Mazariegos, 2-3, 2 RBIs, 1 2B. Records: Taylor, 11-6-1, 3-0; Seven Lakes, 8-7-2, 0-1;

Above: Aaron Brashear pitches during Thursday’s game between Katy and Morton Ranch at the Katy baseball field. Below, left: Carlos Morales throws to first base during Thursday’s game between Katy and Morton Ranch at the Katy baseball field. Below, right: Connor Udland hits during Thursday’s game between Katy and Morton Ranch at the Katy baseball field.



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