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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020

## Katy PD earns award

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy Police Department announced via an Oct. 16 press release that it has earned the award of Recognized Law Enforcement Agency from the Texas Police Chiefs Association's Law Enforcement Recognition Program.

"We are the 170th (department recognized) so we're among the 6% of police departments (in Texas) that have this accreditation," Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz said. "It's important to me, as a professional police officer to ensure that the city is aware that this office is healthy. It's accredited."

Diaz said the process to receive the recognition was extensive and involved a group effort from throughout his department, the people at Katy City Hall that support the department and the residents who offer their support to the department as well.

The requirements for KPD to be recognized included meeting high standards, Diaz said.

"The requirement's by the (Texas) Police Chiefs Association at the state level and it encompasses all things police-related - policies, procedures, jail upkeep, property room (processes), records handling, records retention, training for staff, continuing education for staff. Things like that," Diaz said. "So, it's everything that you could think of that would apply to a normal business, so it's basically governmental compliance of a police department."

Katy Mayor and former Police Chief Bill Hastings said he was very proud of the department for the hard work it took to get the Recognized Law Enforcement Agency certification. He also praised Assistant Chief Tim Tyler who had attended a conference in 2018 where he heard about the certification and began working on policies almost immediately afterward to make sure the department was set up to move forward and obtain that recognition.

"When I left (KPD, Tyler) had probably finished maybe three or four policies that were in the works, redoing our manual," Hastings said. "Tim has worked very diligently for the last year

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## Fire destroys complex

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Harris County Emergency Services District 48 fire crews responded to a call reporting a fire at 6:18 a.m. the morning of Oct. 14, indicating that the San Tierra apartment complex at 1818 Partnership Way, Katy was ablaze.

"Thirty seconds later, we had multiple callers and (the fire) was upgraded to a full structure fire. The calling party reported black smoke from the construction site next door (to the San Remo Apartments)," said HCESD 48 Division Chief of Community Risk Reduction and Public Information Officer Jason Tharp. "Crews responding from the station could see the column from the station (on Morton Road)."

At 6:28, a second alarm was set due to rapid growth of the fire and aerial trucks were set up to help control the flames which callers reported seemed to have started in the westernmost building on the fourth floor. The large trucks which pump water from ladder mounts were set up on Partnership Way initially, then moved in to fight fire at a second building in the complex, Tharp said.

At about that time, the department reached out to the local

See FIRE, page 5



CONTRIBUTED BY BLANCA PEÑA

Blanca Peña snapped this photo as she and her family evacuated their home at the San Remo apartment complex near Katy Asian Town because the unfinished San Tierra Apartment complex neighboring their complex on its north side was ablaze. She said she took the picture because she wanted to have it to discuss the fire with her children and remind them of how brave they were the morning of the fire.

## Most won't have access to COVID vaccine until July

By ARIA JONES  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

If a COVID-19 vaccine is ready next month, Texas health officials predict it won't be widely available to Texans until at least July.

Under the state's vaccine distribution plan, vulnerable people, including health care workers, older people and people with underlying medical conditions would likely be the first to get the vaccine in the early months that it's available.

The estimated timeline presented at a meeting of health officials Monday hinges on the COVID-19 vaccine being approved before the end of the year, though it remains unclear whether that will happen. But the allocation plan provides more information about who will be first in line to get a vaccine in Texas and how long it might take before vaccines are accessible to public at large.

"Just on the face of it, the vaccine allocation will be a complex and demanding task," said Dr. John Hellerstedt, commissioner of

See VACCINE, page 5



ANNIE MULLIGAN FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

A COVID-19 testing site in Houston on June 27. Under the state's vaccine distribution plan, vulnerable people would likely be the first to get the vaccine in the early months that it's available. Under the state's vaccine distribution plan, vulnerable people, including health care workers, older people and people with underlying medical conditions, would likely be the first to get the vaccine in the early months that it's available.

## Virus forces changes to athletics schedules

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Katy ISD athletics department is juggling schedules after several COVID-19 cases were reported.

After the novel coronavirus forced the postponement of the Oct. 2 Tompkins-Clear Springs football game by one day due to three positive cases discovered in the Tompkins program that week, the district reported three more cases within three high school athletic programs in the last week, as of late Tuesday, Oct. 20.

First, a COVID-19 case in the Katy High football program postponed the Tigers' Oct. 15 game against Tompkins to Nov. 27 at 11 a.m. at Legacy Stadium. Then, cases were reported in the Taylor High volleyball program that forced the postponement of the Mustangs' district games on Oct. 16, Oct. 17 and Oct. 20. Mustangs coach Louise Crite said her team should return to the court for this Friday's game against Mayde Creek.

And, finally, on Oct. 17, the district reported a case in the Mayde Creek football program. The Rams' game against Katy scheduled for Oct. 22 was postponed to Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium. Instead, Katy will play Cinco Ranch, which was scheduled to be idle this week, this Saturday at 11 a.m. at Legacy Stadium.

To take place of the Cinco Ranch game initially scheduled for Oct. 31, Katy will play a non-district game against Dickinson at noon at Rhodes Stadium that day. Katy and Dickin-



son were supposed to play Dec. 4 before Dickinson canceled that game to play a district game postponed due to its own district's COVID-19 reports.

Per Katy ISD protocols, members of each program deemed in close contact with the positive individual received direct notification from campus administration, which provided information to ensure the well-being of each person involved.

All players and coaches in each program that revealed a case of COVID-19 were required to get a test. A negative test is necessary to return to practice and/or play in a game.

The rescheduling of each game that had to be postponed provides the district's Emergency Management team enough time to conduct contact tracing and ensure student-athletes and staff are cleared to continue practicing and preparing for games.

Katy ISD also expanded its employee COVID-19 testing services to its students: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.,

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## Brookshire Bros. Franz Road location getting a facelift

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Brookshire Brothers store at 5249 Franz Road in Katy is undergoing a facelift that will include updating the storefront with new paint and décor, a new in-store coffee shop, updated restrooms and new refrigerator cases, the store said in a press release.

"We take pride in ensuring our customers have a positive shopping experience, both in the store and online," said Brookshire Brothers President and CEO John Alston.

The store will remain open while the more than \$2 million in renovations are installed. Renovations are expected to be completed in December.

"I love seeing city of Katy businesses, even chains doing well enough to expand, renovate and meet the needs of patrons. Excited about seeing the end result and hope it makes Brookshire brothers even more successful," said Adrienne Davitz, a resident of Katy who will take also on the mantle of president of the Katy Heritage Society Jan. 1.

The renovations are being done at the same time the store will begin launching its online services under the Brookshire Brothers Anywhere brand, the press release said. The service



COURTESY CHRIS HARRIS

The Brookshire Brothers store on Franz Road in Katy is under renovations but remains open while work is underway. Upgrades, including new décor and a coffee bar, are expected to be completed in December.

See FACELIFT, page 5

# Fire chief retires after nearly 46 years

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Harris County Emergency Services District 48 Fire Chief Jeff Hevey retired Friday, Oct. 16 after more than 45 years in emergency services, the district announced via a press release. Hevey had worked with the department since 2013, though his career started many years ago at a volunteer department in 1974.

"I was in the Air Force, and I was stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio," Hevey said. "I used to drive by this fire station to and from the base every morning, and I kept seeing the sign outside that said 'volunteers wanted.'"

One day after work, he swung by the department and filled out an application, Hevey said. About a month later, he got a phone call to come by and pick up his firefighting gear – an old rubber raincoat a pair of three-quarter boots and some other somewhat questionable equipment.

"They handed me a helmet that melted twice," Hevey said. "I went quickly through them because the helmets were made by a company that hasn't been in service for probably 40 years, and they gave me some red plastic gloves that I happened to be opening the box for them as they're handing them to me, and I took a look at the paper inside the box and it says, 'not for structural firefighting."

Hevey underwent his first training and responded to his first emergencies at that department, he said. A tornado in nearby Xenia, Ohio gave him his first experience with a natural disaster, helping a community of about 25,000 people at the time recover from the aftermath. And soon after that – a structure fire near his home at an autobody shop that appeared to specialize in Volkswagens – especially busses, a happenstance Hevey was grateful for.

Hevey said he arrived at the scene, checked in with the firefighter in charge, and began helping get hoses in to where they could be used to put out the fire. Hevey was behind them by about 15 feet when things went awry.

"So, I'm helping them (move) hose and I'm listening to them and the next thing I hear is the largest crash I've ever heard – still one of the largest crashes I've ever heard – and the next thing I know, the two firefighters are running right over me and knock me down."

Once Hevey got up, he under-



COURTESY HCESD 48

Chief Jeff Hevey of Harris County Emergency Services District 48 has retired after more than 45 years in the fire service. Hevey is also a U.S. Air Force veteran, husband, father of four and a grandfather to ten children spread across Texas, Wisconsin and Florida.

stood why they were running. A 20-to-30-foot long portion of the ceiling had fallen in because of the fire, and the only thing that had saved Hevey from getting crushed by it was a pair of VW busses on either side of where he was standing when the roof fell.

After that fire, Hevey eventually got out of the Air Force by transferring into fire service as a full time firefighter when the Vietnam War came to an end and the military began to seek reductions in force. His First Sergeant called him and others into his office and asked if they wanted out of the military. Hevey said he did, because he wanted to pursue firefighting.

"I took a (firefighting) test and I scored number six on the test, and they're hiring 14, I think I might have a chance," Hevey told his superior at the time.

After getting recommendation letters from his fire chief and the mayor of Fairborn, Ohio where he volunteered, Hevey was released from service and focused on firefighting. He said he liked the privileges of the job, though some might question his definition of "privilege."

"I went from being a volunteer to being a career firefighter and the one thing I liked about it is that I could go into burning buildings and not get arrested," Hevey joked.

He said his career really took off when he was at Wauwatosa, Wisconsin he had a push from a mentor, Dean Redman, that caused him to move his career forward. An opening came up for an advanced firefighting position in Menomonie Falls, Wisconsin and Redman pushed him to take the test required to get the job. Hevey took the test and got hired. From there, his



R. HANS MILLER

Hevey, who celebrated 45 years in the fire service in 2019, is also a cancer survivor who was diagnosed earlier this year and after treating it quickly is now in remission. Hevey said he is in good health and intends to remain active.



COURTESY HCESD 48

During his time at HCESD 48, Hevey focused on developing a team of high quality firefighting professionals. Here, he congratulates Lieutenant of Suppression Training Isaiah Sanchez after swearing him into his new role in December 2019.

Hevey's board of commissioners agrees with VanDyk.

"Chief Hevey's hard work and diligence greatly benefits anyone who knows him and we expect the department will strive to follow his stellar example," said HCESD 48 Board President Marshall Kramer. "His leadership has helped the department emerge as a destination organization that is the envy of Harris County."

Hevey said he is most proud of the community risk reduction he and his team were able to put in place during his time at HCESD 48.

By reaching out to the community through home safety reviews, community events, the community paramedic program and similar efforts, residents have become safer, requiring fewer transports to the hospital by EMS staff and there are fewer fires districtwide, he said. Staff retention has also improved, he added.

"We retain people here, I think

Marshall (Kramer) ... said we have like a 10% or less turnover, and that's good, because there are other industries that have a lot higher turnover, but recently, just nobody's leaving."

Except Hevey, who is looking forward to time with his wife, four children and 10 grandchildren who are spread across the country. He said he feels young still and would also like to find a way to continue to be involved in the fire service at some level.

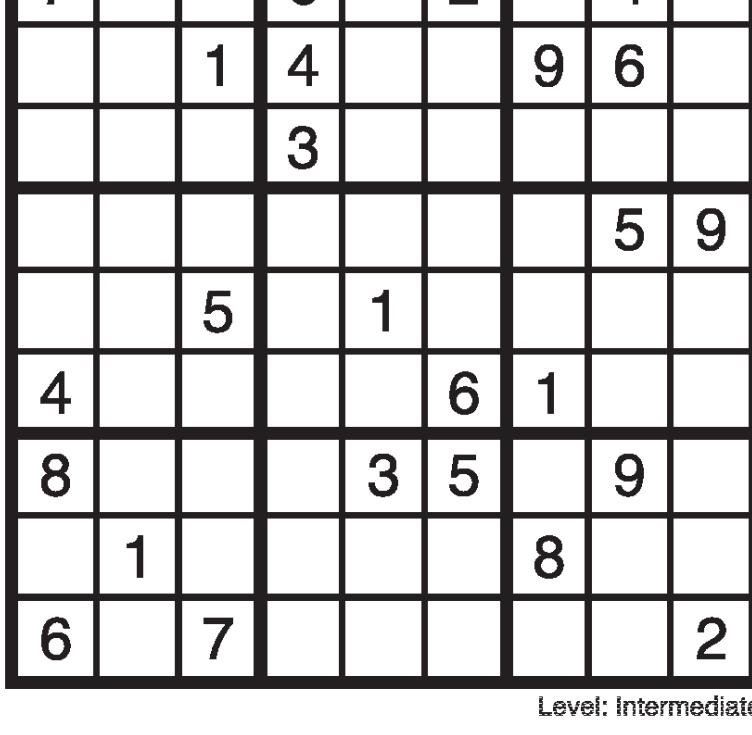
Former Battalion Chief John Paetow, whose wife is the namesake for Paetow High School, will be coming in as the interim fire chief while the district's board tracks down a permanent replacement, Hevey said. But regardless of who wears the chief's hat, Hevey said he feels the department will do well.

"I think I've got the command staff here in a place that there will be no problems moving forward," Hevey said.

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# Katy Times

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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# Katy Times

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### CLUES ACROSS

- Battered corners: dog—
- Mater: one's school
- National capital
- Frogs and toads order
- Bathrooms (French)
- Praise
- Witch
- Consume
- Pork and lamb are two types
- Rocky peak
- Women's undergarments
- From end to end
- Bed sheets
- South Sudanese king
- Dislike immensely
- Diving seabird
- Breathe noisily
- Full of roots
- Inside
- Small island in a river
- Tear into pieces
- "CSI" actor George
- Make less dense
- Derogatory term for a country native
- Pike and pickerel genus
- Important in respiration and other biochemical reactions (abbr.)
- Belgian city
- "The Joy Luck Club" author
- Essence of "Aloha"
- Suggestions
- One who overindulges
- Expression
- Maize dough
- Make into leather
- British noblemen
- Patriotic women
- Fragrant essential oil
- Aggressive, uncouth man
- One thousandth of an inch
- Brisk and cheerful readiness
- Serving no practical purpose
- Prevent from going forward
- Camera part
- Former CIA
- Colorless, odorless gas
- Long division of time
- Atomic #73
- Make a bleating sound
- The kids love him
- Female condition prior to menstrual period
- Founder of Sikhism
- Sudanese swamp
- He/she can help with your finances
- Part of the human body
- Mortar trough
- Greek island
- Change pagination
- Queens hip hop group
- Precursor to the EU
- A way to go on
- Slender marine fish
- Georgetown's mascot
- Farm state
- Military leader (abbr.)
- Russian river
- Teams' best pitchers
- In a more positive way
- Long French river
- Reactive structures in organic chemistry
- Distinctive practices
- Male gypsy
- When you hope to get there
- Men's fashion accessory
- Journalist Tarbell

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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# KISD to participate in takeback event

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy ISD Police Department will be participating with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to collect dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription medications Oct. 24. The nationwide event has collected millions of pounds of unused prescriptions since it began about 19 years ago.

"Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Katy ISD Police Department will have a contactless, drive-thru disposal process where residents can safely drop off their unused medications," said Katy ISD Police Chief Henry Gaw.

The DEA established this nationwide program in order to reduce the abuse of prescription drugs. In 2018, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicated that about



PHOTO COURTESY FIRESTOCK/PEXELS  
The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has set up a nationwide drug takeback event in order to combat the opioid epidemic and other drug-related problems.

9.9 million Americans misused prescription drugs.

The take back day event is a means for

residents to drop their old prescriptions off at the Mark L. Hopkins Law Enforcement Center at 20370 Franz Road in Katy between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Oct. 24 rather than having those items lying around. Area law enforcement officers have said abuse of prescription drugs is one of the leading causes of addiction and drug abuse in the greater Katy area.

Additionally, according to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, opioid use is the primary driver of overdose deaths in the state and from 2000 to 2016 the rate of opioid overdoses increased almost threefold from 1.7 deaths per 100,000 people to 4.5 deaths per 100,000 people. Opioids are one of the most commonly abused prescription drug types.

"Unknowingly, family medicine cabinets

might be harboring medicines that are highly susceptible to misuse, abuse and theft," Gaw said.

Katy ISD PD is just one of several points to drop off unwanted prescription drugs.

Other regional locations include:

- Houston Community College 1010 West Sam Houston Parkway, Houston
- Fort Bend ISD Police Department 16431 Lexington Boulevard, Sugar Land
- Harris County Sheriff's Office 23828 Tomball Parkway, Tomball
- Gateway Baptist Church 2930 Rayford Road, Spring

*Editor's Note: The list of participating locations is still in development and more area locations are being added over time according to the DEA's website.*



### EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS BY COUNTY

The places below serve as early voting locations from Oct. 13 to Oct. 30. Due to pending legal cases, please refer to your county's elections website for information on where to drop off absentee ballots. This information is not comprehensive and only reflects locations in or near the Katy area. Both Harris and Fort Bend counties offer countywide voting.

<b>FORT BEND COUNTY</b> <b>HOURS:</b> Fort Bend County early polling locations are open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri. And 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 27. Then Oct. 28-30 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.	<b>TOMPKINS HIGH SCHOOL</b> 4400 Falcon Landing Blvd, Katy	<b>KATHERINE TYRA BRANCH LIBRARY – MEETING ROOM</b> 16719 Clay Road, Houston
<b>HARRIS COUNTY</b> <b>HOURS:</b> Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and Noon-7 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 26. From Oct. 27-29, polls are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Then, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 30.	<b>KATY BRANCH HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY – MEETING ROOM</b> 5414 Franz Road, Katy	<b>MORTON RANCH HIGH SCHOOL – PAC LOBBY</b> 21000 Franz Road, Katy
<b>CINCO RANCH LIBRARY</b> 2620 Commercial Center Drive, Katy	<b>HARRIS COUNTY MUD 81 BUILDING – GREAT ROOM</b> 805 Hidden Canyon Road, Katy	<b>WALLER COUNTY</b> <b>HOURS:</b> Early voting locations in Waller County are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 28. Locations are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 29 and 30.
<b>FULSHEAR HIGH SCHOOL</b> 9302 Charger Way, Fulshear	<b>ISGH BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER – COMMUNITY CENTER</b> 17250 Coventry Park Drive, Houston	<b>BROOKSHIRE CONVENTION CENTER</b> 4027 Fifth Street, Brookshire
<b>GEORGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY</b> 1001 Golfview Dr, Richmond	<b>JAMES E TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL – AUDITORIUM LOBBY</b> 20700 Kingsland Boulevard, Katy	<b>SOURCES:</b> Fort Bend County/Harris County/Waller County
<b>JONES CREEK RANCH PARK</b> 7714 FM 359 Rd, Richmond	<b>JOHN PAUL LANDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER</b> 9950 Katy Hockley Road, Cypress	
<b>KATY RESERVE (FKA CHILDHOOD CENTER)</b> 1711 Spring Green Blvd, Katy		
<b>RICHMOND WATER MAINTENANCE FACILITY</b> 110 N 8th Street, Richmond		

## Dept. of Agriculture offering event grants

The Texas Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the Texas Event Grant program for the 2021 grant year. Cities, communities and other organizations may apply for grants of up to \$5,000 for community events.

"In Texas, we know one thing is certain: Texas businesses make the best stuff on earth," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said via press release. "Our GO TEXAN members work round-the-clock to get their handcrafted products out the door and on the shelves. The Texas Event Grant funding will help them promote these products, and in turn build their business and their communities. By supporting local products, we keep consumer dollars right here in Texas, and all Texans benefit."



SID MILLER MUG

If awarded, grant funds can be used for approved, event-related expenses through TDA's Go Texan marketing program once funding is allocated. Eligible events include conferences, fairs, trade shows, festivals and similar events. Grant expenditures can be used to offset advertising costs, create collateral and increase attendance.

Texans can apply for the grant by visiting [www.texasagriculture.gov](http://www.texasagriculture.gov) and clicking on the "grants and services" option at the top of the page.

The Go Texan program was created in 1999 to support businesses in Texas that manufacture products within the state and mark them with a Texas-shaped icon to show they were made in the state. The marking helps Texans identify items made here and thereby spend their money in a way that keeps money in the state.

"This is a no brainer," Miller said. "If you need some help promoting your Texas-made product - this grant is for you. If you're a city or community that wants to promote local businesses and support buying local, this reimbursement grant is also for you. Let the Texas Department of Agriculture help you promote the best Texas has to offer."

## Amazon, Domino's hiring distribution workers for new locations

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Newly opened distribution centers for Amazon and Domino's Pizza are bringing jobs to the Katy area which may provide relief to unemployment in the area. Amazon is looking to staff its new 800,000 square-foot with about 3,000 total employees while Domino's is looking to hire about 100 full-time staff for its center.

"The continued growth of Domino's in the U.S. has created a demand for additional supply chain capacity," said John Peoples, Domino's supply chain center director in Texas. "Because of that, we now have this beautiful new center, with even more jobs in the community. We are looking for additional team members to help Domino's stores around the region provide great-tasting pizza to customers each week."

The new Amazon distribution center is located at 22525 Clay Road in Katy and

is looking for employees to fill both full and part-time positions. The center sorts packages that are then transferred to a delivery station or subcontractor for final delivery to Amazon's customers, according to an Amazon press release.

Those interested in working for Amazon can apply by visiting their staffing website at [Amazon.Force.com](http://Amazon.Force.com).

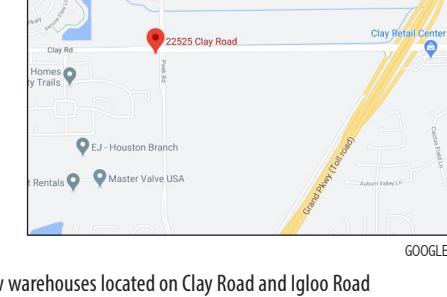
Meanwhile, Domino's is looking to fill only full-time positions at its 900 Igloo Road location in Katy. Positions are in production, maintenance, warehouse and transportation areas of the facility. Those seeking to work in transportation must have Class A and B commercial drivers licenses, according to a Domino's press release. Those interested in applying can do so at [jobs.dominos.com](http://jobs.dominos.com).

Both facilities offer benefits for the positions offered. Amazon's base starting pay for their Clay Road facility is \$15 per hour and benefits at Domino's are effective beginning the date of hire.



Amazon and Domino's are bringing jobs to the Katy area through their new warehouses located on Clay Road and Igloo Road respectively.

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# Political attack ads a reflection

If you're looking for a high road in political advertising, you'll find it somewhere between the South Pole and Hades. Short of photoshopping devil horns on your opponent, anything goes. There are no rules. It's Thunderdome, where truth is relative and context is but a rumor.

We've reached the point in the current election cycle when we're all sick of attack ads. We'd probably see fewer of them if there was some hard evidence they didn't work. One thing ad folks – political and otherwise – understand is what motivates potential customers to action.

Negative ads are nothing new. If you're old enough you might remember Lyndon Johnson's famous "Daisy" ad in 1964. Johnson was trying to portray his Republican opponent, Barry Goldwater, as a reckless militarist, though Goldwater himself was never mentioned in the ad.

The ad shows a little girl picking a daisy in a field and counting. Before she gets to 10, she's interrupted by a male voice counting down a nuclear missile launch followed by a mushroom cloud. The tagline reads, "Vote for President Johnson on November 3rd. The stakes are too high for you to stay home." In other words, a vote for Goldwater is a vote for nuclear annihilation. Unfair but effective. Johnson won in a landslide.

Today, thanks to technology and all sorts of digital hocus pocus, it's easier than ever to make even the most reasonable statesman look like a hysterical maniac.

In Kentucky, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, is running against Democrat and former marine fighter pilot Amy McGrath.

In one of a series of ads, the McConnell camp tries to portray McGrath as a far-left radical, unhinged over the election of Donald Trump. McGrath is shown, in most unflattering black and white video and looking positively loopy, saying, in an angry tone, "I am not accepting of this!" McGrath, says the voiceover, wanted to "remove" Trump from office. She's later called "Extreme Amy McGrath."

McGrath is running ads of her own in which McConnell appears only slightly less evil than Mr. Burns of "The Simpsons." One McGrath ad opens with a creepy montage of black and white McConnell photos with McGrath saying,



RICH MANIERI  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

"Mitch McConnell has spent his whole political career trying to stop people from getting affordable health care." She goes on to tie McConnell to Kentucky's high cancer mortality rate and its prevalence of heart and lung disease. Of course, Kentucky has one of the highest obesity rates in the country and is second to only West Virginia in cigarette smoking. So, there's that.

If we're wondering why so many good, qualified people spurn political office, we really don't need to look much further than political attack ads. Not that there aren't good people currently serving, but exposing oneself to constant ridicule and mischaracterization is not all that appealing to someone who is already successful and shielded from public scrutiny. Why anyone wants to be president, I have no idea.

Politics can be nasty business and it doesn't get any nastier than a month before an election. But when it's all about winning, nothing is sacred and money is no object. Advertising Analytics projects \$6.7 billion will be spent on advertising in the 2020 election cycle and at least half of that will be spent in the last 10 weeks of the campaign.

It's more than a little ironic that Republicans and Democrats alike take turns bemoaning the state of our political discourse and, at the same time, spend millions trying to figure out how to hit the other guy where it hurts the most. Hate and hyperbole are part of the game and, worst of all, if you aren't willing to engage and get dirty, you probably won't win.

I can't pretend to have an answer, only a suggestion for our elected representatives of both parties: Before you yield to political strategists who can rationalize any tactic as long as it achieves the desired result, consider cleaning it up. Elevate the conversation. Talk about issues and vision. Put away the blunt instruments. You can change the tone of the discussion, assuming that's really what you want.

I approved this message.

# OPINION



## 50 years of home ownership

This is a year of double milestones: my mother's house turns 75 and (as of October 30) she will have been living there for 50 years.

She grew up as part of an itinerant sharecropping family during the Great Depression, so I'm glad she has enjoyed all these decades of stability. (I lived in the house from age 10 to age 31.)

One of Mom's friends dubbed the property "El Rancho Rocky" because of the ample supply of limestone, but the Tyree family pulled together to make something of the place. (Mom was 91 when she finally gave up mowing the five-acre yard for herself.)

Much has changed about the Tyree property and the neighborhood, but many landmarks remain relatively unchanged.

For instance, the Osage orange (French bois d'arc) trees that litter the ground with hedgeapples. And the massive hackberry tree in the front yard. My father suffered his fatal heart attack while sitting beneath it, but Mom prefers to reminisce about the time I sassed her as a teen. She wearied of chasing me around and around the tree trying to discipline me, so she "cut the Gordian knot" by reaching through the tree fork and grabbing me!

The "old O'Neal house" was



DANNY TYREE  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

motorists. Dear old Turf the ginger tomcat was laid to rest near the northwest corner of the house more than 30 years ago.

Mom has a TV, cellphone and microwave oven; but she takes perverse pride in not letting her domicile be invaded by a dishwasher, clothes dryer, internet, cable TV or satellite dish.

I have so many memories of that place: standing in the yard squinting at the disappointing smudge that was the 1986 appearance of Halley's Comet; listening to "Gospel Time" on the radio in the former breakfast nook; watching a neighbor lady chase her husband through their yard with a butcher knife. ("Woman killer!" he was shrieking. "Killer woman" would probably have been more accurate, but artistic license and marriage license make a good two-fer.)

Then there was the lightning bolt that struck right outside the garage door mere seconds after my brother put up his motorcycle. Indoors, someone was standing in the right spot at the right time to catch the dining room chandelier that had been shaken loose by the horseplay of Dad's Webelos Scout den upstairs.

Let's not forget the grass

fire I ignited while playing with matches. (On second thought, let's DO forget that visit by the fire department.)

Only three automobile wrecks

have occurred in front of the

house, but countless dogs and

cats have been "clobbered" (to use

Dad's terminology) by speeding

# Katy Times

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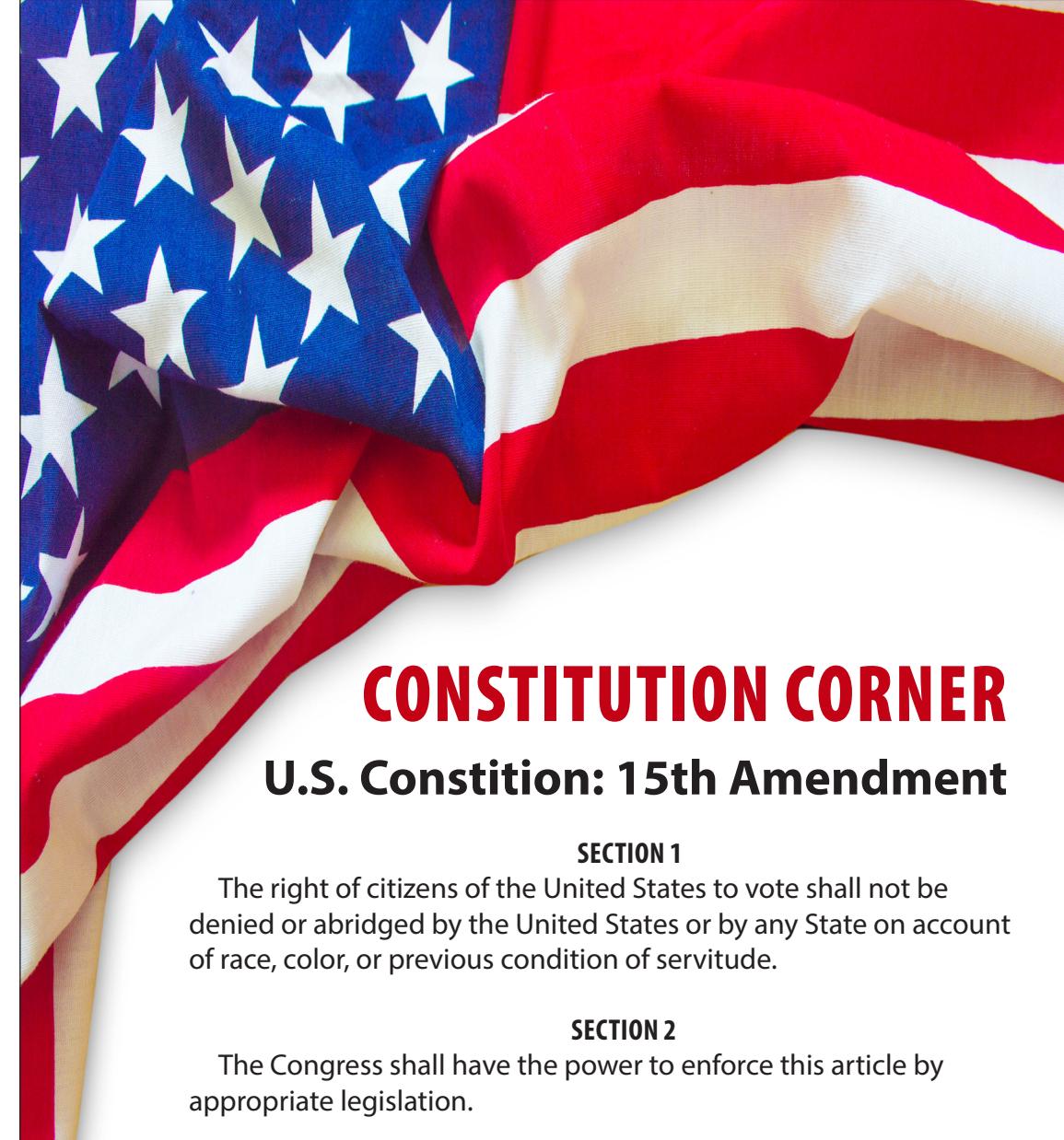
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## CONSTITUTION CORNER

### U.S. Constitution: 15th Amendment

#### SECTION 1

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

#### SECTION 2

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

# COMMUNITY

THE KATY TIMES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020 **5**

KATYTIMES.COM

## FIRE

from page 1

municipal utility district to increase water pressure to the two aerial firefighting apparatus to ensure they could pump water onto the fire quickly, Tharp said.

Shortly after 7 a.m. the second building was fully involved, and crews worked to get back to that area to keep the fires from spreading into the surrounding area. However, by 7:34 a.m., grass fires had occurred nearby due to the intense heat and booster trucks - smaller, more mobile fire trucks designed to deal with grass fires and similar small blazes - were deployed to deal with the smaller, tertiary fires, Tharp said.

As the situation developed, HCESD 48 was joined by Waller Harris ESD 200, Westlake, Willowfork, city of Katy, Houston and Cy-Fair fire departments in responding to the fire. EMT and hazmat crews as well as the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office were on hand in case they were needed as well. Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies were at the scene to help with traffic control and manage civilians observing the fire.

Those mutual aid departments were deployed into the San Remo complex to help keep residents there safe, Tharp said.

"The radiant heat the building was putting off was breaking windows for (the San Remo) apartment complex," Tharp said. "We had Houston (Fire Department) show up for mutual aid and we set them up in (San Remo) to protect those from exposure."

Blanca Peña, who lives in the San Remo apartment complex said the fire made for a scary morning.

"We left our complex right next door because the fire was very intense and seemed as if it wouldn't be controlled fast enough," Peña said that afternoon. "Feeling extra grateful this morning, especially for those firefighters."

At about 8 a.m., a firefighter from another department that had come to assist HCESD 48 was sent



COURTESY HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 48

The cause of the fire at the San Tierra apartment complex was unknown and the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the incident. One firefighter suffered a heat injury but is recovered after working the fire which was so intense it caused windows to shatter in the neighboring complex and grass fires to start nearby.



R. HANS MILLER

The fire at the San Tierra apartments was nearly extinguished and considered under control by late morning on Oct. 14. Fire crews remained on-scene into the afternoon spraying water and fire-retardant foam to cool hotspots and to assist the Harris County Fire Marshals Office.

to Memorial Hermann Katy with heat exhaustion, Tharp said. That firefighter is now in good health and no other injuries have been reported, including among the construction crew.

"From what I understood from some of the workers that were showing up, nobody was here yet. ... So, it was early enough I don't believe anybody was on scene," Tharp said.

Tharp said no cause for the fire was available this morning and the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office would need to conduct an investigation to determine the cause of the fire, Tharp said.

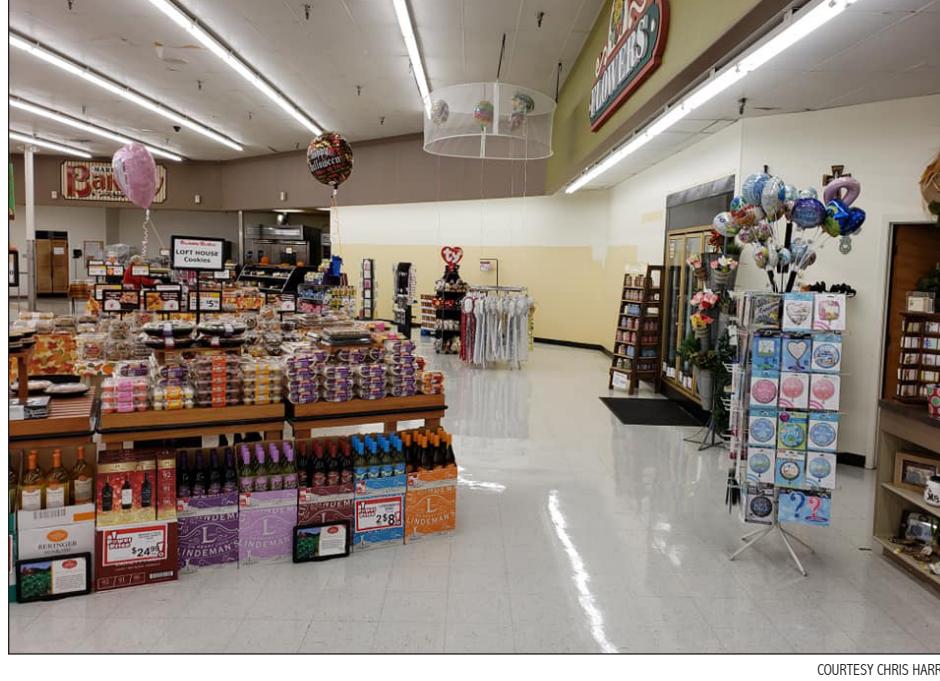
Electricity had not been connected to the site yet and only a generator was

available at the scene, he added.

Crews remained on-scene until mid-afternoon at the San Tierra Apartments build site, Tharp said. Representatives from Sueba Construction, Inc., the builder of the apartment development, said the incomplete facility was expected to have two four-story apartment complexes totalling 246,000 square feet and six rows of separate garages. The anticipated value of the property is about \$30 million, once completed.

Sueba Construction is also the builder at the Katy Boardwalk project.

Representatives from Sueba Construction declined to provide a comment to the Katy Times.



COURTESY CHRIS HARRIS

Improvements to the store will include an expanded deli and coffee bar, but shoppers will also be able to use the Brookshire Brothers website to order groceries and other items from the comfort of their own home for delivery and curbside service.

## FACE LIFT

from page 1

is expected to launch Nov. 16 and will include curbside and home delivery services. The online platform allows customers to interact with in-store personal shoppers and make notes on their grocery preferences such as how ripe they want their produce or how thick they want their steaks to be cut, the press release said.

"Through our online shopping platform, Brookshire Brothers Anywhere, we provide our customers the same level of friendly, personalized service that they would experience in the store with us," Alston said. "Convenience is key, but so is high-quality customer service. You shouldn't have to settle for one or the other."

Brookshire Brothers is an employee-owned grocer based in Lufkin, Texas. It was founded in 1921 and operates more than 116 locations from the Texas Hill Country east to Lake Charles, Louisiana.



COURTESY CHRIS HARRIS

The front of the Brookshire Brothers store may appear to be closed due to portions of the store being closed off for remodeling, but the employee-owned store remains open.

Once the renovations are finished, a Brookshire Brother Brews coffee shop will be available to shoppers. The new shop will include an espresso and coffee bar that offers custom-made lattes, cappuccinos, cold brews, and milkshakes made from Blue Bell ice cream as well as fruit smoothies.

The deli will also be enlarged, and customers

will be able to partake in an expanded selection of barbecued meats including brisket, ribs and sausage, among others.

"Whether it's offering fast-and-easy meal solutions, friendly service or enjoying a freshly roasted cup of coffee, we want our customers to know they are the most important part of our business," Alston said.

## VACCINE

from page 1

the Texas Department of State Health Services, at a teleconference meeting Monday. "We don't know when a vaccine will arrive. We don't know which vaccines will arrive. We don't know how much of any given vaccine will arrive."

Imelda Garcia, associate commissioner for the DSHS Division for Laboratory and Infectious Disease Services, presented the plan and estimated timeline Monday and said they were based on the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which will likely change in the coming days.

"As you can imagine, we're in a very fluid situation with new information about vaccine development coming just about every other day," Garcia said.

The state's new vaccine distribution plan points to previous challenges in the pandemic with testing availability and personal protective equipment shortages. It assumes that at first, the state won't be able to keep up with demand, and at times supply will be insufficient even for those who will be prioritized for vaccination.

There is no authorized vaccine for COVID-19 yet, though there are several in different phases of development. The state's timeline will be updated when officials know more about the vaccine's availability, said Chris Van Deusen, DSHS spokesperson.

The plan has a phased approach and says "vaccine supply will be limited at the beginning of the program, so initial allocations must focus on providers and settings that can vaccinate and conduct outreach to limited vulnerable and frontline populations."

The state estimates there are over 5 million people who are vulnerable or work in front-line jobs that expose them to the virus. This includes over 3.9 million adults who are 65 or older; over 638,000 health care personnel; over 327,000 acute care hospital employees; over 137,000 nursing home residents; and over 66,000 emergency medical workers.

For people who are 18 or older, the

state estimates over 9.4 million have underlying medical conditions that could increase their risk for severe illness associated with COVID-19.

These are the groups that may be prioritized for vaccines in Phase 1, which is estimated to span late November and December. The prioritization could also include some people of color and Texans who are incarcerated, detained, homeless or living on college campuses. It could also include people who are disabled or uninsured.

"Final decisions are being made about use of initially available supplies of COVID-19 vaccines," the plan says.

The plan includes an Expert Vaccine Advisory Panel to develop guidelines and make recommendations that may include "equitable distribution across urban and rural communities" and considering federal guidance for vulnerable populations.

In Phase 2, an increased amount of vaccines will become available. But Texas will still prioritize critical areas such as long-term care facilities and rural communities with specialized vaccine teams that could be deployed as needed. During this phase, some healthy people could potentially access vaccines with a larger selection of providers including pharmacies, doctors' offices, clinics and public health sites.

In Phase 3, which is projected for July in the timeline, the state expects there to be a sufficient supply of vaccine doses available to most anyone who wants it.

The plan assumes that people will need two doses of the vaccine separated by at least 21 or 28 days, and that the vaccine will have to be refrigerated or frozen.

To create the plan, the state relied on its previous experience handling and response to the H1N1, or swine flu, pandemic. DSHS said in the plan that those efforts led to major success in vaccine distribution and overall communication.

"For H1N1, much of the planning for pandemic influenza was based on a worst-case scenario (i.e., projections concerning H5N1 avian influenza), but public health officials, emergency responders, and other response partners adapted quickly to this event as it was presented," the plan reads.

## AWARD

from page 1

and a half - almost two years - he finally finished every policy and the Texas Police Chiefs Association came in, did an audit, and (KPD) was awarded their credentials for best practices policies."

Hastings said he was grateful to Diaz for continuing to pursue the certification and supporting Tyler and the rest of the KPD team in the pursuit of the Texas Police Chiefs Association recognition.

According to the Texas Police Chiefs Association website, the certification involves a review of written policies, law enforcement licenses held by agency staff, internal investigations guidelines and practices, sexual harassment prevention steps, personal integrity requirements,

training in the appropriate use of deadly force, written policies regarding off-duty employment for officers, general use of force policies and practices, vehicle pursuits training, hostage incident training, policies related to transportation of suspects and prisoners and inventory and property control procedures.

Diaz said ensuring that everyone the department interacts with is treated with dignity and respect is



PHOTO COURTESY KATY PD

As a formally Recognized Law Enforcement Agency, Katy PD is now among the top 6% of all law enforcement departments statewide.

a large part of the certification process as well and that he is proud of his team for maintaining a high standard for interacting with the public.

Prior to receiving the award, KPD underwent a voluntary self-review of policies, procedures, facilities and operations which began April 24. The department analyzed itself by preparing proofs of compliance for each of the Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices identified by the Texas Police Chiefs Association which were then followed by an on-site review of the department's operations by police chiefs from other areas of the state. Results of that review were then sent to the Texas Police Chiefs Association's

Recognition Committee for analysis, which ultimately made the decision to certify the department with the Recognized Law Enforcement Department award, according to the press release.

Diaz said the award would not have been possible without the support of the general public, staff at Katy City Hall, Katy City Council members and all of his staff at KPD.

"It's a total team effort, you know?" Diaz said. "Not just the police. The council, the mayor, the city administrator - they were all very positive about going through this process. So, we're here and we've done it. Now we've just got to keep it up because it's an every-year thing."

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## 2020-21 KATY AREA VARSITY SPORTS RESULTS & SCHEDULE

To submit scores, news or schedules, email dennis.silva@katytimes.com

### FRIDAY, OCT. 16

#### VOLLEYBALL

- Seven Lakes 3, Katy 1
- Tompkins 3, Cinco Ranch 1
- Bryan Rudder 3, Paetow 0
- Taylor at Morton Ranch, ppd.

#### FOOTBALL

- Taylor 49, Seven Lakes 31
- Cinco Ranch 21, Mayde Creek 17
- Paetow 42, Kempner 7

### SATURDAY, OCT. 17

#### VOLLEYBALL

- Katy 3, Tompkins 1
- Cinco Ranch 3, Mayde Creek 0
- Seven Lakes at Taylor, ppd.

### TUESDAY, OCT. 20

#### VOLLEYBALL

- Katy 3, Mayde Creek 0
- College Station 3, Paetow 0
- Morton Ranch at Seven Lakes, ppd.
- Taylor at Tompkins, ppd.

### THURSDAY, OCT. 22

#### FOOTBALL

- Wisdom at Paetow, at Rhodes Stadium, 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 23

#### VOLLEYBALL

- Tompkins at Morton Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Taylor, 5:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Katy, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow at A&M Consolidated, 6 p.m.

#### FOOTBALL

- Seven Lakes at Morton Ranch, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Taylor, at Rhodes Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 24

#### VOLLEYBALL

- Taylor at Cinco Ranch, noon
- Seven Lakes at Tompkins, noon
- Morton Ranch at Mayde Creek, noon

#### FOOTBALL

- Katy at Cinco Ranch, at Legacy Stadium, 11 a.m.

### TUESDAY, OCT. 27

#### VOLLEYBALL

- Mayde Creek at Seven Lakes, 5:30 p.m.
- Katy at Taylor, 5:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Morton Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Waller at Paetow, 6 p.m.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 30

#### VOLLEYBALL

- Tompkins at Mayde Creek, 5:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Katy, 5:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Cinco Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow at Brenham, 6 p.m.

#### FOOTBALL

- Morton Ranch at Tompkins, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 31

#### VOLLEYBALL

- Alief Taylor at Morton Ranch, noon

#### FOOTBALL

- Katy vs. Dickinson, at Rhodes Stadium, 11 a.m.
- Taylor at Mayde Creek, at Legacy Stadium, 11 a.m.

# SPORTS

# STRONG AND AMAZING

Former Cinco Ranch standout Becker beats cancer

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

At 20 years old, Katie Becker is no stranger to life-altering adversity.

During her freshman season at the University of Texas-San Antonio in 2018, Becker was forced to medically retire from playing soccer seven games into her collegiate career. After having four concussions as a first-team all-district standout at Cinco Ranch High, she had another during a match against Rice in Houston on Sept. 23, 2018. Doctors and coaches determined that another concussion could lead to brain damage.

And while it was difficult to give up her first true love—Becker began playing soccer when she was five years old, helped Cinco Ranch to two state tournament appearances in high school and earned a scholarship to compete at the NCAA Division I level—it was nothing compared to what she faced a little more than two years later.

On March 22 of this year, Becker was diagnosed with stage 3 B-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.

"I was in shock when they told me at first," Becker said. "I had always heard of cancer being in people a lot older than me and I didn't think it was real. When it processed, I started crying."

The next four months were mentally demanding, and emotionally and physically taxing for Becker, but she was declared cancer-free on July 26 and is in complete remission following a PET scan in late August.

Still, how she got there was a testament to who Katie Becker is—resilient, competitive, fierce,



Former Cinco Ranch soccer standout Katie Becker (in white shirt) poses for a photo with nurses and staff of the Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center Oncology Unit after being declared cancer-free on July 26.

unyielding. She was supposed to find out her results from chemotherapy treatment sometime this month. She found out two months early.

"She's incredibly strong and amazes me," said Ali Russell, Becker's best friend since their freshman years of high school. "The way she was able to have strength, physically and mentally ... it blows my mind."

#### Diagnosed

Becker, who is still a part of the UTSA women's soccer program as a team manager, started noticing symptoms in February. Her face was swelling when she woke up for morning practices. Doctors initially thought it was allergies. But when she worked out, she got

light-headed easily. Two veins on the side of her neck would pop out.

"It got worse and I started to have a cough and was congested," Becker said.

While on spring break in Florida in March, Becker again saw doctors, who again attributed it to allergies. But when she returned home from spring break, she did another small workout and her neck and shoulders swelled.

"Imagine a linebacker's neck," she said.

Her neck was so swollen, she had to turn her entire body to look to her side.

"Once the swelling never went down, I had three migraines in three days. I wasn't sleeping," Becker said. "A doctor told me to get blood work and an MRI on

my neck. The next day, he called saying I had blood clots in my neck and needed to go to the ER right away."

At Memorial Hermann Hospital in Katy, a growth in Becker's chest cavity was discovered. She transferred to the Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center Oncology Unit downtown and had multiple biopsies.

Doctors concluded that the swelling occurred because the tumor was located in a place that caused superior vena cava syndrome, which happens when the tumor presses on the vein that transports blood from one's head to the heart.

"Of course, we were shocked.

See BECKER, page 10



KATY ISD ATHLETICS

Second-year Cinco Ranch coach Chris Dudley talks to his team in the Legacy Stadium locker room following the Cougars' 21-17 win over Mayde Creek on Oct. 16. The win snapped a 14-game losing skid and handed Dudley his first career head coaching win.

# Key soars above all

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Perris Key notices the looks. The sideways glances. She hears the scoffs.

She feels the disrespect.

Whenever opposing volleyball teams—littered with tall, athletic, imposing hitters—offer amused, if not downright smug, stares toward Katy High's 5-foot-8, always-smiling Key, the senior right side hitter can only laugh.

"For sure, especially in club (season), a lot of teams look at me like, 'Oh, she's small. She can't do anything,'" Key said.

And then she feels a bit sad for them. For only she knows what's about to take place.

"It's always fun to come in and show off," Key said with a wide smile.

Key is the Tigers' athletic sensation, a "dynamo" in almost every sense of the word. Though she has the size of a defensive specialist, Key is the hard-swinging attacker for coach Karen Paxton's club, averaging 3.8 kills per game and thwarting blockers with crafty hitting and a jaw-dropping 28-inch vertical jump.

She doesn't blame anyone if they're taken aback by her numbers and play. You have to see her jump and attack the ball to fully understand. There is a giddy violence behind every swing she takes, as if dismissing each and every doubt kill by kill.

It has earned the attention of University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley volleyball coach Todd Lowery, who runs a winning program in south Texas that is a top contender in the Western Athletic Conference. Key verbally



Katy senior hitter Perris Key

committed to the Vaqueros in September 2019, and her stock has only soared since.

"Perris," Paxton said, "is phenomenal."

For instance, take Key's performance during Katy's 3-1 win over Tompkins on Oct. 17. Key had 24 kills, including eight in the critical third set that broke a 1-1 tie in the game, and only two errors as the Tigers tightened their hold on second place in District 19-6A.

The Tigers saw the Falcons struggling on the right side, and Key took advantage.

"It's so fun," junior setter Maddie Waak said. "She just jumps so high and hits it so high."

Key has had 14 or more kills in a game six times this season. Though her athleticism is impressive, Paxton singles out Key's versatility as a true difference-maker.

She can play outside, right side

See KATY, page 9

# Cougars snap skid, award Dudley win

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Second-year Cinco Ranch coach Chris Dudley had a feeling something good was coming.

Sitting in his office during the early afternoon of Friday, Oct. 16, Dudley felt optimistic about his Cougars going into that evening's district game against Mayde Creek.

We're ready, Dudley thought to himself.

The Cougars had had three "great days" of practices. The scout team gave a crisp look, a significant indicator every Monday and Tuesday that allows coaches an idea of where the team's game plan stood.

"If you're doing (scout team) the right way, there should be a handful of plays where, in a defensive practice, the offense has big gains or scores, because then you can watch video and see where the weakness in your plan is," Dudley said.

The scout team was right. Energy was high. Focus was strong. An epiphany of sorts in midst of a 14-game losing skid, including an 0-3 start to this season.

And then kickoff arrived.

See COUGARS, page 9



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An election is hereby ordered to be held on November 3, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing Councilmember At-Large, Councilmember Ward A and Councilmember Ward B.

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Một cuộc bầu cử theo đây được ra lệnh tổ chức từ 7 giờ sáng đến 7 giờ tối ngày 3 tháng Mười Một năm 2020, để bầu ra Ủy Viên Hội Đồng Toàn Thành Phố, Ủy Viên Hội Đồng Khu Vực A và Ủy Viên Hội Đồng Khu Vực B.

現命於 2020 年 11 月 3 日，上午 7 時至下午 7 時舉行選舉，以選舉不分選區議員、A 區議員、B 區議員。

**Early Voting by Personal Appearance will begin on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, and end on Friday, October 30, 2020. Registered Voters may vote at any early voting polling location in the County in which they are registered: Fort Bend, Harris or Waller County. Please contact the Early Voting Clerk for a full list of polling locations, dates and times of operations.**

La votación anticipada en persona comenzará el martes 13 de octubre de 2020 y terminará el viernes 30 de octubre de 2020. Los votantes registrados pueden votar en cualquier lugar de votación anticipada en los condados en los que estén registrados: condados de Fort Bend, Harris o Waller. Comuníquese con el secretario de votación anticipada para obtener una lista completa de los lugares de votación, las fechas y los horarios de atención.

Thủ Tục Đích Thân Tới Bó Phiếu Sớm sẽ bắt đầu vào thứ Ba, ngày 13 tháng Mười năm 2020, và kết thúc vào thứ Sáu, ngày 30 tháng Mười năm 2020. Các Cử Tri Đã Ghi Danh Bó Phiếu có thể bỏ phiếu tại bất kỳ địa điểm bỏ phiếu sớm nào trong Quận mà họ đã ghi danh: Quận Fort Bend, Harris hoặc Waller. Vui lòng liên hệ với Thủ Ký phụ trách Bó Phiếu Sớm để biết danh sách đầy đủ các địa điểm bỏ phiếu và các ngày giờ mở cửa.

親自出席提前投票將從 2020 年 10 月 13 日星期二開始，到 2020 年 10 月 30 日星期五結束

**EARLY VOTING - VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA - BÓ PHIẾU SỚM****提前投票****FORT BEND COUNTY CONDADO DE FORT BEND QUẬN FORT BEND FORT BEND 縣**

Main Polling Place:	Lugar principal de votación:	Dia Diệm Bó Phiếu Chính:	主要投票地點:
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Fort Bend County Rosenberg Annex

4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg

Katy Area Early Voting Polling Place:	Lugar de votación anticipada en el área de Katy:	Dia Diệm Bó Phiếu Sớm Khu Vực Katy:	Katy 地區提前投票地點:
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**FOR BEND: Katy Reserve (ka Childhood Center)**

1711 Spring Green Blvd, Katy Texas 77423

VOTING HOURS:	HORARIO DE VOTACIÓN:	THỜI GIAN BÓ PHIẾU:	投票時間:
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October 13-17: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.; October 19-23: 8:00a.m.-7:00p.m.; October 24: 7:00a.m.- 7:00p.m.; October 26-30: 7:00a.m.-7:00p.m.

Del 13 al 17 de octubre: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Del 19 al 23 de octubre: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Del 24 de octubre: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Del 26 al 30 de octubre: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For more information call 281-341-4418 or visit the website: <http://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/elections>

Para obtener más información, llame al 281-341-4418 o visite el sitio web en: <http://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/elections>

HARRIS COUNTY CONDADO DE HARRIS QUẬN HARRIS HARRIS 縣
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Main Election Day Polling Place: Lugar principal de votación el Día de Elección: Dia Diệm Phòng Phiếu Chính vào Ngày Bầu Cử: 主要提前投票站:
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NRG Arena

1 NRG Parkway, Houston, Texas 77054

Katy Area Early Voting Polling Place: Lugar de votación anticipada en el área de Katy:	Dia Diệm Bó Phiếu Sớm Khu Vực Katy:	Katy 地區提前投票地點:
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**HARRIS: Katy Branch Harris County Public Library (Meeting Room)**

5414 Franz Road, Katy, Texas 77493-1717

VOTING HOURS:	HORARIO DE VOTACIÓN:	GIỜ BÓ PHIẾU:	投票時間:
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October 13-17: 7:00a.m.-7:00p.m.; October 18: 12:00p.m.-7:00p.m.; October 19-24: 7:00a.m.-7:00p.m.; October 25: 12:00p.m.-7:00p.m.; October 26: 7:00a.m.-7:00p.m.; October 27-29: 7:00a.m.-10:00p.m.; October 30: 7:00a.m.-7:00p.m.

Del 13 al 17 de octubre: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Del 18 de octubre: 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Del 19 al 24 de octubre: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Del 25 de octubre: 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Del 26 de octubre: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Del 27 al 29 de octubre: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.; Del 30 de octubre: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For more information call 713-755-6965 or visit the website: <http://www.harrisvotes.com>

Para obtener más información, llame al 713-755-6965 o visite el sitio web en: <http://www.harrisvotes.com>

WALLER COUNTY CONDADO DE WALLER QUẬN WALLER WALLER 縣
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Main Election Day Polling Place: Lugar principal de votación el Día de Elección: Dia Diệm Phòng Phiếu Chính vào Ngày Bầu Cử: 主要提前投票站:
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Waller County Annex

775 Bus 290, Hempstead, Texas 77445

Katy Area Early Voting Polling Place: Lugar de votación anticipada en el área de Katy:	Dia Diệm Bó Phiếu Sớm Khu Vực Katy:	Katy 地區提前投票地點:
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**WALLER: Brookshire Convention Center**

4027 5th Street, Brookshire, Texas 77423

VOTING HOURS:	HORARIO DE VOTACIÓN:	GIỜ BÓ PHIẾU:	投票時間:
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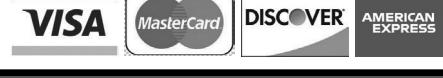
October 13-16: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.; October 17: 8:00a.m.-2:00p.m.; October 19-23: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.; October 24: 8:00a.m.-2:00p.m.; October 26-28: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.; October 29-30: 7:00a.m.-7:00p.m.

Del 13 al 16 de octubre: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Del 17 de octubre: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Del 19 al 23 de octubre: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Del 24 de octubre: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Del 26 al 28 de octubre: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Del 29 al 30 de octubre: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For more information call 979-826-7643 or visit the website at: <http://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/Front%20Page>

Para obtener más información, llame al 979-826-7643 o visite el sitio web en: <http://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/Front%20Page>

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



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註冊選民可以在其註冊所在的縣的任何提前投票地點投票，包括：Fort Bend, Harris 或 Waller 縣。請與您的提前投票書記官聯繫，以獲取投票地點，日期和操作時間的完整列表。

**Below is the closest early voting by personal appearance information for Fort Bend, Harris and Waller County:** A continuación se encuentra la información para la votación anticipada en persona para los condados de Fort Bend, Harris y Waller: Dưới đây là thông tin về thủ tục đích thân bỏ phiếu sớm cho Quận Fort Bend, Harris và Waller: 以下是 Fort Bend, Harris 或 Waller 縣最近的親自出席提前投票信息：

Contact Information for Fort Bend County Elections & Mail Ballots:  
*Información de contacto para las elecciones y boletas electorales por correo del Condado de Fort Bend:*  
Thông tin liên lạc cho các cuộc bầu cử & bô phiếu qua thư của Quận Fort Bend:  
Fort Bend 縣選舉和郵遞投票的聯繫信息：

Fort Bend County Clerk

301 Jackson

Richmond, Texas 77469

281-341-4418

[www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/elections](http://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/elections)

Contact Information for Harris County Elections & for Mail Ballots:  
*Información de contacto para las elecciones y boletas electorales por correo del Condado de Harris:*  
Thông tin liên lạc cho các cuộc bầu cử & bô phiếu qua thư của Quận Harris:  
Harris 縣選舉和郵遞投票的聯繫信息：

Chris Hollins, Harris County Clerk

P.O. Box 1525

Houston, TX 77251-1525

713-274-8600

[www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com)

Contact Information for Waller County Elections & Mail Ballots:  
*Información de contacto para las elecciones y boletas electorales por correo del Condado de Waller:*  
Thông tin liên lạc cho các cuộc bầu cử & bô phiếu qua thư của Quận Waller:  
Waller 縣選舉和郵遞投票的聯繫信息：

Elections Administrator

816 Wilkins Street





**BECKER**

from page 6

Never expected it," said Katie's mother, Margaret. "We were, though, thankful to finally get a diagnosis that, as the doctors said, solves the mystery, determines treatment, and shines a light on the path forward."

**'Brutal'**

Becker's chemotherapy was a five-day process each week. The first round of chemo was the worst.

Becker said she didn't touch her phone for a week and a half. She slept all day and stared at walls.

"I remember my mom and I would call it a win if I even ate a cracker that day," she said. "It was brutal. Every time I would stand up to go to the bathroom, I would throw up. I tried drinking water and I would throw up."

In three weeks, Becker lost 25 pounds. Even when she was discharged to go home after the first round of treatment, she couldn't keep food down and passed out twice from a lack of strength.

She could not make the 10-foot walk from her bedroom to the bathroom because of severe fatigue. She suffered dry eyes, headaches, dry skin, restlessness and "seeing stars."

"The hardest part was when I would go in for my treatments, I couldn't have any visitors because of the coronavirus," she said.

Indeed, as if the situation itself wasn't dire enough, Becker was not allowed visitors except for Margaret. Even then, that was only permitted after persistent input from Becker.

"She and I could not conceive her being all alone during what she was going through," Margaret said. "She presented her case and thoughts to the unit/floor manager with incredible and enviable maturity, reason, and smarts. He agreed with her and spoke to higher-ups, who also agreed I could stay with her, but with conditions."

Margaret was required to stay in her daughter's room "24-7," and only for the first round of chemo. But it was worth it.

"We were together like that for 10 days," Margaret said. "Thank God, reason, compassion, and empathy prevailed. It was difficult to leave her in the hospital for the next rounds, especially as each successive round required a six-day

stay, but she became familiar with the routine and the staff and was so brave and tough as nails through all of it."

After that first round of chemo, with Margaret no longer present, Becker became well-acquainted with Netflix, taking in her favorite movie "The Old Guard" when she wasn't binging "New Girl." She also became best friends with her phone, dependent upon text messages and calls from family, teammates and Russell.

**The dynamic duo**

In high school, Becker and Russell were dominant players for Cinco Ranch, the best players for a program that was a regional powerhouse year in and year out. Russell was the star striker, Becker the versatile midfielder.

Coach Fredy Sanguinetti called the pair his "dynamic duo."

Off the field, Becker and Russell are close. Their families hang out together often. And though each eventually went their own ways to continue their athletic careers, Becker to San Antonio and Russell to College Station at Texas A&M, they never left each other's thoughts.

So when Becker was in need, Russell was front and center.

"It was definitely a shock. Pure shock," Russell said of finding out Becker had cancer. "Probably one of the most surreal moments of my life."

Russell's mother is a breast cancer survivor going on almost four years. As the only daughter at home at the time, Russell took care of her mother along with her dad, picking up on how to treat and care for someone.

"With Becker, something that was so important that I learned from dealing with my mom ... she didn't want to be treated differently," Russell said. "It's a sense of security for them to know it's OK and they'll make it through this, because they have a support team treating them like they've always had."

Russell constantly texted Becker. Whenever Becker was permitted to go home, they got together at each other's houses, keeping their distance because of the coronavirus but still talking, being together and having fun.

They made TikTok videos while standing six feet apart, a recom-

mended rule of social distancing when it comes to the coronavirus.

"We tried to make it as normal as possible, being goofy, doing stupid dances, sing-along stuff," Russell said. "So fun and so nice to be able to share."

But it wasn't easy.

"It was a challenge," Russell said. "You want to make sure you're saying the right things, but you also know that you being the friend you are is the right way. 'What's the right way for me to respond?' And my mom would ask Mrs. Becker, and Mrs. Becker would say that me being me is the right way. Being as normal as I can, while difficult ... I think it did make a big difference for her."

Along with Russell, UTSA teammate and roommate Lexi Bolton was also a big help for Becker. Bolton, like Russell, had a brother who had cancer when he was younger, so she too knew the right approach for Becker.

Teammate Tara Giesen made a compilation of videos of people praising how strong Becker was and how much they loved her.

UTSA team trainer Shelby Dale called often to check in. UTSA head women's soccer coach Derek Pittman did as well.

"It may not seem like much, but it meant a lot to me to know that people cared how I was doing," Becker said. "The best part was they didn't treat me any differently, and I think in a place where I didn't feel like myself that was really important."

**Guiding forces**

Though Becker was relatively upbeat and positive, and as strong mentally as she could possibly be, there were dark moments.

"I think the aspect that scared me the most was knowing that my tumor took only three months to progress and how suddenly it came," Becker said. "I feel like a ticking time bomb every PET scan that I have, just being a nervous wreck about if something will show up on the scan."

Becker said the cancer turned her into someone she didn't recognize. Aside from significant weight loss, she did not have eyebrows or hair. It was shocking.

Once a premier athlete used to excelling and being the best during intense workouts and high-stakes games, she could not even walk up stairs without getting tired.

"It was hard to look in the mirror sometimes," she said.

Perhaps worse, despite their best efforts and smiling faces, she also could tell it was affecting her loved ones.

"I remember one night I was in the hospital and my mom thought I was sleeping. She was on the phone and I heard her start to lose it and start crying," Becker said. "It was hard for me."

Margaret leaned on her husband Mark and oldest daughter Leigh for their guidance, love and support.

"It was very difficult, but I just tried to focus on Katie and her care and advocated for her," Margaret said. "My guiding force? Just the very simple fact that she's my child. That's all anyone needs."

Russell tried her best to "read the environment and respond." Sometimes she knew she needed to just let Becker talk and express her feelings. Other times, she knew she had to say something to lift her up.

"The first few days, she was OK," Russell said. "And then the cancer news hit. We were texting and talking, and she told me, 'I'm scared.' What's special about our friendship is we are positive with one another, but we're also real. Our friendship was able to grow in that sense, with her being able to come to me and be so vulnerable with her situation."

Becker also relied on her nurses.

"I didn't see the doctors often, because they have a lot of patients, but I connected with a lot of the nurses on a more personal level and they made the lonely stay there more bearable," she said.

"I was the youngest patient in the chemo unit by far, so the nurses would always tell me how I was always an easy patient. Overall, what helped me overcome cancer was my age and the fact that I lived a healthy lifestyle."

**Lucky'**

"I've had things that have challenged me happen before," Becker said. "Playing soccer had been my main identity my whole life. I was always working towards the goal of playing in college, and once that dream had finally come true, it was stripped away in a matter of months. So, I think it was crucial that I didn't dwell on the present and what I was going through."

Becker started to see progress when the swelling in her neck and face began to subside. About half-

way through her chemo treatment, she got a PET scan. It showed her tumor had shrunk to more than half of its initial size.

"It was easier to go into the hospital for chemo, because each time I would come out I was that much closer to being done," Becker said. "But as I came closer to the end, my mental state struggled because, for five months, my life had been hospital, doctors and doctor appointments, so being done with treatment meant trying to find a way to get back to normal, even though my life has definitely changed from getting cancer."

Becker said cancer opened her eyes. Anything bad can happen at any moment.

"It's taught me to not be scared of anything and to go after what I want to do in life," she said. "All it takes is a snap of your fingers and your life can change."

On July 26, Becker rang the bell to declare herself cancer-free.

"I was overwhelmed with emotions," she said. "Although I couldn't have anyone with me while I rang the bell, the nurses cheered me on and clapped. I remember leaving the hospital and having a few happy tears come out of my eyes because I was leaving and looking back on the place that I would come in feeling great before treatments and leave feeling drained."

"I don't think it has really hit me until I was walking out that I didn't have to go back. That day made me appreciate how lucky I was to have beaten cancer. Not everyone does."

Becker had a follow-up PET scan on Aug. 25. Three days later, the results showed she was in complete remission. Her next scan will be next month.

"The most important aspect right now is hoping that the cancer doesn't reoccur," Becker said. "The longer amount of time that the cancer isn't on the PET scan, the less chance I have of reoccurrence."

Margaret said she is proud of her "warrior survivor." She credits Dr. Adan Rios, his team and his clinic, and said Becker's circumstance created a "strong trusting and loving bond" within the family of four.

"I think having a positive attitude and having a good mental state helped me immensely in overcoming cancer," Becker said. "This process demanded grit and perseverance. But throughout this process, I learned that you are only handed the battles that you can take."



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