

# Katy Times



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

## Watson lawsuit moves forward

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan's office announced Feb. 7 that the county will continue with its lawsuit regarding a Jan. 24 explosion at the Watson Grinding and Manufacturing plant in the 4500 block of Gessner Road in northwest Harris County. Watson filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Feb. 6.

"The bankruptcy may impact lawsuits filed by others, but because the purpose of our suit is to protect the public, we will be able to move forward with it," Ryan said.

Harris County's lawsuit alleges that Watson discharged air pollutants into the atmosphere when a 2,000-gallon propylene tank exploded. The explosion damaged buildings as far away as half a mile and several people were injured by broken glass and other effects of the explosion. Two

See **LAWSUIT**, page A3

**"While our lawsuit is not seeking to recover for the damages the neighbors suffered, we are working to make sure that this facility and others like it don't operate in ways that are hazardous to their neighbors."**

— HARRIS COUNTY  
ATTORNEY VINCE RYAN

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# FAST MOVING



PHOTOS BY R. HANS MILLER

Harris County Emergency Services District anticipates their new Station 1 opening in August of this year. The new station is strategically placed to allow the department to quickly react to incidents on I-10 and The Grand Parkway as well as high rises such as apartment complexes and high-rise hotels nearby.

## New fire station to provide tactical advantages

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

Harris County Emergency Services District 48 – which serves an area that straddles I-10 between Fry Road and the city of Katy – is on track to open its new Station 1 at 24127 Western Center Drive in Katy this coming August, HCESD 48 officials said. The new station will allow the fire district to better respond to accidents on I-10 and Grand Avenue Parkway, they added.



BRETT  
ELLIS

"[The] Station 1 location is optimal for access to motor vehicle accidents on I-10 eastbound as well as a straight shot to Embassy Suites, our tallest high-rise in district. Due to the increase in [apartments], warehouses, commercial retail, and assisted living facilities, Station 1 fire and EMS units are closer to these occupancies for fire and EMS response, yet still provide excellent response to their residential districts," said Assistant Chief of Operations Brett Ellis via email.

The station's location will also help HCESD 48 better partner with its neighboring first responder departments said HCESD 48 Public Information Officer Jason Tharp.

"Station 1 is in an optimal location to provide automatic aid to our neighbors to the south, such as Willowfork FD, Katy FD, Fulshear FD, and Community FD," Ellis said. "As neighbors, we respond to their fire and EMS calls as needed and each fire department reciprocates accordingly."



Construction is still underway in the flexible-use room at the new fire station. This room will allow HCESD 48 staff to prepare meals together, conduct meetings, watch TV while not on calls and participate in group trainings, district officials said.

HCESD 48 recently celebrated a milestone in construction with a topping off ceremony after Station 1's roof was completed, Tharp said. The ceremony included a meal and signified construction crews being able to focus more on getting the inside rooms of the facility built.

Station 1 will house two ambulances, a four-person fire engine, rescue truck, battalion chief's vehicles for fire and EMS, a high-water vehicle and a rescue boat to assist with severe weather situations, Ellis said. This station will be the fourth station the district operates, with two more stations on the way, he added.

The new 17,500 square-foot facility comes with a price tag of about \$6.5 million, Ellis said. The station was designed by Martinez Architects and engineering was facilitated by Jacob's Engineering.

The general contractor building the station is Christensen Building Group.

The facility will be manned by 17 full-time professional firefighters that work in shifts to ensure 24-hour coverage year-round. The station will follow the staffing model that the rest of HCESD 48 facilities will be following beginning in July. That model will have all staff working 24-hour shift then have 72 hours off duty, Ellis said. The staffing model allows firefighters and EMS staff to develop working relationships with one another and still have time to rejuvenate between shifts.

"It is about relationships with a people-first mentality, serving both the internal and external customers simultaneously," Ellis said.

See **CONSTRUCTION**, page A3

## American Cancer Society: Deaths on decline

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

The American Cancer Society has reported a decrease in cancer deaths in the U.S. of about 2.2% from 2016 to 2017 – the largest decrease in cancer mortality since statistics for cancer deaths have been recorded. That decline is due to a mix of factors, including reduced tobacco use and improved treatment methods such as improved screening, genetic testing, immunotherapies and access to clinical trials according to Dr. Gury Doshi of Texas Oncology-Katy.

"I think the important aspect of the tobacco use is the public health education," Doshi said. "As Americans as a country realized the



AMIRALI  
POPATIA



GURY  
DOSHI

negative impacts of tobacco use and really provide preventive care and access to health-care for general preventive medicine, we are now seeing that active care is leading to decreased incidents of cancer and decreased mortality from cancer."

Doshi said the report took some time to produce because the data must be verified by the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Amirali Popatia, an Oncology specialist at OakBend Medical Center said that targeted therapies have also contributed to the decline in cancer cases and deaths in recent years. Patients may now receive treatments that target a cancer's specific genes, proteins or the tissue environment that contribute to the patient's quality of life and restoration of the immune system, Popatia said in a Jan. 8 press release.

"It is not only the decrease in mortality rate that is encouraging, it is the fact that the

See **DEATHS**, page A3



## PET OF THE WEEK



### MEET BUMBALINO

Looking for a new love for Valentine's Day? Bumbalino is a very proud, 3-year-old male grey tabby with a bobbed tail. When he first arrived at Special Pals Shelter, he was found to be a bit timid and now he is quite the lover boy. Bumbalino is available for adoption at Special Pals Shelter. The shelter is located at 3830 Greenhouse Road in Houston, north of I-10 near the intersection with Clay Road. Special Pals Shelter can be reached at 281-579-7387. The shelter is open from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays as well as Sundays from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Katy City Council members Durrant Dowdle (center in vest) and Janet Corte (center with red scarf) attended the gala and spoke with constituents and candidates for the Katy ISD Board of Trustees.

# Katy Area Chamber's annual gala raises money for students

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual gala Feb. 7 to raise funds for its annual operating budget as well as about \$3,000 for the Katy ISD Education Foundation said Katy Area Chamber of Commerce President Matthew Ferraro.

During the gala - which had a "roaring 20s" theme - chamber members and guests dressed up in their finest with many choosing to

wear 1920s clothing such as flapper dresses. About 90% of the 300 guests that registered for the event attended, Ferraro said.

The chamber also honored its business and volunteer of the year. AMP Lending was honored and the company's chief financial officer, Nicole Toby LeBoeuf attended the gala and accepted the award. Ms. LeBoeuf also serves as a member of the chamber's board of directors.

"[LeBoeuf] has been an incredible asset to this community through her

work in real estate and her involvement in multiple nonprofits," Ferraro said via email.

Marcus Henneke was honored as the chamber's volunteer of the year. Ferraro applauded Henneke's service to the community through the chamber and other nonprofits in the area.

"[Henneke's] leadership as Chairman from 2017 - 2019 has been second to none with his organization and desire to serve the Katy area business community," Ferraro said. "He is also very active in a number of nonprofits."

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Nicole LeBoeuf speaks as she accepts AMP Lending's award as the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's business of the year. LeBoeuf is a long-standing member of the chamber and serves on its board of directors.



David Ramirez of Republic Waste Services and his date attended the gala representing his employer in support of the chamber and the Katy ISD Education Foundation.



The City of Katy's Director of Tourism, Marketing & Public Relations Kayce Reina and her date enjoy the food and company at the chamber's gala.



The gala included a live auction that featured a variety of prizes to bid on, including a hunting trip with Katy Mayor Bill Hastings.



Marcus Henneke accepts the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's award as volunteer of the year. Henneke has previously served on the chamber's board of directors and is active with a variety of nonprofits throughout the Katy area.

KATYTIMES.COM

## McCaul, Engel propose human trafficking bill

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

Rep. Mike McCaul (R-Texas) and Rep. Eliot Engel (D-New York) have introduced the Leveraging Information on Foreign Traffickers Act – otherwise known as the LIFT Act – to help combat human trafficking across the nation. The bill, a bipartisan measure in a legislature that many see has become increasingly partisan, is designed to ensure information is provided

to human trafficking prevention entities in a timely manner according to a Jan. 24 press release issued jointly by both congressmen.

“We need to do all we can to end the scourge of human trafficking,” said Engel. “The LIFT Act enhances the State Department’s ability to gather information on this heinous crime and engages survivors into the U.S. policy-making process.”

The press release said the LIFT

Act will establish standardized deadlines for law enforcement agencies to submit annual Trafficking in Persons Reports – commonly known as TIPs. Additionally, the measure will help funnel information in a timely manner to law enforcement agencies regarding foreigners who have been denied entry into the U.S. for slavery-related reasons and extends the trafficking survivor-led Advisory Council on Human Trafficking through 2025, allowing survivors

to remain a primary part of slavery policy discussions in the U.S.

“I am grateful to have worked closely with survivors of human trafficking and their perspectives have been invaluable to the policy process. It is crucial that these survivors remain at the center of the conversation,” McCaul said.

About 25 million people face some form of slavery worldwide, McCaul said, including about 300,000 human trafficking victims in Texas. Sharing information

promptly and efficiently can help combat the issue, he added.

“The LIFT Act facilitates information sharing between U.S. anti-trafficking officials and law enforcement so that those tasked with monitoring and targeting trafficking have all relevant data at their disposal,” McCaul said.

“We must continue to fight modern day slavery and work to enact legislation that brings us to a brighter future, free of this horrific injustice,” Engel added.

### DEATHS

from page A1

patients are not only living longer but enjoying a better quality of life,” Popatia said. “Early screening and supportive care drugs have made improvement in the lives of cancer patients. Fewer side effects produce a better quality of life.”

Doshi agreed that early detection is an important factor in the treatment of cancer patients. Mammograms, pap smears, colonoscopies and self-examinations of the breasts and genitals are all important factors in finding and treating cancer early, Doshi said.

“I would underscore the importance of annual checkups with your primary care doctor. Annual physical is a good way to make sure that you’re up to date on screening tests,” Doshi said.

The four most deadly cancers are lung, breast, prostate and colorectal cancers according to the American Cancer Society. Each of those saw significant decreases over the last few decades. Breast cancer deaths are down 40% from 1989 to 2017; prostate deaths are down 52% from 1993 to 2017; and, colorectal cancer mortalities are down by 53% or more from 1980 to the present day. Lung cancer deaths have declined by 51% from 1990 to 2017 among men and 26% from 2002 to 2017 among women. Rates for new lung cancer cases have dropped by 4% or more for both men and women from 2013 to 2017 alone, the American Cancer Society reports.

Doshi attributes the drop in lung, head and neck cancers she has seen recently to the reduction in tobacco use among Americans, she said.

The American Cancer Society expects a total of 1.8 million new cancer cases in 2020 with estimated cancer deaths over 600,000.

Steps can be taken to help made sure you are doing everything you can to help prevent cancer deaths, both Doshi and Popatia said.

Doshi recommends patients not only get screened regularly but educate themselves regarding cancer’s detection and treatment by speaking with their doctors and referring to the websites for the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, the American Cancer Society and Texas Oncology or other cancer treatment centers.

Once treatment begins, Doshi said she recommends patients educate themselves on their particular form of cancer and have conversations with their doctors to identify the best treatment options. Treatments may include clinical trials, she said.

“As a clinical researcher, what I would say to patients is clinical trials offer an additional treatment option that is beyond the standard of care in the United States,” Doshi said. “In the U.S., patients can rest assured that ... [they] are not ‘guinea pigs’ and that clinical trials are only approved if the patient is receiving standard of care or possibly a better treatment than standard of care.”

Doshi added that clinical trials can be beneficial to patients, but patients should continue to speak with their medical care

### TOOLS FOR BEATING CANCER

#### AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

WEB: [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

PHONE: 800-227-2345

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanCancerSociety>

TWITTER: @AmericanCancer

INSTAGRAM: [americancancersociety](https://www.instagram.com/americancancersociety)

#### NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER NETWORK

WEB: [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org)

PHONE: 215-690-0300

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/nccnorg](http://www.facebook.com/nccnorg)

TWITTER: @nccnorg

#### TEXAS ONCOLOGY

WEB: [www.texasoncology.com](http://www.texasoncology.com)

PHONE: 877-490-1482

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasOncology/>

TWITTER: @TexasOncology

#### OAKBEND MEDICAL CENTER

WEB: [www.oakbendmedcenter.org](http://www.oakbendmedcenter.org)

PHONE: 281-341-3000

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/OakBendMedicalCenter/](http://www.facebook.com/OakBendMedicalCenter/)

TWITTER: @OakBendMedical

**“I do think we need to continue to strive to provide education and access to healthcare to manage other conditions such as diabetes and obesity that are known risk factors for cancer and cancer recurrence.”**

— DR. GURY DOSHI, ONCOLOGIST

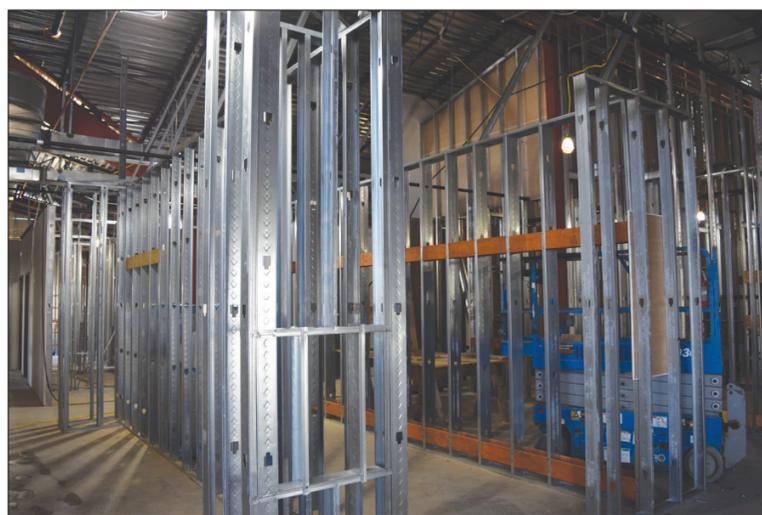
team regularly to ensure the trial is beneficial and continues to be safe. Trials are monitored closely by independent data monitors in addition to physicians and are ended if they prove to be unsafe for patients she said.

The best way for patients to ensure treatment of the highest quality is to get screened regularly and discuss cancer risks with their doctors, Doshi said.

“I do think we need to continue to strive to provide education and access to healthcare to manage other conditions such as diabetes and obesity that are known risk factors for cancer and cancer recurrence,” Doshi said.



PHOTOS BY R. HANS MILLER



### CONSTRUCTION

from page A1

The new station will also have 17 dorm rooms, a gym that will allow first responders to stay in shape as required for their jobs and space for two battalion chiefs, a community paramedic and two additional command staff. A flexible-use space that

allows meetings, having meals together and recreational activities such as watching TV is also included in the new station, Ellis said.

As a safety measure, the station will feature eight showers, vestibules to keep diesel exhaust from entering the living and office area from the vehicle bays, and exhaust ports to take diesel fumes out of those bays directly, Ellis said.



R. HANS MILLER

A Jan. 24 explosion at this manufacturing facility on Gessner Road in Harris County left two dead and damaged buildings for nearly half a mile around the plant. Watson Grinding and Manufacturing, the tenant at the site, has since filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

### LAWSUIT

from page A1

Watson employees were killed in the blast.

Watson Grinding and Manufacturing did not respond to requests for com-

ment in time to be included in this article. According to the company’s website, the company has manufactured precision machined parts, thermal spray coatings and grinding services to the oil, gas, chemical and mining industries for more than 50 years.

“While our lawsuit is not seeking to recover for the damages the neighbors suffered, we are working to make sure that this facility and others like it don’t operate in ways that are hazardous to their neighbors,” Ryan said.



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## Romantic impulses

I was looking at my hair in the mirror. "I think I might need a touch-up," I noted to my husband, Peter. "Hmmm," Peter replied, without looking up. (Which means, "If you think so honey. I honestly believe you might be able to hold off a week!" I can always count on Peter for a thoughtful response.) "Maybe I should get it done in time for Valentine's Day." This time Peter did look up, with just a trace of alarm. "You know, so I'll be ready for our Big Night Out!" I smiled and Peter relaxed and went back to his reading. I was just kidding and he knew it.

**CARRIE CLASSON**  
THE POSTSCRIPT



Peter and I will be celebrating Valentine's Day in the way we traditionally have—by ignoring it completely. I don't want to give the wrong impression; Peter is a very romantic person. But he is bothered when someone tells him how and when to be romantic and tries to make money off his romantic impulses and so he opts out of the entire red and pink frenzy: no roses, no dinner reservations, not even any heart-shaped candies.

I am not as hardcore as Peter. I don't think there is anything inherently wrong with celebrating love. It's only when it stops feeling like a celebration and starts feeling like an obligation that the problems start. I am also a little suspicious of big romantic gestures delivered on cue because of my first marriage.

On our eleventh anniversary, my former husband wrote in an anniversary card his only wish was to have "another eleven years" with me. I am not big on keeping sentimental items, but for some reason I hung onto that card. It felt like an insurance policy, good for: "another eleven years." What I did not count on was his leaving me almost exactly eleven years later.

You have to check the expiration date on insurance policies.

I have never felt for a moment that Peter would slip away. I have also learned that romance comes in many shapes and forms.

Peter is not a giver of gifts wrapped up in paper and delivered on any kind of schedule. He does not buy the idea that celebrations need to occur in compliance with a calendar date (except our anniversary, which he always observes). He asks me what I want for my birthday, doesn't do surprises, and has never, to my recollection, given me a greeting card.

But Peter keeps me supplied in raisins. If this doesn't sound significant, that's because you have no idea how many raisins I go through. I've been doing a lot of writing lately and I can't be bothered getting up and fixing myself a proper meal. So, I've been eating "overnight oats" which is just oatmeal you soak in milk instead of cooking. I fill it with raisins, some cinnamon and chopped up apples, and I'm good to go till dinnertime.

I've been going through pounds of raisins and Peter notices and makes sure there are always more. He also makes the coffee in our house, which is pretty much a fulltime job. He notices when my brand of toothpaste is on sale and buys ten tubes. (We do not share toothpaste. His is blue!) He replaces things that break, refills things that are empty, and improves things that have bothered me for ages but I never thought to do anything about.

Every day, in dozens of ways, Peter shows me that he loves me and makes my life happier. And he doesn't do greeting cards.

I'm okay with that.

Till next time,  
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).



## Help your love life and your grammar

"What? You're over me?  
When were you...under me?"  
—Ross Gellar, "Friends"

Don't return a phone call until at least 48 hours later. A man should have to pay for every date. Play hard to get. There's only one fish in the sea for each person. Online dating is just for nerds. These are all old rules of dating that aren't necessarily true or valid anymore. Does that mean I'm not romantic or chivalrous? That could be, but I prefer to consider myself "pragmatic."

Just like some dating rules seem either outdated (pun intended) or completely made up, we have at least a handful of grammar rules that mostly reflect antiquated guidelines written by a long-dead white guy. This isn't an attack on long-dead white guys, nor is it an assault on long-standing rules. There are many examples of dead white guys as well as old rules that we should still respect and admire.

One contentious rule that has changed (or at least delved into at least a dozen shades of gray) in the past decade is the usage of "more than" and "over." I contend that the argument between "more than" and "over" isn't



**CURTIS HONEYCUTT**  
GRAMMAR GUY

a clash of rules, but merely a difference in styles. According to the old "rule," use "more than" when you're talking about numbers: "I watched more than 15 episodes of 'The Good Place' in one sitting." By the same "rule," the following sentence would be considered incorrect: "I watched over 15 episodes of 'The Good Place' in one sitting."

Even if you adhere to this long-standing guideline of grammar style, do you know why? William Cullen Bryant, a nineteenth-century poet and the editor of the New York Evening Post, declared that this usage was his preferred style. Based on his editorial clout, other style and usage guides followed suit, including the AP Stylebook—until 2014.

When the good people who decide on the style guidelines for the AP Stylebook abandoned this rule, editors started an electronic Twitter riot with their

outrage. This style change reflected an already popular usage in culture. While I'm sure editors around the country still twitch when they see "over" and "more than" used interchangeably, I appreciate the relaxing of this rule, which was basically someone's glorified preference from over a hundred years ago.

As in the rules of dating,

rules of grammar change, as they should when culture and norms shift. And, the fact of the matter is, staying on top of your grammar game will help you succeed in your love life.

Curtis Honeycutt is an award-winning syndicated humor columnist. Connect with him on Twitter (@curtishoneycutt) or at [curtishoneycutt.com](http://curtishoneycutt.com).

### PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B4

#### SUDOKU

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

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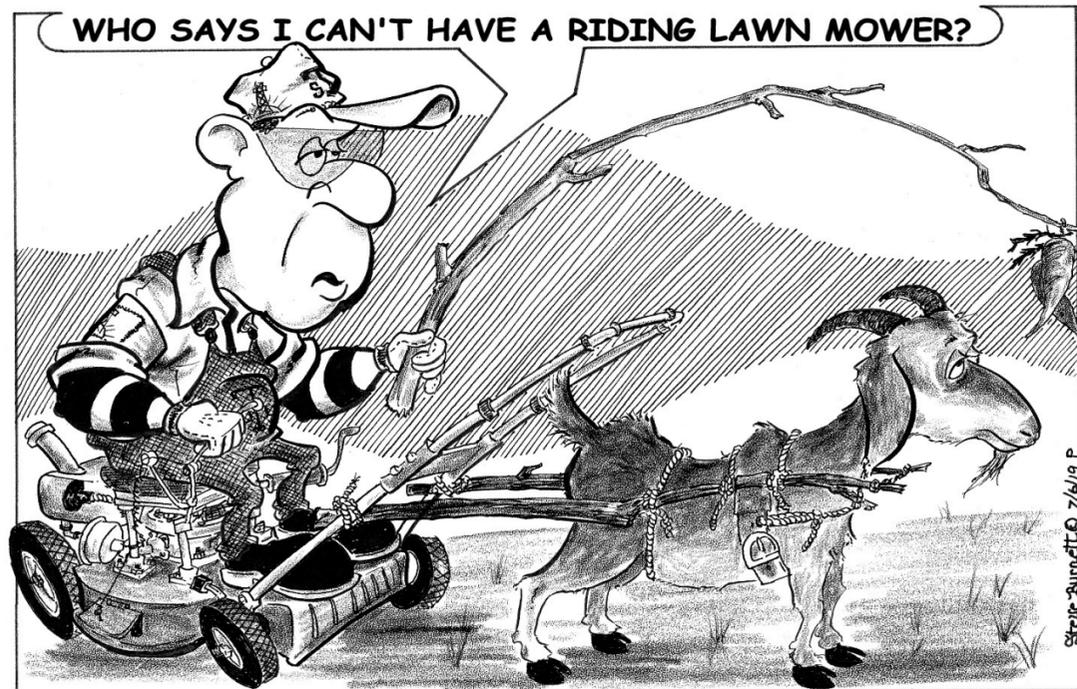
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14			15					16				
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51				52	53	54			55		56	57
58								59				
60	61						62	63			64	
65								66			67	
68							69				70	

#### CLUES ACROSS

- Small deer
- Khoikhoi peoples
- South African statesman
- Keyboard key
- Remove
- A conspicuous constellation
- Data executive
- Retired NASCAR driver
- Tightens
- A picture of the Virgin Mary
- "The Mission" actor Jeremy
- Confidently
- More (Spanish)
- Sports highlight show (abbr.)
- Hand out cards
- Distinctive Asian antelope
- Arabic greeting
- Of I
- Hip hop trio
- Meat roll
- One's mother (Brit.)
- GYN
- Belgian city
- Plucks
- Leak slowly
- Denotes a particular region
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Divides
- Kid
- Inland Empire Expanded Learning Symposium
- Engaged in conflict
- Former CBS sportscaster
- Characterized by unity
- Working-class
- Corners
- de plume
- Influential French artist
- "Very" in musical terms
- Financial account

#### CLUES DOWN

- Required
- River that starts in Turkey
- Disfigure
- A way of communicating (abbr.)
- Leaks slowly
- Shady place under trees
- Made a speech
- Long, angry speech
- Mortar trough
- Autonomic nervous system
- Southern India island
- Grab quickly
- Ancient Mesopotamian city
- With three uneven sides
- Football visionary Hunt
- Primordial matters
- Facing towards the flow of a glacier
- "A Delicate Balance" writer
- Emits coherent radiation
- Commercial
- Groups of foot bones
- Out of print
- Partner to cheese
- German river
- Concluding speech
- Spanish dish
- Prominent California cape Point
- Any high mountain
- Ethiopian lake
- Mr.
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Large, flightless bird
- Oil industry term (abbr.)
- Something one can draw
- Officers in charge
- Greek island



## Katy Times

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# Houston refineries spewing carcinogenic pollutant

By KIAH COLLERY  
TEXAS TRIBUNE

Eight years ago, two environmental nonprofits sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The agency was a decade overdue in updating limits on how much hazardous air pollution the country's oil refineries could emit; the groups hoped a lawsuit would force it to act.

The result was a regulation that required more than 100 refineries to monitor — and report — levels of cancer-causing benzene along the perimeters of their facilities and to make fixes when concentrations exceeded a certain threshold.

On Thursday, the Washington, D.C.-based Environmental Integrity Project — one of the two nonprofits that sued the EPA in 2012 — released an analysis of the publicly available monitoring data refineries began sending to the EPA in January 2018. It found that 10 of them had reported benzene levels above the established threshold over a one-year period that ended in September. Six of those refineries are in Texas, including three in the Houston metro area.

The Texas refinery that reported the highest concentrations of the hazardous pollutant at its fence line was Total Port Arthur Refinery in Port Arthur, with levels 148% greater than limit, according to the report.

"These results highlight refineries that need to do a better job of installing pollution controls and implementing safer workplace practices to reduce the leakage of this cancer-causing pollutant into local communities," Eric Schaeffer, executive director of the Environmental Integrity Project, said in a statement. "EPA in 2015 imposed regulations to better monitor benzene and protect people living near refineries, often in working-class neighborhoods. Now, EPA needs to enforce these rules."

The EPA didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Environmental Integrity Project stressed that the 10 refineries are not necessarily in violation of the law.

Under the rule, facilities must collect air samples at their fence lines every two weeks, and if the average of the highest concentrations of benzene exceeds 9 micrograms per cubic meter of air over a one-year period, they are required to investigate the cause and take action to reduce emissions.

The other Texas refineries that reported benzene levels above the federal action limit are:

- Pasadena Refining (100% above the limit)
- Flint Hills Resources Corpus Christi East (79% above limit)
- Valero Corpus Christi East (44% above limit)
- Shell Deer Park (23% above limit)
- Marathon Galveston Bay Texas City (11% above limit)

In written statements, all the companies said they have worked hard to reduce emissions of benzene and other hazardous air pollutants. Some stressed that the fence line monitoring data isn't necessarily indicative of public health risks and described the report as misleading.

"The Total Port Arthur Refinery has a robust monitoring system in place to assist us in identifying the source of an emission, investigating its cause and implementing corrective actions," the French oil giant said in its statement. "We are committed to comply with EPA rules. We take seriously our responsibility to reduce our environmental footprint."

California-based Chevron, which purchased Pasadena Refining from Brazil's state-owned oil



An oil refinery along the Houston Ship Channel.

LOUIS VEST

company Petrobras last year, said in a statement that it "regularly analyzes the fence line monitoring data to identify and address potential sources of benzene emissions at its newly acquired Pasadena refinery."

"Chevron has taken steps, including testing and piloting new monitoring technology to identify potential sources, which would drive a reduction in levels at our refineries' fence lines," the statement said.

It noted that the facility, which had a long history of problems with air pollution

and worker safety, has submitted a corrective action plan to Texas' environmental regulatory agency that called for monitoring improvements, which it said are "currently underway."

Kansas-based Flint Hills Resources said that the fence-line monitoring data it reported to the EPA isn't necessarily indicative of benzene levels in communities near its facility.

"Corpus Christi maintains an extensive network of ambient air monitors that indicate

benzene levels are much lower than this report would suggest and well within public health standards," the company said in a statement. "Even so, we constantly strive to minimize our emissions."

Shell said that it had used the monitoring data at its Deer Park refinery to "identify a single operational activity near the fence line that drove the outcome, conduct an investigation on the cause and apply corrective measures."

The company added that as of the fourth quarter of

2019, the facility's rolling annual average is 6.99 micrograms per cubic meter, which is below the EPA threshold of 9.

Ohio-based Marathon Petroleum said in a statement it had traced its high emissions to a relief valve, fixed the issue and gone even further: "In addition to correcting the one-time relief valve situation, we have installed additional emissions controls on several of our storage tanks and deployed mobile monitoring sensors that provide real-time emissions data, so we can identify potential sources and address them."

In a one-sentence statement, Valero pointed out that its current benzene monitoring averages are below the threshold.

Benzene, a highly flammable gas with a sweet odor, has been classified as a known human carcinogen by EPA "for all routes of exposure," according to the agency. Short-term exposure to the chemical may cause drowsiness, dizziness and headaches, as well eye, skin and respiratory irritation and even unconsciousness. Long-term exposure among workers has been linked to increased incidence of leukemia and blood disorders. Women who have inhaled benzene at high levels have reported adverse impacts to their reproductive

systems, and adverse impacts to fetal development have been observed in animal testing.

The Environmental Integrity Project noted that the 9 micrograms limit is not tied to any official health-based standards, but it said that the 10 refineries "have long-term benzene concentrations that are more than three times higher than California's long-term exposure limit for increased risk of blood disorders and other disease."

"When compared to other benchmarks established by EPA, some of the highest emitting refineries on the list of 10 could represent an additional cancer risk of 4 in 10,000, when considering lifetime exposure," the report says.

The report notes that "EPA's Integrated Risk Information System indicates that inhaling benzene concentrations as low as 13 micrograms per cubic meter over a lifetime is likely to cause one additional cancer case for every 10,000 people exposed."

While the Trump administration has unwound dozens of other Obama-era environmental regulations on the fossil fuel industry, a final rule it proposed this week keeps in place the benzene monitoring requirement for refineries.

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# TRIBUTES

Clarence Marion Leslie (Left) was born on December 11, 1926 in Everly, Iowa to Wilbur and Gertrude Leslie. On March 7, 1951, he married Carol Elizabeth Warren and was proud to tell all who met him of their long lasting marriage of 68 years. As a young man, he worked with his dad and brother doing exterior and interior painting before and after his service in the US Army during the Korean War. He then went to work for Clay County doing road maintenance for 13 years. Afterwards, he started to work for Sears and Roebuck as a salesman and manager, which led him to move his family around the Midwest. He was also an active member of the American Legion for many years. As a young family man, he and his wife took many family vacations camping all around the nation. He loved to fish and hunt, and later became a very avid wood carver, teaching classes at the woodcarving school in Montgomery, Alabama. He and his wife retired



**CLARENCE MARION LESLIE**  
1929-2020

from Hibbing, Minnesota to Lake of the Ozarks near Camdenton, Missouri, where they could enjoy lots of fishing and summers with the grandkids. They later moved to Springfield, Missouri, and then to Katy, Texas in 2009. He and his wife are members of the Katy First United Methodist Church.

Clarence passed away on February 5, 2020 at the age of 93 following several years of

Parkinson's, Dementia, heart failure, and kidney failure. He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Lawrence (Pete) Leslie and Clifford Leslie; and two sisters, Ildene Tessum and Marilyn Gathman. He is survived by his wife, Carol; two sons, Kit Leslie and wife Leann and Rick Leslie and wife Lisa; daughter, Robin Myers and husband Ed; two grandsons, Jacob Leslie and Nathan Leslie; one granddaughter, Jennifer Godwin and husband Craig; and one great granddaughter, Alizabeth (Ali) Godwin; multiple step grandchildren; two brothers, Joe Leslie and wife, Wally Leslie and wife; and other relatives and friends. Clarence never met a stranger and he will be missed by many. The family received friends from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, February 10, 2020 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy. Funeral services held under the direction of: Schmidt Funeral Home 1508 East Avenue — Katy, Texas 77493 — (281) 391-2424

**ELISABETTA "LISA" MARIA (ANDERSON) POTEET**  
1954-2020

A Memorial Service for Elisabetta "Lisa" Maria (Anderson) Poteet, 65, of Somerville is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 15, 2020, at Strickland Funeral Home Chapel in Caldwell, Texas. Ms. Poteet passed away on February 8, 2020 in College Station, Texas. Lisa was born February 25, 1954 to Ray Anderson and Teresa (Caroselli) Anderson in St. Louis, MO. Her passion was her family. She adored being around her grandbabies and especially watching them play sports. She loved her family dearly. Lisa worked for AT&T for over 40 years. She was an avid John Wayne fan, enjoyed antiquing, garage sales, and playing cards, especially North Carolina Rummy. She enjoyed watching Katy football and loved Texas A & M. Lisa was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Lt. Col. Retired, James F. Anderson. She is survived by her, daughter

Ashley Michelle and husband Ronald Huddleston, II of Snook, TX; son, Aaron Trax Poteet of Katy, TX; grandchildren, Shelby Jean Huddleston, Ronald "Trace" Huddleston, III, Abigail Christine Huddleston; longtime companion, Ralph Sadler of Somerville; brothers and sisters-in-law, Joe Anderson of St. Charles, MO, John Anderson and wife Wanda of Katy, TX, Jerry Anderson and wife Cheryl of New Braunfels, Richy Anderson and wife Sandy of Copperas Cove, TX, Robby Anderson and wife Yvette of Harker Heights, TX, Roger Anderson and wife Heather of Katy, TX; sisters and brothers-in-law, Mary Pat Roe of Portland, IN, Nina Healy of Las Vegas, NV, Janet Mettey and husband Troy of Katy, TX, Jean O'Brien and husband Tim of League City, TX; sister-in-law, Karen Anderson of LaPlata, MD; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Strickland Funeral Home of Caldwell. Please visit our website at [www.stricklandfuneralhomes.com](http://www.stricklandfuneralhomes.com) to sign the online register.

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This devotional page and directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services. For more information, see our Church Directory Online at [www.katytimes.com](http://www.katytimes.com)

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4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.  
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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## 2019-20 KATY AREA VARSITY SPORTS RESULTS & SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Tompkins 42, Taylor 24
- Seven Lakes 56, Mayde Creek 21
- Katy 42, Cinco Ranch 36
- Waller 70, Paetow 44

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

- Taylor 62, Tompkins 49
- Katy 56, Cinco Ranch 54
- Seven Lakes 53, Mayde Creek 50 (OT)
- Paetow 63, Waller 61

#### BOYS SOCCER

- Seven Lakes 4, Katy 0
- Tompkins 4, Morton Ranch 0
- Mayde Creek 2, Taylor 2
- Paetow 0, College Station 0

#### GIRLS SOCCER

- Seven Lakes 1, Katy 0
- Taylor 1, Mayde Creek 0
- Tompkins 4, Morton Ranch 0
- College Station 7, Paetow 0

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Cinco Ranch 51, Taylor 36
- Morton Ranch 50, Katy 45 (OT)
- Tompkins 81, Mayde Creek 44
- A&M Consolidated 57, Paetow 25

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

- Morton Ranch 83, Katy 61
- Cinco Ranch 65, Taylor 58
- Mayde Creek 67, Tompkins 60
- A&M Consolidated 66, Paetow 52

#### BOYS SOCCER

- Cinco Ranch 3, Morton Ranch 1
- Tompkins 6, Katy 1
- Seven Lakes 1, Taylor 0
- Magnolia West 4, Paetow 2

#### GIRLS SOCCER

- Tompkins 6, Katy 0
- Cinco Ranch 3, Morton Ranch 0
- Seven Lakes 1, Taylor 0
- Paetow 1, Magnolia West 1

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

- Tompkins at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Taylor, 7 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
- College Station at Paetow, 6:30 p.m.

#### BOYS SOCCER

- Cinco Ranch at Katy, 7:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Mayde Creek, at Legacy Stadium, 7:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Taylor, 7:30 p.m.
- Bryan Rudder at Paetow, 7:30 p.m.

#### GIRLS SOCCER

- Paetow at Bryan Rudder, 7 p.m.

#### WRESTLING

- Regional championships at Merrell Center, 9 a.m.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

- Taylor at Katy, 7 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Paetow at Magnolia West, 6:30 p.m.

#### BOYS SOCCER

- Taylor at Cinco Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
- Katy at Morton Ranch, at Legacy Stadium, 7:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Tompkins, 7:30 p.m.
- Paetow at A&M Consolidated, 7:30 p.m.

#### GIRLS SOCCER

- Morton Ranch at Katy, 7:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Mayde Creek, 7:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Taylor, 7:30 p.m.
- A&M Consolidated at Paetow, 7 p.m.

# Randle takes over at Mayde Creek

By DENNIS SILVA II  
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

When Alief Taylor head football coach/athletic coordinator Brian Randle accepted the same job at Mayde Creek last week, he saw a lot of similarities.

"It was an opportunity to work with like-minded people," Randle said. "Katy ISD does it right. They do it the best. They've got a great group of kids there and I'm looking forward to the challenge. They've got similar type of kids as to what I'm dealing with in Alief, and I feel like we'll be successful and do some great things."

Randle describes his approach as "head-on, upfront and direct, honest."

"The same way the administration there does," he said. "We want the best for kids, and our job is to put kids in position to be successful. That's what's been going on

there, and I just want to build on that and continue that success."

Katy ISD formally announced Randle's hiring on Feb. 7. His first day at Mayde Creek is Feb. 13.

Randle succeeds Mike Rabe, who left the Rams last month to take the head football coach/athletic coordinator job at Jordan High, Katy ISD's ninth high school that opens in August.

Randle spent the last four seasons as head coach at Alief Taylor, where he compiled an overall record of 18-21. In his first year in 2016, the Lions had a strong season, going 9-2 and earning a trip to the area playoffs. The last three seasons, the Lions were 9-19 with no playoff appearances.

"One thing that came out very clearly to me was his passion for kids," Katy ISD athletic director Debbie Decker said. "He's a very



COURTESY

Former Alief Taylor head football coach/athletic coordinator Brian Randle is the new head football coach and athletic coordinator at Mayde Creek.

See RAMS, page B6



## Katy boys, Tompkins girls dominate 9-6A championships

# MAT MASTERS

MARK GOODMAN

Katy High junior Jackson Crandall beat Morton Ranch's Ruben Moreno to win the District 9-6A championship in the 160-pound weight class on Feb. 7 at the Merrell Center, helping the Tigers' boys to their fifth consecutive district title.

By DENNIS SILVA II  
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Katy High's boys and Tompkins' girls had their way on the wrestling mat last weekend, taking home the team District 9-6A wrestling championships at the Merrell Center.

Katy's boys won the district title for the fifth straight season. The Tigers will be seeking their fifth consecutive regional championship this weekend as well. Katy is

second behind Allen in the Wrestling Texas 6A team rankings.

Katy won with a score of 248.5 points. Seven Lakes placed second with 181, followed by Cinco Ranch in third at 168.5, Tompkins in fourth at 147 and Morton Ranch in fifth at 144.

"Expectations are high and those are our goals, and it's always fun to watch our kids step up and compete at the right time of the year," Katy coach Vinnie Lowe said. "I thought our boys wrestled

fantastic. I think they tried to make a statement."

Tompkins' girls won their first district title and coach Derek Ankney's first district title in his 12 years coaching in Katy ISD. The Falcons are seventh in the Wrestling Texas 6A team rankings.

Tompkins won with a score of 171 points, followed by Morton Ranch's 154 in second. Seven Lakes placed third with

See WRESTLING, page B3

# Resilience aids Mourning's path to Arizona



DENNIS SILVA II

Paetow senior linebacker D.J. Mourning II signed his national letter of intent on National Signing Day on Feb. 5, becoming the first Paetow football player to sign to play at the NCAA Division I level.

By DENNIS SILVA II  
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

When D.J. Mourning II and his father, Derick, weren't running stairs or doing pushups during late evening workouts at their house, they were playing the "Madden NFL" video game.

When Derick wasn't busy training D.J., he was bonding with him.

"The fun thing about him is he's a very competitive video game player," Derick said. "Madden' is his thing, and that's something I can say he got from his daddy. I used to beat him when he was smaller. He's gotten older and more advanced, and I put down the joystick now."

It hasn't all been fun and games, however, for D.J. Family and academic struggles plagued his high school career, eventually resulting in a transfer from Morton Ranch High to Paetow High after his junior season of football.

But it paid off in the nick of time. D.J., a physical, athletic pass-rushing

MORE NATIONAL SIGNING  
DAY COVERAGE, SEE PAGE B4

linebacker, dominated on the field as he helped the Panthers to a program-best 8-3 season in 2019, averaging 6.8 tackles to go with 10 tackles for a loss, 15 quarterback hurries, seven sacks, three fumble recoveries, one interception and one fumble caused.

Under the no-nonsense guidance of Paetow head football coach B.J. Gotte and the teaching staff at the school, D.J. got right.

His rapid progression, more as a student than an athlete, landed him a full athletic scholarship to the University of Arizona, a dream scenario just months ago. Mourning signed his national letter

See MOURNING, page B6

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# Cougars earn 1st playoff berth since '15-16

By DENNIS SILVA II  
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Coming into this season, Cinco Ranch girls basketball coach Dwayne Archangel thought he had a "top-2" team in District 19-6A. Archangel felt the Cougars had the depth, playmaking and experience necessary to not only make the playoffs, but potentially compete for a district title.

But then, just as what happened the previous two seasons, injuries hit. Badly.

Senior guard Catherine Hursh missed five district games with a concussion. Senior post Tori Huggins missed three games. Freshman guard Dani Williams missed three.

All are starters. And all Archangel could think about was how injuries had derailed



MARK GOODMAN

Cinco Ranch players celebrate clinching a playoff spot as head coach Dwayne Archangel, far left, gives a postgame talk following the Cougars' 51-36 win over Taylor on Feb. 11 at Cinco Ranch High.

See **COUGARS**, page B6

## DISTRICT 19-6A BASKETBALL STANDINGS AS OF THURSDAY, FEB. 13

### BOYS

	DISTRICT	
	W	L
xy-Morton Ranch	10	0
xy-Katy	7	4
Tompkins	5	6
Cinco Ranch	4	6
Mayde Creek	4	6
Taylor	3	7
Seven Lakes	3	7
x-clinched playoff berth		
y-clinched district title		

### GIRLS FINAL STANDINGS

	DISTRICT	
	W	L
xy-Tompkins	12	0
x-Katy	8	4
x-Cinco Ranch	7	5
x-Seven Lakes	7	5
Taylor	5	7
Morton Ranch	2	10
Mayde Creek	1	11
x-clinched playoff berth		
y-clinched district title		

## DISTRICT 19-5A BASKETBALL STANDINGS AS OF THURSDAY, FEB. 13

### BOYS

	DISTRICT	
	W	L
x-Paetow	11	1
x-A&M Consol.	11	1
x-Magnolia	9	3
Waller	6	6
Brenham	4	8
Bryan Rudder	3	9

College Station	3	9
Magnolia West	1	11
x-clinched playoff berth		
y-clinched district title		

### GIRLS

	DISTRICT	
	W	L
Paetow	2	10

## DISTRICT 19-6A SOCCER STANDINGS AS OF THURSDAY, FEB. 13

### BOYS

	DISTRICT		TIE
	W	L	
POINTS			
Seven Lakes	4	0	1
Tompkins	3	1	0
Cinco Ranch	2	1	1
Taylor	2	1	1
Morton Ranch	1	4	0
Mayde Creek	0	2	2
Katy	0	3	1
x-clinched playoff berth			
y-clinched district title			

### GIRLS

	DISTRICT		TIE
	W	L	
POINTS			
Tompkins	5	0	0
Seven Lakes	5	1	0
Cinco Ranch	2	2	1
Taylor	2	2	1
Katy	1	2	2
Morton Ranch	1	4	0
Mayde Creek	0	5	0
x-clinched playoff berth			
y-clinched district title			

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SPORTS

WRESTLING

from page B1

130, Mayde Creek was fourth with 103 and Katy was fifth with 81.

"These girls work their tails off and put in a ton of time," Ankney said. "They've absolutely grown as technical wrestlers, but I credit them buying into the extra work that's needed outside of the wrestling season. In the summer with the strength and conditioning camp, wrestling through the summer, and just having a total buy-in to what they're doing. With the dedication of these kids and this coaching staff, it's been a great run."

Lowe was named the boys' Coach of the Year. Morton Ranch's Brendan McBride was named Assistant Coach of the Year.

Ankney was named the girls' Coach of the Year. His assistant, Alyssa Batiste, was named Assistant Coach of the Year.

Katy senior Ty Wright and Taylor senior Curshawn Wilkins were named Co-Most Outstanding Wrestlers. Morton Ranch senior Jordan Suarez was named Most Outstanding Wrestler on the girls side.

On the boys, the Tigers had seven individual district champions, followed by Tompkins and Seven Lakes with two apiece. For the girls, Tompkins had four individual district champions, followed by Morton Ranch with two. The Mavericks girls are ninth in the Wrestling Texas 6A team rankings and were previously ranked first.

Following is the district champion in each weight class, along with their grade and season record.

BOYS

- 285: Curshawn Wilkins, sr., Taylor, 34-3
- 220: Marcos Balbuena, sr., Mayde Creek, 11-4
- 195: Joe Racicot, jr., Seven Lakes, 35-5
- 182: Barto Radman, sr., Seven Lakes, 30-10
- 170: Kishawn Higgins, sr., Katy High, 44-1
- 160: Jacob Kelske, sr., Katy High, 41-4
- 152: Ty Wright, sr., Katy High, 31-11
- 145: Truman Timmons, jr., Katy High, 32-8
- 138: Mason Wilke, jr., Tompkins, 31-7
- 132: Luke Holland, jr., Katy High, 36-9
- 126: Cole Minnick, jr., Tompkins High, 31-6
- 120: Jackson Crandall, jr., Katy High, 36-3
- 113: Jeremy Manibog, fr., Katy High, 30-7
- 106: Douglas Melrose, sr., Morton Ranch, 31-1

GIRLS

- 215: Rewa Chabado, so., Mayde Creek, 27-5
- 185: Nicole Blinn, jr., Tompkins, 30-5
- 165: Kaitlyn Bryant, jr., Tompkins, 34-0
- 148: Lauren Collins, sr., Tompkins, 21-10
- 138: Jordan Suarez, sr., Morton Ranch, 35-1
- 128: Danielle Miller, sr., Seven Lakes, 30-8
- 119: Lilly Broadrick, jr., Tompkins, 26-3
- 110: Kiara Ortega, sr., Katy High, 25-10
- 102: Brittany Cotter, jr., Morton Ranch, 29-1
- 95: Isabella Walsh, jr., Cinco Ranch, 25-11

For the boys, Katy's Higgins is a returning state champion. Crandall, Holland and Kelske are all expected to compete for state titles also.

Wright has emerged as a key contributor and had his best finish at a district meet. Manibog has gotten better all season and is beginning to come into his own as a freshman.



Katy High's boys wrestling team won its fifth straight district championship on Feb. 7 at the Merrell Center.



Paetow's Brittney Galindo and Josiah Bernhardt won district titles at the District 11-5A meet on Feb. 5



Tompkins junior Kaitlyn Bryant

"I don't know how different the team is (compared to past teams)," Lowe said. "It may be closer than teams we've had. They've really come together. We've double-entered in a lot of tournaments and had some real good competition at lineup spots, and ultimately it made our starters better. Our team got deeper than it's been in the past."

Morton Ranch's Melrose is ranked first in the region in the 106 class.

On the girls' side, Tompkins has had a dominant season, led by Bryant, who is undefeated at 34-0. Along with Broadrick and Blinn, Collins (148), junior Andrea Tamez (138) and junior Chelsea Andrade (215) have had stellar seasons for the Falcons, along with freshman Elizabeth Lucio (102) and junior Savannah Scheffler (128).

"When we step on the mat and we're focused, we're a very tough team to beat," Ankney said. "We as a coaching staff have an unbelievable amount of faith in them, and as long as they have that faith and belief in themselves, they're extremely tough."

The Region III-6A championships will be held at the



Tompkins' girls wrestling team won the program's first district title by dominating the District 9-6A championships on Feb. 8 at the Merrell Center.

Merrell Center on Friday, Feb. 14 at 9 a.m. and Saturday, Feb. 15 at 9 a.m.

"It's going to be tough," Lowe said. "Cy-Ranch is always putting together tough kids and has some top kids. Houston Westside always has good kids. Clear Lake will bring some tough kids. Not to mention what we've got from our own district, it's going to be some good competition."

At the District 11-5A championships on Feb. 5 in Waller, Paetow qualified 11 wrestlers to regionals—six girls and five boys.

Paetow's girls team placed third out of 10 teams with 92 points and claimed a district champion in junior Brittney Galindo, who won her 102 class to boost her record to 25-5. The Panthers boys placed sixth out of 12 teams with 119 points and had a district champion in junior Josiah Bernhardt, who won his 152 class and improved his record to 25-4.

Paetow is competing with just one senior in Raymond Perez.

The Region III-5A championships will be held Feb. 14-15 in Pflugerville.

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# NATIONAL SIGNING DAY 2020

## Katy ISD has 48 student-athletes sign to college

### STAFF REPORTS

Katy ISD had 48 student-athletes sign to compete at the next level on National Signing Day on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

"The thing a lot of people don't understand is that for 97 percent of all high school athletes, their sports careers end after high school," Paetow athletic coordinator/head football coach B.J. Gotte said. "It's a very small percentage of kids that get the opportunity to go on and play at the college level, and get their education taken care of. It's a really, really cool thing they get to experience."

Here is a list of which Katy ISD schools had which players sign on to their respective college of choice.

#### Cinco Ranch

- Austin Collins, Football, New Mexico Military Institute
- Hannah Regan, Volleyball, University of South Carolina Upstate
- Fiorella Vera, Cross Country, Tiffin University

#### Katy High

- Hayden Barrios, Track, Northwestern State
- Sydney Blakeman, Softball, University of Texas-San Antonio
- Dominique Crespo, Softball, University of Houston-Victoria

- Allyse Castillo, Softball, Mary-Hardin Baylor
- Maddie Thayer, Volleyball, University of Texas-San Antonio
- Chermene Sims, Basketball, LeTourneau University
- Dylan Howerton, Football, Abilene Christian
- Hagen Losa, Football, St. Benedictine College, Kansas
- Justin King, Football, Midwestern State
- Bryan Massey, Football, Southern Methodist University
- Jaylen Phillips, Football, Sam Houston State
- Daylin Johnson, Football, Texas Agriculture and Technology Institute, Houston
- Carson Rogers, Football, William Penn
- Dylan Wiltcher, Football, Hardin-Simmons
- Jayden Holcomb, Football, Grand View University
- Drew Murphy, Football, Grand View University
- DeQuendrick Dawson, Football, Texas Agriculture and Technology Institute

#### Mayde Creek

- Jaiden Chretien, Volleyball, Centenary College of Louisiana
- Angeline Hardison, Volleyball, Missouri State University-West Plains

See NSD, page B6

## Little signs to New Mexico

By DENNIS SILVA II  
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Growing up, Ryan Little looked up to Allyson Felix and Florence Griffith Joyner, or Flo Jo. She watched Michael Johnson compete in the 400-meter dash and wanted to go to Baylor for a long time because of him.

She was in love with track and field.

"I would always try to race boys and whoever I could," the Tompkins senior sprinter/jumper said. "On the playground or wherever. Against my brother or whoever. I'm a competitive person and I wanted to race whenever I could."

Little's speed and moxie on the track earned her a full scholarship to run for the University of New Mexico, where she will compete in the 400 dash and other events for the Lobos.

Little signed with New Mexico on Jan. 16. New Mexico won out over Rice. Little has familiarity with Albuquerque. For a year and a half, the Little family lived there toward the end of her father Mark Little's professional baseball career.

"Lining up all my visits, I thought I was going to go to Rice," Little said. "I've run my PR (personal record) there, I have friends there, and I was more comfortable on that visit. I also didn't want to leave home. The coaches over there are phenomenal."

"But academically, it would have been tough on me, and I really wanted to make something out of track. I had this end-all goal."



RYAN LITTLE

There were more track opportunities at New Mexico."

Little got her passion for competition from Mark, who played four years of Major League Baseball with St. Louis, Colorado, Arizona and the New York Mets, and 13 years professionally overall.

"My dad has competed at the highest level in sports, and he kind of instilled that in me since an early age," Little said. "He would read me quotes and tell me about what he thought about the 400, and from there I just wanted to be good at it. He's really motivated me."

Little has had an outstanding career for Tompkins.

She's a two-time district champion in the 400 dash and the Katy ISD record holder in the event. She's a regional qualifier in the 400 dash, 100-meter dash, 4x100 relay and long jump, and a regional finalist in the 400 dash and 100 dash.

Her PR is 55.7 seconds in the 400 dash.

"Ryan has been a leader for us for three years," Tompkins girls track and field coach Amy Pitzel said. "She is the type of athlete that wants to be great and puts in the work to make it happen. She has a confidence to her when she competes that carries over to the rest of the team. I just think she is amazing."

"Ryan is stronger and faster because of the work she has put in during the offseason, and because she has been healthy all year."

This season is the first in which Little is not beginning it while coming off an injury. In the past, she's dealt with a broken arm, a growth-plate injury in her foot, and a fracture in her foot/shin.

See LITTLE, page B6

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for an Off-Premise Beverage Permit by RLJN Partnership, Inc. DBA Farm Stores to be located at 3830 N. Mason Road, Katy, TX. Officers of this company are Robert Betts, Linda Adair, Jason Adair, and Nikki Betts.

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495, will be received at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042, until 10:00 a.m., Local Time, Thursday, February 27, 2020, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the Water, Sanitary Sewer and Drainage Facilities to serve Bergamo Vista Section 1 for Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495, Harris County, Texas".

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: water, sanitary sewer and drainage facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042.

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 five percent (5%) 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.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042 or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding 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 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/or Contract 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.**

Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495

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**BID NOTICE**

Waller County is accepting bids for the construction of the Waller County Precinct 4 Annex Water Plant. Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor's Office until 2:00 pm on March 3, 2020. Bids must be mailed or delivered to the Auditor's Office at 836 Austin Street, Room 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids will not be accepted by fax or email. Bids must be in a sealed envelope and clearly labeled "BID FOR WATER PLANT" on the outside of the envelope. Bids will be opened during Commissioners Court at 9:00 am on March 4, 2020. The tentative award date is March 11, 2020. Please direct questions to Construction Manager Danny Rothe at [d.rothe@wallercounty.us](mailto:d.rothe@wallercounty.us). Additional information can be found at <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/BidsAndProposalRequests>.

**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 2937 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON JANUARY 27, 2020:

**An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Amending The City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance No. 621; Establishing A Special Use Permit That Allows, A Special Use, To-Wit: An Institution Of A Religious Nature (Jesus Rescue International Church) In The "C-2" General Business District In 3,750 Square Feet At 6193 Highway Boulevard, Suite 201; Providing For An Effective Date; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Penalty Of \$2,000 For Each Day Of Violation Of Any Provision Of This Ordinance.**

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# Katy Times

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### PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



### HELP WANTED

THE SALVATION ARMY DONATION CENTER is now hiring! Part-time positions are now available at our new location in Katy! Please call (713)869-3551, extension 56845 to schedule an interview.

### CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE

CEMETERY LOTS 7, 8, 9 FOR SALE FOR-EST PARK CEMETERY DAIRY A S H F O R D / WESTHEIMER CALL 713-805-5239.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES AND OUT-OF-DISTRICT MEETING PLACES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 534

To the residents and taxpayers of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 534 (the "District") and to all the persons interested in the meetings of the Board of Directors of such District:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors, at an organizational meeting held January 30, 2020, inside the boundaries of the District, established (1) an official office at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027; (2) an office at the offices of BGE, Inc., 10777 Westheimer, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77042 for the purposes of receiving bids on certain public works projects, administering construction contracts for such projects, receiving correspondence related to such contracts, and for the storage of the plans and specifications of such projects; and (3) an office at the offices of SWA Group, 712 Main Street, 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for the purposes of receiving bids on certain parks and recreational facilities projects, administering construction contracts for such projects, receiving correspondence related to such contracts, and for the storage of the plans and specifications of such projects. In addition to establishment of offices, out-of-District meeting places were established at (1) the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027; and (2) the offices of BGE, Inc., 10777 Westheimer, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77042.

Said meeting places are hereby declared to be public places and open to the public. All residents and taxpayers of the District and all other interested persons are hereby invited to attend any meetings of the Board of Directors at such locations.

*/s/Tracey Scott*  
Secretary, Board of Directors

### PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICES

## TO ANY INTERESTED PARTY OF FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 37:

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 49.111 of the Texas Water Code FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 37 (the "District") will hold an election on May 2, 2020 without providing a voting station that meets the requirements for accessibility under 42 U.S.C. Section 15481(a)(3) on Election Day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance. The District will provide a voting station that meets the accessibility requirements for voting by a person with a disability if a request for such voting station is received from any voter in the District on or before March 18, 2020. Requests for an accessible voting station and any questions should be directed to the District c/o Johnson Petrov LLP, 2929 Allen Parkway, Suite 3150, Houston, Texas 77019, Attention: Alan P. Petrov.

## PARA TODA PARTE INTERESADA DEL DISTRITO MUNICIPAL DE PRESTACIÓN DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS DEL CONDADO DE FORT BEND NRO. 37:

Se notifica por el presente, en conformidad con el Código de Agua de Texas, Sección 49.111, que DISTRITO MUNICIPAL DE PRESTACIÓN DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS DEL CONDADO DE FORT BEND NRO. 37 (el "Distrito") llevará a cabo una elección el día 2 de mayo de 2020, sin proporcionar una estación de votación que cumpla con los requisitos de fácil acceso bajo 42 U.S.C. Sección 15481(a)(3) el día de elección ni durante el periodo de votación anticipada en persona. El Distrito proporcionará una estación de votación que cumpla con los requisitos de fácil acceso para que una persona con una discapacidad pueda votar, si se recibe una solicitud de tal estación de votación por parte de cualquier votante en el Distrito para el 18 de marzo de 2020, inclusive. Los pedidos de una estación de votación de fácil acceso y preguntas deben ser dirigidos al Distrito, a la atención de Johnson Petrov LLP, 2929 Allen Parkway, Suite 3150, Houston, Texas 77019, Attention: Alan P. Petrov.

## Notice of Public Sale

of property to satisfy landlord's lien.

Sale to be held ONLINE AUCTION [StorageTreasures.com](http://StorageTreasures.com)

The facilities are at Bear Creek Mini Storage. 17730 Keith Harrow Blvd, Houston, TX 77084 Bidding will open at 10:00 am on February 18, 2020 and end at 12:00 pm on March 3, 2020. 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: Belinda Franz Barnetta, Jerel Ehlert, Gustavo Ocampo, StacyAnn Williams, (Johnny) Yong Lee, Waseem Muhammad, Chris Chappell & Marita Acevedo, Daniela Lopez Fuentes, Janie Martinez. Contents of spaces consist of household furniture, tools, appliances, misc. boxes, containers, clothes.

## CLASSIFIEDS WORK! 281-391-3141

## NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 2938 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON JANUARY 27, 2020:

**An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Amending The City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance No. 621; Establishing A Special Use Permit That Allows, A Special Use, To-Wit: A Charter School Use In The "C-1" District Located At 5618 11th Street, Tracts 7C And 7D, Katy Outlots, For The Benefit Of West Houston Charter Alliance Incorporated (DBA) Aristoi Classical Academy; Providing For An Effective Date; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Penalty Of \$2,000 For Each Day Of Violation Of Any Provision Of This Ordinance.**

## NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 2936 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON JANUARY 13, 2020:

An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Amending The City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance No. 621; Establishing A Special Use Permit That Allows, A Special Use, To-Wit: An Institution Of A Religious Nature (Bethany Worship Center - Katy) In The Katy Mills Planned Development District (PDD) In 3,100 Square Feet At 25311 Kingsland Boulevard, Suite 115; Providing For An Effective Date; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Penalty Of \$2,000 For Each Day Of Violation Of Any Provision Of This Ordinance.

## INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Attention: Doug Bergen, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 2:00 p.m., Local Time, Thursday, February 27, 2020, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the Water, Sanitary Sewer, Drainage Facilities To Serve Twinwood Business Park Phase 2 for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Waller County, Texas".

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer and Drainage Facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449. 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 five percent (5%) 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.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of one hundred Dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding 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 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/or Contract 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.

Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18

## INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Attention: Doug Bergen, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 2:30 p.m., Local Time, Thursday, February 27, 2020, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the Water, Sanitary Sewer, Drainage Facilities To Serve Twinwood Business Park Phase 3 for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Waller County, Texas".

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer and Drainage Facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. Local Time, at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449. 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.

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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/or Contract 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.

Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18

## INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 213, Attention: Charles "Ted" Lee, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 11:00 a.m., Local Time, Thursday, March 5, 2020, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the Twinwood Parkway Phase 1A, Segment E" for Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 213, Waller County, Texas".

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Construction of the paving and appurtenances and drainage facilities to serve Twinwood Parkway Phase 1A, Segment E.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. Local Time, at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449. 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 five percent (5%) 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.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of one hundred Dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding 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 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/or Contract 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.

Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 213

SPORTS



Katy High School



Mayde Creek High School



Taylor High School



Tompkins High School



Paetow High School



Cinco Ranch High School



Morton Ranch High School



Cinco Ranch High School



Cinco Ranch High School



Seven Lakes High School

NSD

from page B4

- Victor Holdman, Football, Angelo State
- Trejuan Holmes, Football, Angelo State

Morton Ranch

- Justice Guillory, Football, Stephen F. Austin
- Jordan Guillory, Football, Stephen F. Austin

Seven Lakes

- Tiago Sumba, Football, Kilgore College
- Matthew Perkins, Baseball, Concordia University-Texas

Taylor

- Bailey Johnson, Softball, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
- Braden Hay, Football, West Texas A&M
- Martin Nowlin, Football, Eastern New Mexico
- Patric Talbot, Football, Eastern New Mexico

Tompkins

- Connor Kinslow, Football, New Mexico
- Elina Sinz, Golf, Auburn
- MonRay VanDerWalt, Baseball, Lamar
- Temidayo Oduselu, Football, Texas Southern

- Jesse Jensen, Football, Southern Arkansas

- RJ Smith, Football, Houston Baptist
- Arianna Rosario, Swimming, University of the Ozarks
- Ryan Little, Track, New Mexico
- Taurean Muhammad, Football, Air Force Academy

Paetow

- Mackenzie Arsola, Girls Soccer, University of Houston-Victoria
- Johnathan Baker, Track, Arkansas
- D.J. Mourning, Football, Arizona
- Dane Presto, Football, The College of Idaho
- Kevin Vasquez, Boys Soccer, Hastings College in Nebraska

COUGARS

from page B2

his team's chances each of the last two seasons.

"I was thinking, 'Here we go,'" said Archangel, whose Cougars missed the playoffs by one game in each of those seasons. "Déjà vu."

Fortunately for the Cougars, it was just that—a thought.

In a win-or-go-home game against Taylor in each team's regular season finale on Feb. 11, Cinco Ranch demonstratively punched its ticket to the postseason for the first time since the 2015-16 season. The Cougars upended the Mustangs, 51-36, going from

potentially missing the playoffs—again—to the third seed in 19-6A.

Cinco Ranch improved to 21-11 overall and prevented Taylor from a fourth straight playoff appearance.

"It's a huge deal," senior Taylor Rowland said. "Last year, it was a sad time for our team. To have us overcome that and say we actually made it to the playoffs is great for all of us."

Cinco Ranch led 14-6 after the first quarter and never looked back. Taylor won the first district matchup between the two teams, 39-32, on Jan. 17, but Cinco Ranch was without Hursh, Williams and Huggins.

That trio combined for 28 points, with Hursh scoring a game-high 17, the second time around.

"We were 100 percent confident," Hursh said. "Last time we played Taylor, we had a lot of girls injured, in-

cluding myself. So, this go-round, on our home court, we were expecting a win, and nothing less."

Junior guard Abby Bala added 15 points. After she reached the 1,000-point career scoring mark on Jan. 28, Bala revealed her one true goal: do whatever she could to get her senior teammates to the playoffs for the first time.

Then she went out and proved it. Bala scored eight first-half points, and took advantage of Taylor's zone and traps by hitting 3 of 5 3-pointers and finding open shooters with six assists.

In all, Cinco Ranch drilled 8 of 18 3-pointers, a 44.4 percent clip.

"We knew if we could just be patient, take the shots that are there, swing the ball, skip the ball ... we'd get as many open looks as we want," Archangel said. "Anytime our girls

are making shots, they play so much more confident."

Defensively, the Cougars adjusted, going to a matchup mix of zone and man after playing exclusively zone against Taylor in the first game.

It worked. The Mustangs missed 15 of 17 3-pointers and scored fewer than 10 points in two of four quarters.

"This was for the seniors," Bala said. "I wanted to do what I could to get them to the playoffs. I didn't want this to be their last game. It's way too early."

Experience and team chemistry got the Cougars over the hump.

When Archangel took over, the seniors were sophomores then. It was a young, raw team. It is that no longer.

Players also credited the Lake Travis tournament shortly after Christmas for providing a sense of

togetherness. They played cards in the hotel room. They talked about basketball and life. They started playing for each other.

Hursh said that trip to Austin pulled the team together. Players agreed it made a difference when injuries could have devastated the season.

"We learned that, no matter what, you have to learn to persevere through adversity," Bala said. "People will get hurt, things won't go your way, and you have to figure it out. We did."

As a result, the Cougars are still playing.

"I'm super stoked," Hursh said. "We worked really hard. It's excitement and nerves, but a good kind of nervous. I believe this team can take it far."

LITTLE

from page B4

Little competes in the 400 dash, 100 dash, 4x100 relay and long jump for the Falcons, and she will also get opportunities to compete in the 200-meter dash, 4x200 relay and 4x400 relay.

"I definitely want to have a good 4x100 year; we missed regionals by one spot last year," Little said. "I want to go to state in the 400, which is my biggest goal. Also, we haven't won a team district title, and I would like to do that, too, before I leave."

Little talked to The Katy Times more about her college decision and career.

Q. What stood out about New Mexico?

A. "They have a really good (assistant) coach (Kurt Henry) who just came in. He's actually the nephew of Pat Henry over at Texas A&M. He really believed in my talents. I believed in his training, that he could make me faster. Also, New Mexico is at altitude, and altitude training makes you faster whenever you come back down to lower levels. They also have indoor facilities, so you don't have to travel for indoor meets. All the big schools come down and run there, and they have

national championship meets. It's a developing sprint program and I really liked it."

Q. What do you like about the 400-meter dash?

A. "It's different. Not everybody can do it. It's a gut race all the way to the finish. It's hard. It's one of the hardest events to do in track and field, in my opinion. It's technical, it's a lot of training. You have to have that push and that drive after you come off that straightaway into the 300 (meters). The adrenaline is insane."

Q. Coach Pitzel raves about your leadership. Does that come

naturally or is it something you've had to work on?

A. "I've always been a leader, in my opinion. That's how my parents raised me to be, especially when it comes to my little brother. Also, when I was a freshman, I was taken into the team so well. Everybody supported me. The seniors pushed me. All of that helped me fall in love with track and continue to do it. Because I knew how that felt, I wanted others to feel the same way, so they're not uncomfortable. When you're uncomfortable, you're not putting the best version of yourself out there. Just to see them open up and get faster and stronger and they can come up to you with questions ... it's so cool seeing them get better, too."

MOURNING

from page B1

of intent on National Signing Day on Feb. 5, becoming the first Paetow football player to sign to play at the NCAA Division I level.

Gotte, who was the offensive coordinator at Katy High from 2012-2016 before taking over Paetow in January 2017, said D.J. is "one of the best defensive players I've been around as a coach."

"I thought I'd be going (junior college) or something like that," D.J. said. "But I worked hard, got through and now I made it. I had people here at Paetow that cared about me and made sure I got on track. I got my grades right. Them doing that, it really opened up opportunities that I probably wouldn't have gotten otherwise."

No one is prouder than Derick. "It was a struggle," Derick said. "Getting adjusted to high school and not having both parents there in the beginning ... it made it tough. Once he got to Paetow, though, credit to the entire faculty and staff, from the coaches to the teachers and principal ... everybody was on board with helping him out. Look at his transcript in the change from Morton Ranch to Paetow ... it's like night and day. I'm just glad he got it all done in time."

Derick called the process a "rollercoaster." For D.J., it's "a dream come true."

When he was 5 years old, D.J. had dreams of playing in the NFL. A quarterback then, he admired Donovan McNabb, Michael Vick and Vince Young.

As he got older, and grew, D.J., now standing 6-foot-3 and weighing 215 pounds, moved to defense and began studying current Seattle Seahawk and former Houston Texan linebacker Jadeveon Clowney ever since Clowney was a senior in high school.

"When I was young, people told me to

keep at football and I could do something good with it," D.J. said. "Whenever I was younger, I never knew the whole concept of college. My dream was to play in the NFL. I knew if I kept working, it'd get me somewhere."

Derick was D.J.'s coach all the way up to junior high.

"A lot of people see what he does on the field, but he puts in the time," Derick said. "That's what's most rewarding about this; a lot of people don't see the work him and I did together. Late nights training in the house. I can just smile now. We know what's going on. We know how it happened. We're happy, man."

Off the field, D.J. is respectful. People gravitate toward him. He is a natural leader. It's a characteristic he embraced once he got to Paetow, when he was forced into an elder statesman's role for a young program brimming with juniors and underclassmen.

"Coming here, and being around a younger team, I matured a lot from a leadership role," D.J. said.

D.J. is unsure of what he will study at Arizona. He will have the opportunity to play early because the depth chart at his position has a lot of seniors.

The Wildcats run the same 3-4 defensive base that D.J. played in at Paetow and Morton Ranch. The idea is to get D.J. in space to make plays.

"They made him feel welcome and wanted, and that was the main thing," Derick said. "You want to go where you're wanted. That helped out in the decision. When the head coach (Kevin Sumlin) comes down here to have dinner with you, it means something."

Arizona is "perfect," D.J. said. He will start the Wildcats' workout regimen soon. He plans to take summer classes to get a head start academically.

"I've been waiting on this moment for forever," D.J. said.

RAMS

from page B1

good guy. Every kid matters to him; it's a 'no kid left behind' type of deal. It can be a football kid, a cross country kid, a basketball girl, whomever. His passion for kids was overwhelming during the interview process."

A plus was that Alief Taylor has played Katy ISD schools in non-district football competition in the past. It was simply more knowledge and experience for Decker in getting to know Randle.

Katy ISD studies coaches, inside and outside of the district, often, particularly during the playoffs, for background information and knowledge of potential future coaching candidates.

"It's always helpful when you have that opportunity to see these guys in action," Decker said. "For me, truthfully, coaches are interviewing every day. I always want to watch and observe. So, then we have some thoughts in terms of how they truly are."

"Some people are really good interviewers and some aren't, and it's hard to base such a complicated decision and such a huge decision that has such a ripple effect on a campus by just a few hours of interviews. It's important to do some background work."

Randle is a graduate of Texas A&M-Kingsville. His coaching career began in 2003 as an assistant coach at Foster High. From 2004 to 2009, Randle served as an assistant coach at Mansfield High School. He later joined the staff at Alief Taylor in 2009 as its defensive coordinator before taking over seven years later.

Randle will still have a significant role in the defense while at the helm of the Rams. Mayde Creek will have a 4-3 or 4-2 base defense, but will be multiple depending on the opponent's offense.

"We're going to make you bat left-handed," Randle said, using a baseball metaphor.

Offensively, Randle said he has to get the ball into the hands of playmakers in space.

"We don't have the big linemen like Katy, but we have kids that are going to get after it," he said. "We've just got to get the ball out on the perimeter and create matchups."

Randle was impressed by the facilities at Mayde Creek, which recently underwent drastic renovation. But he is more excited about working with a feeder system.

Cardiff and Mayde Creek junior highs feed into Mayde Creek. Alief ISD has a draw in which, each spring, seventh graders from the district's six middle schools are randomly drawn to one of its five high schools, though only Hastings, Elsie and Taylor have athletic programs.

"The beautiful thing about Mayde Creek and Katy ISD is we have a feeder system," Randle said. "We didn't have a feeder system where I'm coming from. That seventh-grade group hasn't lost a game, and I've got to get there and make sure they stay together. That's the biggest challenge in my mind—keeping kids together and at Mayde Creek. I know if we do that, we can be successful."

On the morning of Feb. 7, Randle met with Mayde Creek faculty. He came across as very personable and was adamant that he wasn't there to change things. He emphasized an "open door" policy.

Mayde Creek's football program is on the upswing following a 2019 season in which the Rams made the playoffs for the first time since 2008 and won their first playoff game since 1997.

"We've got to grind," Randle said. "We've got to keep the kids there. If they're zoned to Mayde Creek, we have to let parents know, 'Hey, we're going to get them to the next level and we're going to wrap our arms around them and make them feel loved.' I think if we can do that, we'll have success and parents won't move their kids south of I-10. That's the goal."