

Taylor girls swim team establishing culture of success, SEE SPORTS/B1

# Katy Times

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

PATTISON

## Council calls for May election, adopts ordinances

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

In a meeting that lasted about an hour, Pattison City Council called for a May 1 city council election and adopted multiple ordinances. Council also approved measures to move forward with drainage engineering and pursuing community development block grants from the state of Texas.

"The Texas Community Development Block Grant ... is a block grant that we're looking to apply for," Mayor Joe Garcia said. "As a little background on this, we're working with GrantWorks to try and prepare an application for the Community Development Block Grant."

As a part of that preparation, Garcia said the city

needed to hire an engineering firm. Three proposals were received after the city requested quotes from multiple engineering firms.

Respondents included A & S Engineers, Inc. out of Houston, Sherwood Surveying & S.U.E. headquartered in Spring Branch and Jones and Carter Engineering which operates out of the Katy area just off the Grand Parkway, City Secretary Lorene Hartfiel said.

Garcia said the proposals were evaluated by a committee of three city representatives, including Councilmember Robert MacCallum. After discussion and a recommendation from MacCallum, council voted unanimously

See **PATTISON**, page **A5**

KATY ISD

## KISD committee to recommend \$676M bond package to trustees

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy ISD Board of Trustees will hold a special board meeting Feb. 8 to consider a bond package of more than \$676 million. The bond package was developed by the district in conjunction with the KISD Community Bond Advisory Committee.

The bond package, if approved by trustees to be on the May 1 ballot, will have Katy ISD voters considering four separate ballot measures:

- Proposition A: New Schools, Renovations, Safety & Security and Building Component Replacements \$591,368,568
- Proposition B: Classroom & Campus Technology \$59,755,242
- Proposition C: Natatorium for the new High School #10 \$13,842,610
- Proposition D: Campus Athletic Building Component Replacements \$11,260,000

The CBAC, which was made up of more than 100 community members including parents, retirees, teachers, students and principals, recom-



FILE PHOTO BY R. HANS MILLER

Katy ISD's Community Bond Advisory Committee - or CBAC - met three times at KISD's Merrell Center in January to learn about the district's anticipated growth and what would be needed to support the district's rapidly-expanding student body as members considered what sort of bond package to recommend to trustees Feb. 8.

mended the bond package after three meetings. During those meetings, committee members heard briefings regarding the district's capacity needs, how quickly the district's student body is growing, communi-

ty support for potential bonds, the district's ability to shoulder the bonds financially and bond election regulations, according to a KISD statement.

See **KISD**, page **A5**

KATY

## Katy area man dies after shooting near 2 Katy ISD campuses

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

A man has died after being shot in an incident at the Haven at Westgreen Apartments at 510 Westgreen Boulevard, just south of I-10 shortly before 3 p.m. on Jan. 29. The shooting, which also caused campus lockdowns at nearby James E. Taylor High School and Nottingham Country Elementary, also resulted in the man's five-year-old son being injured.

"Unknown suspect(s) fired multiple times at (the victims) and fled on foot," Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez tweeted regarding the incident. "No description yet and motive is unknown. If you have info, please call us."

Harris County Emergency Services District 48 Spokesman Jason Tharp



HCSO/TWITTER

Harris County Sheriff's Office Captain Joe Ambriz gives a briefing to the press Jan. 29 after a shooting occurred in the Katy area that saw one man dead and a 5-year-old boy injured.

said the victim, a Black male who was estimated to be 30 years of age, had been shot multiple times

See **SHOOTING**, page **A5**

FOOTBALL

## Katy RB Davis finds home at SFA

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Since he was a little boy playing college football video games and watching college football games on TV when he wasn't attending Katy High School football games, Jalen Davis dreamed of playing on Saturdays.

"There was a drive and a passion for it," Davis said.

So when the Katy High senior running back signed on Wednesday, Feb. 3, to continue his football career at Stephen F. Austin University, just 18 days after helping lead the Tigers to the Class 6A-Division II state championship, Davis felt "relief." A lifelong dream was reached for Davis, who plans to major in kinesiology and minor in business.

"Everything worked out," Davis said. "You know how the recruiting process is and you don't know where you're going to settle down and where your future is going to be. Now I know where I'm at and I can focus on getting back to work and training and getting better."

Stephen F. Austin recruiting coordinator Philip Vigil established a relationship with Davis last summer. Since then, there have been plenty of FaceTime calls and "great talks," Davis said.



RAMIRO REYNA | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy High senior running back Jalen Davis (28) carries the ball during the Tigers' Class 6A-Division II state semifinal game against Buda Hays on Jan. 9 at McLane Stadium in Waco. Davis signed Wednesday, Feb. 3, to continue his football career at Stephen F. Austin University.

Davis attended a game in Nacogdoches and was immediately sold on the tradition and supportive fanbase, two things he identified with Katy. He was enamored with head coach Colby Carthel's energy.

"I'm really going to come in and soak it all in," Davis said. "Grind every day and work my best at everything they want me to do. Whatever hap-

pens, happens. I think they have a running back coming back, but I'm going to do whatever they ask me to do."

The Lumberjacks liked Davis' ability to attack the 'A' and 'B' gaps as a downhill runner. He liked the opportunity to show off more of his ability.

See **DAVIS**, page **B6**

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HARRIS COUNTY

## HCESD 48 dept. selected to participate in National Fire Protection Association pilot

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Harris County Emergency Services District 48 has been selected by the National Fire Protection Association to participate in the second phase of NFPA's community risk reduction program. Community risk reduction is a program operated by some emergency response departments to mitigate dangers for high-risk individuals in the

community.

"We are thrilled to be participating in this important project," said Jason Tharp, Division Chief of Community Risk Reduction. "Not only will access to the tool give us invaluable information about our community's needs, but it's rewarding to know that using the tool will increase its effectiveness and help other fire departments in the long run."

See **HCESD 48**, page **A6**



HCESD 48

Harris County Emergency Services District 48 has been chosen to participate in the second phase of a pilot program for a community risk reduction virtual dashboard. The department's Community Risk Reduction Team provides preventive and educational services to the community. This van was put into service last summer to support the CRR team's activities in the community.

CINCO RANCH



WFDD

Concept art shown here indicates the general idea for the pedestrian underpass being constructed by the Willow Fork Drainage District along Westheimer Parkway near Cinco Ranch Junior High School as part of the district's Parks and Trails Master Plan.

## Willow Fork Drainage District building pedestrian underpass beneath Westheimer Parkway

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Willow Fork Drainage District President Wendy Duncan announced the district's construction of a \$381,000 pedestrian underpass beneath a busy section of Westheimer Parkway, just west of Cinco Ranch Boulevard. The new underpass is intended to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists in an area near multiple KISD schools, Duncan said.

"There have been no accidents to date, but we do not want to wait for an accident to act," Duncan said in a Jan. 29 interview. "We see it as potentially dangerous, and so

it's safer to go under the road."

Duncan said traffic studies in the area conducted by the district's engineering consultant, LJA Engineering, indicate that nearly 23,000 cars per day travel along the Westheimer where the bridge is located. There is currently a crosswalk at that location, but given the traffic, the district's board of directors decided to install the underpass as part of their Parks and Trails Master Plan, Duncan said. She said the hope is to improve safety for pedestrian traffic to Cinco Ranch High School,

See **BRIDGE**, page **A5**



MIGUEL GUTIERREZ, JR./THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

School districts will not receive state ratings this year based on how their students perform on the STAAR exams. However, students will still be required to take the exams in person which the Texas Education Agency says will help them determine how well students are doing, even during the pandemic.

## In-person STAAR testing required by TX schools

By ALIYYA SWABY  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas public school students must show up in person to take the STAAR test this spring, and districts can apply for waivers to socially distance test takers, according to recent guidance released by the Texas Education Agency.

The state is moving forward with the state standardized tests, taken in grades three through 12, this spring and summer during the pandemic and requiring students to take them at a "monitored" testing site. School districts can set up sites outside of their schools, including performing arts centers, hotels and recreation centers where they can "ensure equitable access and maintain test security."

Texas is requiring all districts to allow in-person learning for all students who want it, with few exceptions. A state survey at the end of October showed 2.8 million of 5.5 million students were learning on campus, meaning millions were still learning remotely.

Although some may be reluctant to return in person during a pandemic, Texas high school students receiving remote instruction who do not show up to take the required standardized exams may not be able to graduate. Texas has already said students in younger grades who fail required STAAR exams can move up to the next grade. And as of December, school districts will not receive state ratings this year based on how their students perform on the exams.

According to the state guidance, school districts can apply for waivers to require students who are not scheduled to take

the STAAR to learn remotely on a testing day. That would allow them to socially distance test takers, as medical experts recommend for indoor activities. The state has also allowed districts to extend the testing window for those taking the exams online.

"Additional testing days are optional and at the discretion of the district. However, districts should consider the potential impact of not having the assessment data to better understand how well students have mastered knowledge and skills in various grades and subjects," the guidance reads.

New York and Michigan have already asked the Biden administration for a waiver from annual standardized tests, which are required by federal law. Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said this week at a State Board of Education meeting that he would not seek a similar waiver this year.

Morath said the data from the tests will show the extent of the educational gaps Texas students have experienced during a devastating pandemic. Students may have lost more than three months of learning this summer, according to a state study of optional exams from last spring and this fall. But the data was limited since not all students took the exams and the exams were not proctored.

Texas is planning to transition to statewide online testing by 2022 and signed \$388 million, four-year contracts with two companies to administer, develop and score the exams. In 2020, after Texas received a federal waiver to cancel the STAAR, it reduced its contract with Educational Testing Service by \$19 million.

## KISD PD seeks help in tire theft case

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD police are asking for the public's help in identifying the perpetrator of tire thefts at Cinco Ranch High School and Cy Fair ISD's Bridgeland High School. The suspect was driving a full size white Chevrolet pickup, KISD PD announced via social media.

"The white Chevrolet truck is very distinctive, with 22" rims, a lowering kit, dark tint, black bed liner, chrome and black running boards, chrome bumpers, and a sticker on the rear passenger side window," the online statement read.

The license plate could not be



KISD PD

Katy ISD police are looking for the driver of this Chevrolet truck in association with an investigation of multiple tire thefts at Katy ISD and Cy Fair ISD campuses.

read by school cameras because of a blue advertisement plate that reads "Classic Chevrolet."

Those with information that

could help in the case should call Detective Michael Seiss of KISD PD at 281-237-4000 and reference case number 21-0171.

## UH launches new doctoral degree in nursing

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The University of Houston will begin offering a Doctor of Nursing Practice program after the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board voted unanimously to approve the educational program, according to a UH press release. The new program will offer a practice doctorate that the university hopes will prepare family nurse practitioners and nurse executives to address a shortage of primary care providers.

"The University of Houston College of Nursing is positioning itself to continue the critical work of educating nurses to meet state and national needs for nurses in the workforce," said Kathryn Tart, founding dean and professor, UH College of Nursing.

The DNP is established for nurses who want the highest degree available in nursing practice. The associated classes build on master's degree programs by providing training in evidence-based practice for direct patient care and leadership, quality improvement and systems leadership, the release said. It is designed as a part-time program for working nurses with classes offered face-to-face and online. Face-to-face education is a required component due to the need for hands-on work such as in a clinical setting and will require 37-42 credit hours beyond a master's degree.

While the program will not be offered directly through UH's Katy campus, Katy-area students will be able to take part in the program



COURTESY THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

The University of Houston will begin offering a doctoral degree in nursing this fall. The hope for the program is that it will help provide a supply of nurse practitioners to a short-handed medical industry as it moves forward. While the advanced classes will not be offered at the UH Katy campus shown here, courses toward lower-level degrees in nursing are taught in Katy by the same faculty as the doctoral program and most coursework for the doctorate is virtual.

through virtual programs and only rare visits to UH's main campus said UH Director of Communication Marisa Ramirez.

"Instruction for the new DNP will happen online, though twice a semester, students will be required to attend face-to-face classes," Ramirez said. "Those classes will be held at the main campus at the Health Building 2."

Instructors for the program operate out of the main campus as well as the Katy and Sugar Land campuses, Ramirez said.

UH's statement indicated that the program offers a high first-time pass rate for certification testing for nurses associated with the program.

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses adopted a position statement stating that the DNP is the degree appropriate for advanced practice registered nurses - or APRNs - to enter, practice and is supporting requiring a DNP as the entry-level degree for APRNs.

"In offering the DNP, we support the national movement toward making it the necessary degree for advanced nursing practice, especially now as the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials for baccalaureate and graduate nursing education is aligning toward a competency-based model," Tart said.

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

# Katy Times

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

# Katy Times

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### CLUES ACROSS

- Nuclear near reach weapon
- Of she
- Hyperbolic function
- Rice dish
- A team's best pitcher
- Strong and healthy
- Induces
- Popular manga series
- From a distance
- Split
- Consumed
- Cushions
- All over
- One who provides food
- St. \_\_ Girl, brand of beer
- Walking slowly
- Wood
- Semitic gods
- Bugle
- 60-minute periods (abbr.)
- Congressman
- Plant of the heath family
- Subdivision of an army
- Having many different forms
- Shellfish
- Latin for hail
- Between sixth and seventh
- Maori war dance
- Precious or semiprecious stone
- Teeter totter
- Deity
- A major division of geological time
- Fishing net
- Small Caribbean bird
- Field force unit
- Japanese beverage

### CLUES DOWN

- Prevents oil spills
- Monetary unit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12				13		14			15			
16				17		18			19			
20						21			22			
26	27	28	29				30					
31							32					
33								34	35	36	37	38
			39	40	41		42	43				
				44	45			46				
							47					
49				50				51	52	53	54	55
56					57			58				
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

- The color of the sky
- Dough used to make tortillas
- Popular comic strip character
- Distinct form of a plant
- Replenishment
- Has its own altar
- Expedition to see animals
- Group of related organisms
- His and \_\_
- Frenetically
- Small integer
- Unit of energy
- Studies of culture
- Taxi
- Doctors' group
- Don't know when yet
- Former measure of length
- Popular CBS series
- Skin condition
- Christian creator and ruler of the universe
- They \_\_
- Caused severe damage
- Work done under harsh conditions for no pay
- One point east of due south
- Sea eagles
- Drenched
- State capital
- Italian city
- Sweetheart (archaic)
- Brief talk
- Popular disco group: Bee \_\_
- First Chinese dynasty
- Military vehicle
- Chinese Moslem

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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## HCC names Robert Glaser as board chair

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Houston Community College Board of Trustees has elected Trustee Robert Glaser as its chair for 2021.

The board also elected Dr. Reagan Flowers as vice chair and Dr. Cynthia Lenton-Gary as secretary.

"I want to thank my fellow trustees for giving me their support and having confidence in me to lead this board in the upcoming year," said Glaser, who represents District V. "With your support, we will continue our work, together to increase student success,

promote diversity and equity, develop personalized learning, maintain academic rigor, expand community investment in our institution, and strive in making HCC the college of choice for all potential students in our service area."

Flowers, who represents District IV, said the board and

administration continue to position HCC as a vital educational resource to respond to current needs. "This is especially crucial in a time when so many people have been displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic," she said. "Community colleges like HCC have the responsibility to empower our constituents by offering innovative and affordable programs that position our students to respond to future industry demands."

Lenton-Gary, who represents District VII, said HCC offers students more flexibility than ever before on when, where and how to attend classes. "There has never been a better time to enroll," she said. "Our passionate and dedicated faculty are here to support students in achieving their educational goals."

HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado extended his congratulations to the newly elected board members. "I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with the board's executive committee as we continue our progress toward education that drives student success," he said.



**HCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT ROBERT GLASER**



KIM SCHAEFFER

The National Charity League's Azalea Chapter will honor its graduating seniors this coming March at the Houston Marriott in Sugar Land. NCL fosters mother-daughter relationships in philanthropic organization and community service. Participants learn leadership skills and experience a variety of cultures. The Azalea Chapter was formed in 1999 and this year's seniors have served more than 3,500 volunteer hours over the past six years in support of multiple Katy-area charities.

Pictured: **1st Row, Left to Right:** Mandy Thompson, Megan Thompson, Isabel Csitkovits, Ann Regan, Mia Alcoser, Hannah Strohm, Hannah Kirby **2nd row, Left to Right:** Lauren Suchoff, Caroline Corbin, Jenna Marsack, Kennedy Stovall, Mallory Madrigal **3rd Row, Left to Right:** Peyton Sykes, Reagan Thieme, Molly Bender, Caroline Schmidt, Avery Cook, Ruthanne Martin, Kathryn Ferrell, **4th Row, Left to Right:** Elisa Meloche, Virginia Williams, Sarah Bryant **5th Row:** Greta Jackson

## TRIBUTE

Joan Elizabeth Woods Watson passed away on Monday, January 25, 2021, at the age of 75 years. She was born on March 3, 1945, in Houston, Texas, to B. Ray Woods and Charlotte Augusta Selma Woods. Joan grew up in Brookshire, but lived in Katy the majority of her life. On September 10, 1965, she married James E. Watson in Houston, Texas.

Joan was a nurse, mom, grandma, rice farmer, cattle rancher, and an airplane pilot who enjoyed flying her mom and dad over their rice fields to check on the water - she was proud of being able to do this because her dad never would let a girl drive a combine during harvest.

She was also a life member of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association, a pharmacy owner and bookkeeper. She loved UT football weekends at the Four Seasons in Austin, as well as trips to the Lajitas Golf Resort several times a year.

Joan enjoyed wine nights with Wendy, her visits with Bonnie and Carlie, barrel races with Bonnie and Carlie, and



**JOAN ELIZABETH WOODS WATSON 1945-2021**

visiting Kirby in Austin. She loved her trips to the ranch in Pattison, where she had a crazy fondness for feeding Girl Scout cookies to her donkey, "Flash." While at the ranch she would pet her adopted pit bull, "Buddy," for hours while James did the feedings.

Joan sang in the Methodist Church choir for 60 years; she always had a smile on her face and will be missed by all.

She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, James E. Watson of Katy; children, Wendy and Paul Hanne of

Katy, Bonnie Watson of Katy, and Kirby Watson of Austin; granddaughter, Carlie Cope of Katy; brothers and sisters-in-law, Edward and Beanie Woods, and Ralph and Karen Woods; sister-in-law, Margaret Woods; farm donkey, "Flash," and her farm dog, "Buddy". She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Phillip Woods.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2021, at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy. Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway

Chapel, in Katy, with Dr. Richard L. White and Rev. Edward Woods officiating. Interment will be private.

Honorary pallbearers were Don Elder, Jr., Jimmy Ross, Raymond Dollins, Neal Waxali, Doug Gilbert, JD Woods, Jr., Alton Kanak, John Williford, TJ Horn, Gordon Ginn, Doyle Callender, Allan Walker, Carey Crutcher, Jeff Handley, and Bill Hastings.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions may do so to the First United Methodist Church Choir Ministry, 5601 Fifth Street, Katy, Texas 77493.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net](http://www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net)



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## Get your mind off politics

As some people age, they begin to lose a certain degree of excitement about simple life experiences like snow days, finding a penny in a parking lot or putting on a pair of fresh underwear still warm from the dryer.

Not me! I revel in these moments, probably because I still feel like a kid a heart – at least until my hair stylist breaks out her lawn equipment to trim my eyebrows.

In these trying times when the American political system resembles a disturbing bonus episode of “Tiger King,” it’s important to seek solace in the basic pleasures of life. What follows are a few intentional strategies I use to get my mind on something other than the unattended daycare center that is the current U.S. government.

Spending quality time with family is a great way to focus one’s attention on more wholesome matters. For me, this means hanging out with my wife and three teen daughters – when they can fit me in. These days, time with my daughters is often encroached upon by boyfriends, iPhones, and other household pests.

In fact, one of my daughters just recently had a visit from a young man who parked his Porsche in front of our house. I immediately felt like the dad in every 1980’s teen movie I’ve ever seen. (Ah, the 1980’s, when politics were simpler, the economy was booming, and all we had to worry about was the constant threat of nuclear holocaust.)

We also go on occasional family outings, where I almost always find myself loitering around the entrances to numerous women’s clothing boutiques like some creepy, masked goober, and then waiting in line for expensive coffee beverages that I don’t want. But, hey, at least we’re together – sort of.

Another effective diversion from the antics of American government officials is enjoying our household pets, who – unlike most politicians – are generally housebroken. We had some extra-special

JASE GRAVES

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



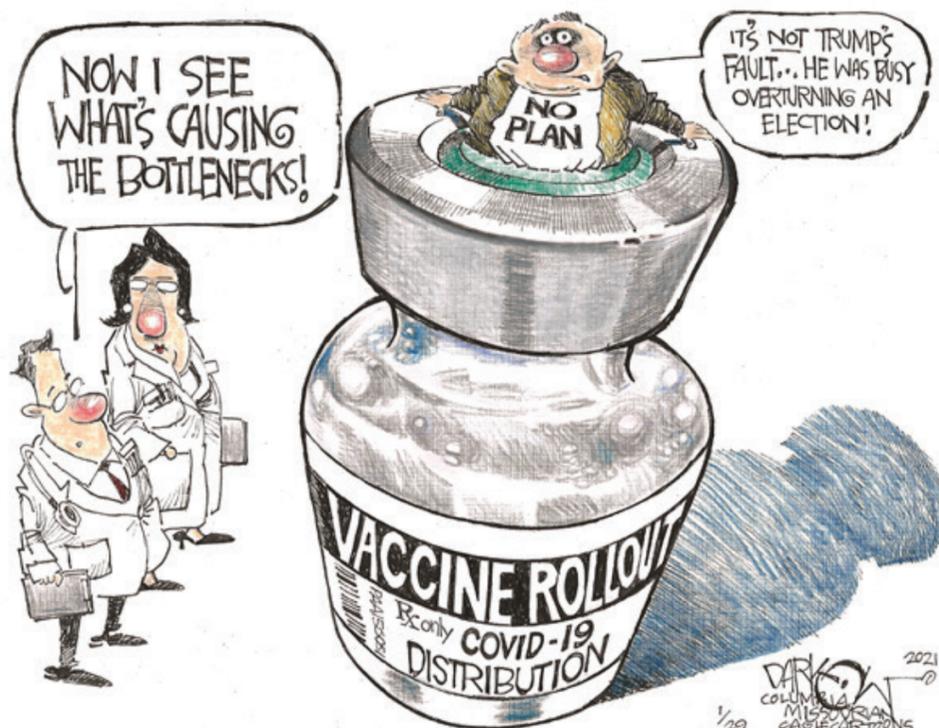
doggie fun a couple of weeks ago when several inches of snow fell in East Texas, which is about as common in these parts as an untouched serving of tortilla chips and queso.

When we first ventured out into the weather, our two little doglets stood paralyzed with humiliation in their brand new plush hoodies, designed to keep them warm – but with strategically-placed openings to allow them the freedom to kill the grass and soil my footwear. Once we relieved them of their embarrassing threads, though, they contracted a raging case of the “zoomies,” eagerly raced around the snow-blanketed yard and promptly sabotaged my snow boots.

Finally, and most importantly, I avoid political migraines by nurturing my spiritual life. After all, the Lord has seen me through much more traumatic situations – like junior high. And speaking of junior high, I am currently teaching a seventh-grade boys Sunday school class. If you think the American government is a worrisome embarrassment, try discussing the biblical miracle of Balaam’s talking “ass” with a group of prepubescent boys. (Some kid always shows up with the King James Version).

Regardless of your political persuasion, I think we can all agree that there are more important things in life than whatever happens to be grating Don Lemon’s or Sean Hannity’s cheese at any given moment. The world of American politics is a toxic-waste dumpster fire right now, but we’ll survive it. That’s what Americans do.

In the meantime, let’s all say a prayer, love on our families, play with our pets, and grab a fresh pair of warm undies from the dryer.



## Are you and your middle name on speaking terms?

There’s no middle ground with middle names. You either love them or hate them.

Or, if you’re a politician, you treat them however the latest opinion poll indicates. (“It’s way past time this nation took the bold bipartisan move of giving Harry S. Truman an actual posthumous middle name – not for our own benefit, but FOR THE CHILDREN.”)

Middle names come from various sources. My son and I both carry on my late father’s middle name of Lewis. My brother was named for the surgeon who delivered him. (For years, I thought his middle name was Stork.)

Some people select trendy/classic/elegant/powerful/unspellable monikers from a Name Your Baby book. (This category still slightly outpaces the hot Name Your Man-Bun genre.) Some parents whip open their dusty Bible just long enough to jab their finger at a random name. (“Welcome to the world, Michael Plague-of-Locusts Gildersleeve.”)

Many middle names are derived from the mother’s maiden name. I’m not if this is a blow against the patriarchy, a way to keep a proud old family name from fading into obscurity (“Don’t ever let the world forget there were Pufnstufs living among them or... or else...I’m drawing a blank here”) or just the father-in-law’s revenge. (“You despoiled my little girl, but now your child will perpetuate the name of the man who despoiled your wife’s mother...hey, this is starting to sound like a vicious cycle! Can we just watch the game and chill? And call me Dad.”)

DANNY TYREE

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



Some doting parents gift their child with a retro name that they hope will make them a Leader of Men – assuming the men are in a barbershop quartet or serving as extras in a Three Stooges short.

**“Middle names, of course, gain their greatest infamy during roll call in school. Giggles, guffaws and juvenile pandemonium ensue when the teacher unveils embarrassing secret after embarrassing secret.”**

Other people seem to have malleable middle names. One week they’re bragging “Dependability is my middle name.” The next it’s “Gourmet Chef is my middle name.” Enjoy your bragging, folks. The Social Security office will think it’s hilarious when you try to collect your first check.

Do these people think a middle name works like a magic talisman? Then why don’t they scamper down to the courthouse and switch over to “Invulnerable to Type-2 Diabetes” or “Never Receives Junk Phone Calls”?

Mothers like to use their children’s full names to underscore the seriousness of whatever

they’re yelling at them. Everyone knows that phrases such as “Amber, don’t put the cat in the dryer” or “Johnny, get that nail gun away from the baby’s soft spot” are just light-hearted, casual suggestions. It’s only when mom brings out the “Lulubelle” or the “Cuthbert” that things get REAL.

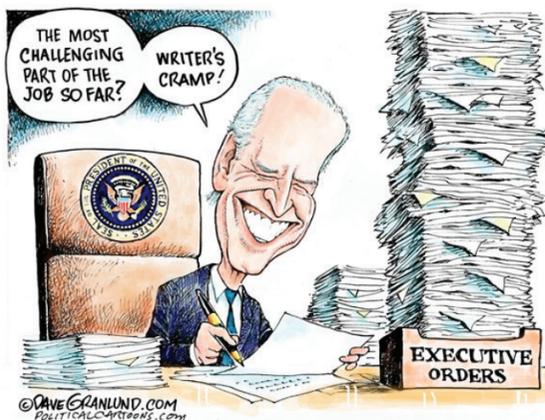
Middle names, of course, gain their greatest infamy during roll call in school. Giggles, guffaws and juvenile pandemonium ensue when the teacher unveils embarrassing secret after embarrassing secret.

That gives me an idea. What we really need to do is require full-blown middle names at places that skirt by with middle initials. Get ready for the stand-up routine and the two-drink minimum at the DMV!

How do you feel about your middle name? Many people wear their first, middle and last name proudly. Of course, 95 percent of these people are captains of industry, poets or linked to grassy knolls.

John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt would probably rock iambic pentameter, but I wouldn’t want him within 100 miles of a dignitary’s motorcade.

Unless the Gallup Poll was down with that, of course.



## Katy Times

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## CONSTITUTION CORNER

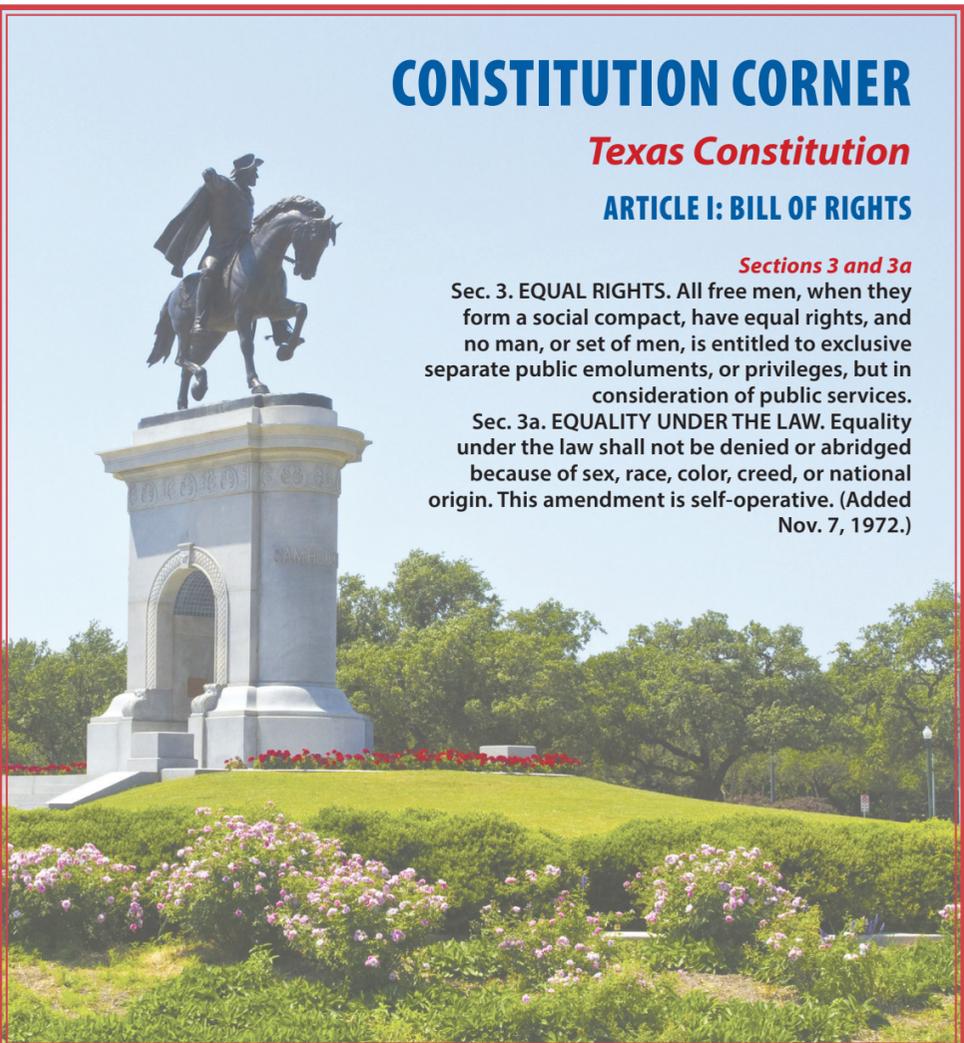
Texas Constitution

ARTICLE I: BILL OF RIGHTS

Sections 3 and 3a

Sec. 3. EQUAL RIGHTS. All free men, when they form a social compact, have equal rights, and no man, or set of men, is entitled to exclusive separate public emoluments, or privileges, but in consideration of public services.

Sec. 3a. EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW. Equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of sex, race, color, creed, or national origin. This amendment is self-operative. (Added Nov. 7, 1972.)



KATYTIMES.COM

## SHOOTING

from page A1

while his son was hit in the right arm during the shooting. The man was then flown via Life Flight to a downtown hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

A one-year-old male infant was also in the home that was fired upon during the incident and was transported to the hospital with no injuries, HCSO Capt. Joe Ambriz said during a press conference at the apartment complex immediately following the shooting.

The five-year-old is considered in stable condition, Gonzalez said.

Ambriz said the HCSO Violent Crimes Taskforce was assisting in the investigation of the crime and had responded to the scene Friday afternoon. No weapon had been located, so it is possibly still in the suspect's possession.

"We do know that the occupant of the apartment was (the victim's) girlfriend," Ambriz said.

Ambriz added that investigators were speaking with the girlfriend to see if she

knew anything of help in the investigation.

KISD Manager of Media Relations Maria DiPetta said in a brief statement that went out to parents that KISD had locked down the two campuses as a precaution to ensure student and staff safety.

"The District has been informed of a shooting incident that has occurred near the area of THS and NCE. We do not have any additional information about the incident. However, out of an abundance of caution both campuses have been placed on a lockout— meaning outside visitors are unable to access the building at this time," the KISD announcement read.

The "lockout status" is implemented when dangerous situations occur. Lockouts involve preventing any outsider from entering campus by securing all doors and ensuring students and staff remain in the building.

The lockout was lifted shortly before 5 p.m. after law enforcement verified the area was once again safe, DiPetta said.

Gonzalez tweeted at about 6 p.m. that evening that the father had died. HCSO is still investigating the deadly shooting and is asking for anyone with information to contact them at 713-221-6000.



The community near CrossPoint Community Church's peace was broken the afternoon of Jan. 29 after a shooting at the Haven at Westgreen apartment complex which left one man dead and a 5-year-old injured. Taylor High School and Nottingham County Elementary School were locked down as a precaution after the shooting due to their proximity to the violent incident.

## KISD

from page A1

Trustees are expected to vote on whether to put the bond on the May ballot at their Feb. 8 meeting. More information on Katy ISD's bond debt and how bonds are managed may be found on the district's bond website, which is expected to be updated in the next week, a KISD representative said.

### Bonds background

KISD had been considering a bond in the 2020 calendar year; however, after the COVID-19 pandemic began, the district put the notion on hold to see how the disease and its repercussions would impact the district. At its Dec. 14 meeting, the issue arose again and trustees began considering a bond after a briefing on growth from Population and Survey Analysts Demographer Pat Guseman illustrated the need for more campuses.

"Katy ISD is now the fifth largest producer of homes out of 61 school districts in the Houston area. The majority of the lots in the northwest quadrant of Katy ISD are building out rapidly. By the time Katy ISD is fully built-out, it should have approximately 115,500 students" said Pat Guseman of Population and Survey Analysts.

Guseman and her coworker, Kris Pool, explained to the board that recent demographic studies projected a population growth in the district which would increase the district's current student body from about 84,400 learners to between

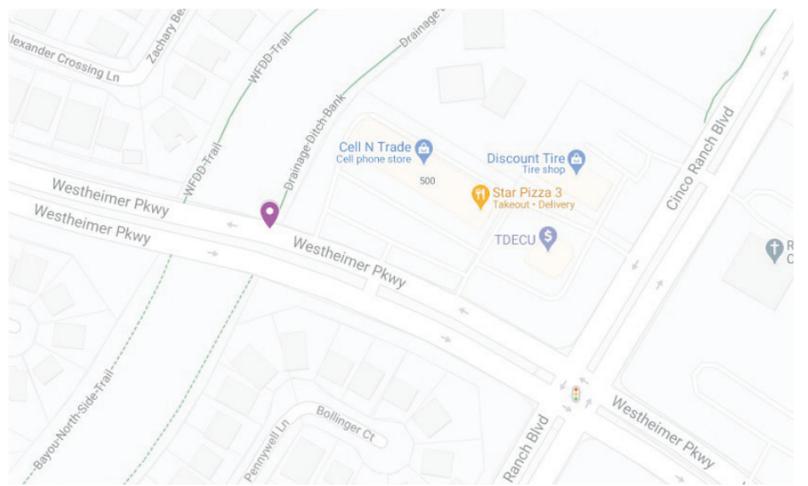
94,300 and 99,500 by 2025. Projections for 2030 place the district's student population at between about 101,000 and 112,000 students, they said.

The majority of the growth is projected for the northwestern part of the district, Guseman said at the December meeting. The projected growth pattern is established in part because of buildout of the Cinco Ranch area being completed and the Barker and Addicks reservoirs being exempted from development due to their drainage function, Guseman said.

According to a presentation by KISD Chief Communications Officer Andrea Grooms at the December meeting, Katy is already over capacity and Stockdick Junior High is nearly at capacity with space for only 50 more students. Haskett Junior High, now under construction near the intersection of Clay and Katy Hockley roads, would open with a capacity of 1,400 students this fall and be at a projected 1,813 students by 2026. Elementary and high school campuses in the area would face capacity issues, Grooms said.

The growth will require KISD to add more campuses which is expected to be under Proposition A, if the KISD Board of Trustees decides to move forward with the election. Exact plans for additional campuses have not been released yet, but are expected to be discussed at the Feb. 8 meeting.

"We probably need five or six schools in the next (bond) but that is not official yet of what we think, but for sure a high school, probably a junior high and a couple of elementaries for sure - maybe as many as three," Gregorski said at the Dec. 14 meeting.



GOOGLE MAPS/KATY TIMES

The pedestrian underpass (purple marker) will be installed at this bridge about 575 feet west of Cinco Ranch Boulevard on Westheimer Parkway. The underpass will be on the eastern side of the channel according to WFDD President Wendy Duncan.

## BRIDGE

from page A1

Cinco Ranch Junior High School as well as the LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch commercial center.

"Pedestrians and cyclers often cross mid-block rather than take sidewalks to the nearest intersection, potentially endangering themselves if misjudging oncoming vehicle speed or the time it takes to safely cross," Duncan said. "To address this concern, WFDD is funding this project as part of an overall trail safety plan that also includes 11 mid-block crossing and wayfinding signage across the district."

More than 1,000 residents signed a petition in support of the underpass on the eastern side of the Westheimer Parkway bridge, Duncan said. The underpass, which will not reduce the associated drainage infrastructure's ability to move water during severe rain events, is being paid through voter-approved 2011 bond funds saved on other projects the district had underway that came in under budget, Duncan said.

Initially, she said, WFDD Assistant Vice President Gregg Nady, before being elected to the board, had made board members aware of grant funding that might be available to fund an underpass, given the board's safety concerns for the area. However, after applying for the grants, funding was denied by the state. The board continued to look for a funding opportunity and when the savings for the other parks and trails projects came back, Duncan said they found the money for the underpass.

"We analyzed several projects ... and we prioritized them, and this underpass



BRANDEE MILLER

This busy bridge will soon be easier to bypass for pedestrians wishing to cross Westheimer Parkway after a new underpass is installed for walkers and cyclists. Construction is set to begin in early February.

was deemed a high priority by our board for the safety of our residents using the path or the trails," Duncan said.

Funding for the Parks and Trails project comes from a 2011 bond referendum that was approved by voters to develop parks and trails in WFDD, Duncan said.

"That's what we've built our three parks (with) - Central Green, Exploration Park, Willow Fork Park - the trails and the mid-block crossings is part of that (Parks and Trails Plan)," Duncan said.

According to the WFDD website, the WFDD Parks Master Plan includes park enhancements at 10 schools in the district as well as an additional 15 miles of trails. This will provide the district with a total of 50 miles of trails, 45 miles of which is off-street. It was initiated in 2011. In 2020, trails, wayfinding landmarks, at least one street crossing, quarter-mile markers, and alligator warning signage was added to the trails system, the site says. Pedestrian warnings were also added.

## PATTISON

from page A1

to enter a contract with Jones and Carter for engineering services.

Garcia said the CDBG application was due in May of this year and the city could see a windfall of \$300,000 for a community improvement project, with a portion of those funds having to be matched by the city.

"We will need to work with (Jones and Carter) to identify a viable project and bring it back for (council's) approval, in which most of their expenses should be covered in the grant that we are working with GrantWorks to follow the recommendations on, on this process," Garcia said.

Council also approved three ordinances during its Tuesday-night meeting. Ordinance 137 establishes a subdivision ordinance which establishes procedures for filing preliminary and final plats for the development of subdivisions within city limits. A plat is a formal document describing a specific plot of land, its location and its features which is used in city planning.

Ordinance 138 was also passed unanimously to establish a Parks Board for the city. Garcia said the formation of the board would help the city plan as it moves for-

ward and would have synergy with Waller County's parks plan that it is developing.

Council also adopted Ordinance 139 which replaces Ordinance 128 and establishes the Pattison Planning Commission in accordance with state law. As part of passing the ordinance, council members also confirmed Garcia's nomination of Randall Flowers as a member of the commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Seth Stokes who holds the position four seat will face reelection in May. Councilmembers MacCallum and Fred Branch are also facing campaigns to retain seats three and five, respectively. Candidates for office could begin registering Jan. 13 and have until Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. to submit their candidacy.

Pattison City Council members also approved a drainage proposal for the Oak Meadows subdivision and accepted a commitment letter from Oak Meadows' developer to pay half the cost for the drainage improvements. Garcia said the total cost would be about \$5,750, leaving the city to only pay less than \$3,000 for its portion of the work.

Council also approved a public funds investment policy. A policy has been in place for years and Garcia said there were only minor changes. The policy is required under the Texas Public Funds Investment Act.

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## HCESD 48

from page A1

The first phase of the project involved the development of a Community Risk Assessment dashboard that included 50 departments from across the nation getting together to develop the CRA software and interface, according to the NFPA website. The second phase will see 250 participating departments, including HCESD 48, provide additional feedback to streamline the system, which is viewed through an online dashboard, to ensure it operates efficiently and provides meaningful data to users.

"Access to accurate data will allow CRR leaders to use insights and make informed decisions about where to focus efforts and resources," said Karen Berard-Reed, community risk reduction strategist at NFPA.

As a participant in the program, HCESD 48 will have free access to the software which includes customized charts, maps and graphs, according to a HCESD 48 press release. The visual aids will break down community risk information such as demographics, geography, building materials, economics, infrastructure and historical data. It will also provide a snapshot of capacity for risk reduction activities. CRR activities can include home safety assessments, replacing smoke detectors, installing carbon monoxide detectors and identifying trip hazards for mobility-impaired residents, among other preventive measures.

"CRA is the first step in any CRR plan, but it can be difficult to know the best way to use your data," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of outreach and advocacy. "The NFPA CRA digital dashboard will help those involved in CRR tell the data story of their community."

The second phase will also allow HCESD 48 staff to network with other community safety organizations to discuss best practices from a CRR standpoint. Phase II is expected to



HCESD 48

Community Risk Reduction Division Chief Jason Tharp is in charge of the department's community risk reduction program. The program includes not only the pilot program featured in this story, but also involves presentations to community groups, fire station tours, fire truck educational visits, senior safety, school visits, water safety education, smoke alarm blitzes, car seat assistance and home safety surveys as described in our sidebar story.

### HOME SAFETY SURVEYS

Harris County ESD 48 offers free home safety surveys to residents of the district that would like to know what the safety concerns are for their homes. Even during the pandemic, residents can register to obtain a safety survey, though the survey will be virtual. During the home safety surveys, HCESD 48 personnel will – either virtually or in person – perform a 45-point survey that covers a variety of home safety items including fire safety, trip or fall hazards, child safety, fire extinguishers, smoke and carbon monoxide alarm inspections and replacements (if needed), emergency planning and other items based on household needs.

While they are not fire inspections such as a business might encounter, home safety surveys teach residents about the most common fire and safety hazards found in the home. Once the surveys are completed, lists of recommendations are provided to residents in the home. HCESD 48 staff said the goal of the Community Risk Reduction Team is to provide safety education for residents while building long-term relationships in the community HCESD 48 serves. By performing these surveys and ensuring safety equipment such as smoke detectors are up to date and serviceable, the department performs a preventive step that makes residents, firefighters and EMS staff safer through an "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" mindset.

To register for a virtual home safety survey, HCESD 48 residents should visit:

<https://virtualcrr.com/survey/harris-county-tx-esd-no-48/>

To register for an in-person home safety survey, HCESD 48 residents should visit:

<https://hcesd48.org/community-risk-reduction/home-safety-survey/>

last about three months and required HCESD 48 to appoint a three-person liaison team that includes a CRR leader, the fire chief and a third member from the department.

Partaking in the program allows participating departments to provide vital feedback to improve the dashboard, Berard-Reed said. She added that it also places participating departments among safety leaders in the United States and shows the department's desire to lead in the use

of innovative technology that can help save lives.

"While many fire departments have struggled to work with data sets, NFPA's CRA tool will do the complex work behind the scenes to compile relevant data allowing stakeholders to create effective community risk reduction plans that incorporate five priorities – education, engineering, enforcement, economic incentives and emergency response – in the most impactful ways possible," said Berard-Reed.

## Biden's orders includes help for migrant children

By JULIÁN AGUILAR  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The Biden administration unveiled new elements of its immigration agenda Tuesday as it works to undo the Trump administration's hardline policies.

The orders, expected to be signed Tuesday afternoon, will require a review of the controversial Migrant Protection Protocols and establish a task force to reunite hundreds of families still separated under Trump's 2017 zero-tolerance policy, which caused more than 5,000 children to be separated from their parents or guardians.

The administration will also review the Trump administration's policies that restricted some legal migration to the country, according to a White House statement.

The MPP program, also called "remain in Mexico," sends most migrants back to Mexico as they wait for their asylum hearings in American courts. Since its inception in late 2018, more than 60,000 asylum seekers have been forced to wait in some of Mexico's most dangerous border cities, including more than 20,000 in Ciudad Juárez, across the Rio Grande from El Paso.

The review of MPP is part of a comprehensive plan for "safe, lawful, and orderly" migration to the country, according to a White House statement. The other components of the plan include addressing the underlying causes of mass migration, like insecurity and violence, and ensuring migrants have more resources to safely apply for asylum closer to their home countries.

The reunification task force seeks to help more than 600 children be reunited with their parents. The Trump

administration's zero-tolerance policy mandated that all adults who crossed the border without permission be prosecuted for illegal entry, which sent them to detention facilities while any children traveling with them were placed in separate shelters for minors.

Since family separations started in the El Paso area in late 2017, more than 5,500 were separated, and as of December, 628 children had not been reunited, according to court filings. Lawyers tasked with reuniting families told a judge late last year they couldn't find many of the parents after they were deported.

"This task force will work across the U.S. government, with key stakeholders and representatives of impacted families, and with partners across the hemisphere to find parents and children separated by the Trump Administration," the Biden statement said.

Fernando Garcia, the executive director of the El Paso-based Border Network for Human Rights, said the actions represent important next steps, but he added that Biden will face pressure to do more than simply review MPP.

"I think the people that are [still] impatient are the thousands of families that are supposed to be in the United States, and now they are in Mexico without basic services," he said. But Garcia said any major changes need to be done carefully, which means having resources in place to welcome tens of thousands of asylum seekers.

"If we don't do it correctly, we're going to create another crisis, or the appearance of a crisis," he said. "The conservative, right wing are going to use that [against immigrants]."

The last order Biden is expected

to sign includes a "top-to-bottom" review of the legal immigration system, including the public charge rule that can deny a visa or green card to immigrants who have received government benefits like health care or financial assistance.

The Texas chapter of the Children's Defense Fund said rescinding the policy could encourage some low-income Texans to reapply for assistance without fear.

"We look forward to working in concert with the Biden administration on a comprehensive outreach and education strategy to reenroll some of the millions of eligible children who have lost health care and nutrition supports because of the fear this policy engendered in low-income immigrant communities," said Cheasty Anderson, the director of immigration policy and advocacy at the Children's Defense Fund in Texas.

Tuesday's expected actions come as at least one of Biden's immigration proposals, his 100-day moratorium on deportations, has already hit a roadblock. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration last month to stop the moratorium, claiming it's unconstitutional. A federal judge in Texas temporarily paused the program last week as the case winds through the courts.

During his first days in office, Biden signed other executive orders to reverse or pause Trump administration policies, including reissuing protections established under the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, stopping further construction of a border barrier and reviewing interior immigration enforcement priorities.

### CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Statewide COVID-19 impacts and actions, chiropractors win

By GARY BORDERS  
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

### Vaccine pace picks up slowly

The rate of COVID-19 vaccine administration is slowly increasing in Texas as we enter the second full month of shots going into arms. The Texas Department of State Health Services last weekend reported that about 1.6 million Texans — overwhelmingly frontline health workers, people over 65 or those with chronic health conditions — have received the first dose. Just over 400,000 are fully vaccinated. The state has received 3.16 million doses so far; nearly half remain to be administered. Texas ranks near the bottom in per-capita doses administered when compared to other states, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Defense sent 80 medical military personnel last week to Abilene, Lufkin and Eagle Pass to assist in administering the vaccine in those cities. "The medical personnel deployed to our communities will provide much-needed support to our front-line healthcare workers," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a news release.

The state surpassed two million COVID-19 cases with nearly 36,000 fatalities as January came to a close. A total of 11,473 COVID-19 patients are in Texas hospitals as of Jan. 31, according to TDSHS. Across the state, there are only 753 intensive-care beds available. Even as vaccines are being administered, health officials across the state are urging Texans to wear masks and follow other safety protocols that have been in place since last March.

### Grants available for special needs students affected by COVID-19

Abbott and the Texas Education Agency late last week announced the rollout of a grant program for eligible families of children with "significant cognitive disabilities and complex educational needs." The \$1,500 grants can be used to purchase educational resources and services through the TEA's supplemental special education services program.

A total of \$30 million was allocated, which could provide help for up to 20,000 students. To find out if your child is eligible, email the agency at [ssesinfor@tea.texas.gov](mailto:ssesinfor@tea.texas.gov) or call 855-772-3839.

### Texas Lyceum poll measures impact of the pandemic

The Texas Lyceum, a nonpartisan group of movers and shakers based in Austin, released its annual survey last week. It painted a fairly negative picture of the state's economy as a result of the pandemic and illustrated the widespread impact of the coronavirus on Texans. Responding to the pandemic is the most important issue facing the state, according to 37 percent of respondents. Political corruption and leadership ran a distant second at 10 percent.

The 2021 poll presented the most negative views of the state's and nation's economies since the Great Recession of 2008. Additionally, four in five respondents said they knew someone who had contracted COVID-19, while half knew someone who had died from it. On the somewhat brighter side, nearly three-fourths were either "very hopeful" or "somewhat hopeful" that the nation would get the pandemic under control in the next six months. But just 45 percent of Texans say they plan to get vaccinated when it becomes available to them.

The complete poll results can be found at [texaslyceum.org](http://texaslyceum.org).

### Score one for the chiropractors

In a decade-long battle between the Texas Medical Association and the group that represents the state's chiropractors, the Texas Supreme Court ruled late last week that the lawful scope of practice for chiropractors includes nerves and related testing as it pertains to the musculoskeletal system. TMA originally sued the Texas Board of Chiropractor Examiners in 2011, arguing that such diagnoses exceeded what chiropractors were licensed to do.

In a split decision, the high court overturned a ruling from the Austin Court of Appeals that had sided with TMA. Matt Webb, attorney for the chiropractic board, said in an email: "Today's decision was not only legally sound but a victory for common sense and patient care. A different outcome could have drastically curtailed access to critical chiropractic care for patients across the State of Texas."

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AREA SPORTS NOTEBOOK

## Katy's Froe sets scoring record

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy High junior guard Dayvaughn Froe broke the program record for points in a game when he scored 41 in the Tigers' 84-48



DAYVAUGHN FROE

win over Morton Ranch on Jan. 29. "I just took advantage of beating them down the floor and getting to the rim in transition," Froe said. "My teammates did a great job getting me the ball where I needed it. As the game went on, I got into a flow getting to the basket and just felt like I could get there whenever I wanted to." Froe's previous career high was 26 points. "Setting the school record is an honor to me and something I was very proud of," he said. "I am blessed and grateful to be able to play this game, and setting that record was a big accomplishment for me." ... Former Katy High volleyball standout Autumn Gentry made quite the first impression in her debut for Northwestern State on Jan. 25. In the Lady Demons' 3-1 win over Louisiana Tech, the sophomore right side hitter/setter compiled 11 kills, 15 assists and 12 digs to become the second player in school history to record a triple double. "I had high hopes for myself coming back from sitting a season and with everything with COVID," Gentry told NSUDemons.com. "We didn't think we were going to get to this point this season, so it was super exciting." ... Katy High senior linebacker and team captain Shepherd Bowling verbally committed to Army on Jan. 30. Bowling joins Tiger teammates, and offensive linemen, Bill Katsigiannis and Omarrion Aigbedion in pledging to the Black Knights. Taylor senior running back Casey Shorter signed with Army in December. ... Former Katy High quarterback Bronson McClelland verbally committed to Trinity Valley Junior College on Jan. 26. "In the last 2 years, I faced challenges that I could not change, therefore, forcing me to accept them and move on," McClelland wrote in a statement on Twitter. "...After considering all of my options to help me earn the right to play Division I football as quickly as I can, I have accepted a full scholarship at Trinity Valley Junior College, well-known for developing players who have gone on to D1 colleges." McClelland graduated from Katy in December. The 2020 junior college football season begins in the spring. McClelland will be eligible to play. For his career at Katy, McClelland, a three-year letterman and two-year varsity starter from 2018-2019, completed 60 percent of his passes for 4,078 yards and 55 touchdowns to 13 interceptions. He also rushed for 315 yards and 11 touchdowns on 83 carries. ... Taylor senior offensive lineman Bryce Foster and Katy High senior defensive back Hunter Washington were named to the 2020 Whataburger Super Team, recognizing the top high school football players

See **NOTEBOOK**, page B6

## IT'S GOING SWIMMINGLY Taylor girls swim team establishing culture of success

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Following the graduation of senior Emma Sticklen, Taylor swim coach Matt Apple gave his girls team something to think about going into this season.

"We challenged them," said Apple, in his 10th year at the helm of the Mustangs. "Does Emma define us? As great as she was, can we be successful without her? And not to take anything away from her, because she's the greatest swimmer I've ever coached, but the other girls have stepped up. They don't want their legacy to be where we lost one girl and the team cratered."

The Mustangs answered in resounding fashion. For as terrific as Sticklen was—and the current Texas Longhorn standout swimmer was remarkably terrific as a two-time state champion in the 100-yard backstroke, a state silver medalist in the 100-yard butterfly and a member of Taylor's state silver medalist 200-yard medley relay—the Mustangs may actually be better this season.

"We definitely lost the leader of our team, but we knew what we were capable of, even without her," senior Abbie Alvarez said. "We were pretty confident in what we could accomplish. I feel like we've all come together to fill her role. It wasn't just one person. It's been a team effort."



DENNIS SILVA II

From left to right, Taylor seniors Kat Pashen, Abbie Alvarez and Taylor Schababerle pose for a photo on Monday, Feb. 1, at the Taylor High natatorium.

An impressive effort, too. As the Mustangs head into the Region V-6A swim meet on Friday at the Cy-Fair ISD Natatorium, they come off a thoroughly dominant performance at the District 19-6A meet two weeks ago. Taylor won 20 of 22 events, including all relays. Alvarez, who competes in the

200 individual medley and 100 breaststroke, was named Athlete of the Meet.

Perhaps more noteworthy is that these Mustangs are not surprised at all by their success this year, thanks to a talented and determined senior class. They expected it.

"Our freshman year, we had

six great girls," said senior Kat Pashen, a district champion in the 50 freestyle and runner-up in the 100 freestyle. "You had Emma as a sophomore then, and we were just good from the start. Even with Emma gone, I feel like we still had a strong team."

See **MUSTANGS**, page B5

## Tigers 'hold the rope,' punch ticket to playoffs

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR



DENNIS SILVA II

From left to right, Katy senior guards Sasha Fernandez and Amber Bourgeois combined for 18 points to help lead the Tigers to the playoffs courtesy of a 34-24 win over Taylor on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Taylor High.

With her team struggling over the past three weeks, Katy High girls basketball coach Shanna Marhofer went searching.

She needed something, anything, to motivate and lift up her Tigers. The team had hit a rough stretch where it lost four of five games and was also dealing with the loss of senior guard Asya May, who was averaging 11 points per game, to a bone bruise injury.

"In the past, something I heard was 'hold the rope,' which can mean a lot of different things, but for us it means 'come together,'" Marhofer said. "You throw a rope to someone when they're in a pool drowning or hanging off a cliff and you don't let it go. You're willing to bleed holding that rope to keep your friend, your teammate, alive. We embraced that mindset."

That, they did. When the season was on the line, the Tigers stepped up.

See **KATY**, page B2

## Tompkins boys peaking at right time once again

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second straight year, Tompkins' boys basketball team is starting to peak at the right time of the season.

Last season, the Falcons won 12 of their final 21 games to rally from a 5-12 start, finish third in district play, and continue the inspiring run all the way to the regional quarterfinals.

This year is a bit of déjà vu. Tompkins has won six straight games to overcome a 5-9 start, the most impressive recently a 71-62 win over Mayde Creek on Friday, Jan. 29, at home. The win exacted revenge for a 75-71 Rams win in the teams' first district meeting on Jan. 5, snapped Mayde Creek's three-game win streak, and flipped Tompkins over Mayde Creek for third in District 19-6A with one game left in the district season.

The Falcons followed that win with a 66-

56 topping of Cinco Ranch on Tuesday.

"It's not an excuse, but the reality of it is this year's team doesn't have any experience on varsity except for (junior guard) BB (Knight)," Tompkins coach Bobby Sanders said. "It's 11 first-time varsity guys, so it's taken us 10 games to get our rotation where it should be. Usually where we figure that out is during tournament season, but we didn't have that this year (because of COVID-19 restrictions). So, the first round of district, we were still getting used to who should be playing at what time."

In 19-6A, Seven Lakes and Taylor are tied for first, each 8-3. They play Friday at Taylor High. Tompkins is third at 7-4, followed by Mayde Creek and Katy each a game back of Tompkins at 6-5.

At one point, Tompkins was 1-4 in district play. But it has not lost since a 59-48 setback to Cinco Ranch on Jan. 8.

See **FALCONS**, page B2



FILE PHOTO BY RAY BORCHERT | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins junior forward Joel Oluokun had 15 points, eight rebounds and two blocks in the Falcons' 71-62 win over Mayde Creek on Jan. 29 at home.



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KATY

from page B1

Katy topped Taylor, 34-24, in each team's district finale Tuesday evening for the fourth and final playoff spot in District 19-6A. Katy, which has won three of its last four games, improved to 11-9 overall, 5-7 in district play. Taylor ends its season 9-10, 4-8.

"It was a very important game for us, especially with Asya being out," said senior guard Sasha Fernandez, who had a team-high 12 points. "We wanted to carry her load. Coach Marhofer talks about 'holding the rope,' like helping and holding each other up, as a unity thing. We didn't want this to be her first time as a head coach to not make the playoffs. We wanted it really badly."

The emotional win had an inauspicious start for Katy.

The Tigers trailed 15-13 at the half in large part to 12 turnovers. Taylor, behind the impressive play of junior guard Sheridan Shaw (game-high 13 points), was the one with momentum and energy.

"It was a big game, and these kids haven't had to play in district games where if we lose, we're done," Marhofer said. "There were a lot of nerves early, without a doubt."

But everything turned Katy's way in the second half.

"Everybody was ticked off at the fact we weren't playing as well as we know we can," Fernandez said. "We had that mindset to get it going. The mindset was this wasn't for ourselves, this was for our whole team."

Marhofer saw her team start to compose itself a bit after halftime, taking better care of the ball and ramping up the defensive intensity. The Mustangs only scored nine points in the second half. Four of those came on free throws.

The game was close until senior guard Amber Bourgeois drilled a huge 3-pointer, her second in three attempts, late in the fourth quarter to put her team up seven, 30-23.

"I was just so into the game that my only focus was to keep it going," Bourgeois said. "I made the shot and our whole thing just became to protect the lead. It wasn't about offense, even. We got back on defense and made sure they didn't score to get that win."

From there, Fernandez closed it out by hitting four clutch free throws in the final minute. Taylor, meanwhile, missed seven of 10 free throws in the final period, and 13 of 19 overall.

Katy received contributions from everywhere. Fernandez, who added three rebounds and three assists, was key controlling the ball and making sound passes while hitting two of five 3s. It was her smooth, quick pass under tough defensive pressure that resulted in Bourgeois' big 3 late.

Bourgeois added eight points and four rebounds. Sophomore forward Brianna Nelson had four points and a team-best eight rebounds. Senior forward Aubrey Ridenhour hit a big 3 in the third quarter to help spark the Tigers' comeback.

In her first start, sophomore forward Lyric Barr hit a couple of big 3-pointers to go with four rebounds.

"We had to carry what Asya provided for us through the rest of us, and they've done that," Marhofer said.

Now the Tigers get to play another day; to be exact, against 20-6A champ Dulles in the bi-district playoffs Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. at the Merrell Center. And Marhofer's playoff streak remains intact. Her teams have yet to miss the postseason in her six years at the helm.

"We really had to realize what we were playing for," Bourgeois said. "Coach tells us to 'hold the rope,' and that brought us together. It made us realize that, no matter what, we're going to win together or lose together, but be together."



Tompkins coach Bobby Sanders talks to his team during a timeout during the Falcons' 71-62 win over Mayde Creek on Jan. 29 at home.

DENNIS SILVA II

FALCONS

from page B1

"Our energy is better, we're more locked in," Knight said. "Playoffs are coming up, so we're more focused on our end goal."

It was freshman guard Luke Coughran who got the Falcons off to a hot start against Mayde Creek. Tompkins led 10-3 early as Coughran scored 10 points in the first quarter, including a couple of 3s.

"I just want to win," Coughran said. "We have shooters on the court, but if I can score, I'll do what I can to score. They were slacking off me a bit and I had to take my shots."

The Falcons led by 10 points after the first quarter, and then Knight assumed some control with a five-point second quarter.

Tompkins' precocious backcourt duo of Knight and Coughran combined for 22 of 34 first-half points. They connected

on four of nine 3-pointers in the first two quarters.

"Luke started us off shooting it like he did," Sanders said. "Then he starts handing it off to BB, and BB kind of took over. It's good to have two 'Splash Brothers' out there."

The third quarter was a scary one, however, for Tompkins, as Mayde Creek ferociously staged a comeback.

The Rams outscored the Falcons, 22-14, in the period, forcing eight turnovers as Tompkins could not solve Mayde Creek's relentless fullcourt press. At one point, Tompkins turned it over on four consecutive possessions.

Mayde Creek produced easy buckets off its takeaways, thanks in large part to senior guard Jermon Washington, who scored 15 of his game-high 28 points in the third. Going into the fourth quarter, Mayde Creek had trimmed a 14-point third-quarter deficit to three, 48-45.

"It was nothing fancy, we knew it was coming," Sanders said of the Rams' press. "We just

didn't do what we were supposed to do for about six minutes. Finally, we relaxed a bit. We started running our press-break instead of just throwing the ball all over the place, and once we did that, we started getting layups."

Indeed, Sanders added a couple of wrinkles to the break, including a cross-screen by Coughran in an attempt to free himself and another ballhandler, and the Falcons regained control in the fourth quarter.

The Rams missed their first six 3-point attempts in the period, allowing the Falcons to build their lead back up to 12.

"We handled pressure better, we didn't turn the ball over," Knight said. "We made safe passes. In the third quarter, we were rushing and forcing things. In the fourth quarter, we settled down, focused and got the win."

Knight finished with 18 points and five rebounds. Coughran had 18 points and seven rebounds. Junior forward Joel Oluokun added 15 points, eight

rebounds and two blocks. Guard Nick Lancit added 10 points and seven rebounds.

Senior guard Josh Vanegas had 11 points for Mayde Creek. Sophomore guard Angel Sonnier finished with eight.

Over the six-game win streak, Tompkins is allowing just 52 points per game. The Falcons have added size and athleticism over the past few months with junior forward Sean DuBose Jr. coming over from the football team and senior KJ Nakaya's arrival on campus. With Oluokun, DuBose and Nakaya combining for six blocks up front, Mayde Creek had trouble getting anything at the rim, scoring as many 3-point baskets (11) as two-point baskets. Mayde Creek misfired on 22 of its 33 3-point attempts and lost the battle on the glass, 46-18.

"Mainly, I was pleased with our defense," Sanders said. "It's gotten gradually better over the last (six) games. We're stopping the ball better, getting into a stance and just trying really hard. It was a grimy effort."

H.S. BASKETBALL STANDINGS THROUGH FEB. 3

DISTRICT 19-6A GIRLS

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
xy-Tompkins	12	0	17	3
x-Seven Lakes	10	2	15	4
x-Cinco Ranch	8	4	12	6
x-Katy	5	7	11	9
Taylor	4	8	9	10
Morton Ranch	3	9	3	16
Mayde Creek	0	12	3	14
x-clinched playoff berth				
y-clinched district title				

DISTRICT 19-6A BOYS

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
x-Seven Lakes	8	3	13	5
x-Taylor	8	3	14	5
Tompkins	7	4	12	9
Mayde Creek	6	5	11	8
Katy	6	5	11	7
Cinco Ranch	3	7	8	10
Morton Ranch	0	11	2	14
x-clinched playoff berth				
y-clinched district title				

DISTRICT 19-5A BOYS

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
x-Paetow	10	0	15	1
x-clinched playoff berth				
y-clinched district title				

DISTRICT 19-5A GIRLS

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Paetow	2	10	5	11
x-clinched playoff berth				
y-clinched district title				

H.S. SOCCER STANDINGS THROUGH FEB. 3

DISTRICT 19-6A BOYS

	DISTRICT				OVERALL			
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE	PTS
Seven Lakes	4	0	0	12	10	0	0	0
Cinco Ranch	4	0	0	12	8	0	0	0
Taylor	3	2	0	9	4	4	0	0
Tompkins	2	3	0	6	5	4	0	0
Katy	1	3	0	3	2	7	2	2
Mayde Creek	1	3	0	3	4	6	1	1
Morton Ranch	0	4	0	0	2	5	1	1
x-clinched playoff berth								
y-clinched district title								



Katy High sophomore Anna Kneisley (15) and Cinco Ranch's McKenzie Chew (4) compete for a ball during their game Jan. 30. The Tigers and Cougars tied, 3-3.

Katy High sophomore Anna Kneisley (15) and Cinco Ranch's McKenzie Chew (4) compete for a ball during their game Jan. 30. The Tigers and Cougars tied, 3-3.

GIRLS

	DISTRICT				OVERALL			
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE	PTS
Seven Lakes	4	0	0	12	10	1	0	0
Tompkins	4	1	0	12	8	3	1	1
Cinco Ranch	1	1	2	5	3	2	3	3
Mayde Creek	1	1	2	5	7	2	2	2
Taylor	1	2	2	5	8	3	2	2
Katy	0	3	1	1	3	5	3	3
Morton Ranch	0	3	1	1	3	4	1	1
x-clinched playoff berth								
y-clinched district title								

DISTRICT 19-5A BOYS

	DISTRICT				OVERALL			
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE	PTS
Paetow	3	0	0	9	6	2	3	3

GIRLS

	DISTRICT				OVERALL			
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE	PTS
Paetow	1	2	0	3	3	5	1	1

# Mavs' Cotter overcomes to carve path to college

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Morton Ranch standout senior wrestler Brittany Cotter signed Jan. 11 to continue her athletic career at William Penn University in Iowa.

Since day one, Cotter has been nothing but passionate for the sport of wrestling. Family members say, "she eats, sleeps, and breathes it." Throughout her wrestling career, though, Cotter has had multiple setbacks.

They include a broken collarbone and being a victim of Hurricane Harvey circumstances during her freshman year, a concussion suffered during her sophomore year, and pushing through the Epstein-Barr virus, rhabdomyolysis, and insomnia during her junior year. Now, in her senior year, she is dealing with the effects of a pandemic that has stunted her much-anticipated wrestling season.

While enduring those trials, however, Cotter always found the bright side to her ordeals and stayed positive and optimistic with a smile.

"With everything Brittany has gone through, no one would even notice because she always seems so happy, especially on the mat," said her younger sister, Rachel.

Cotter gives thanks for all she has persevered through because, without them, she feels she would have never found the truth in the saying, "Good things come with time."

Throughout her wrestling career and high school education, she has racked up a considerable number of impressive credentials: two-time National All-American,



Morton Ranch senior wrestler Brittany Cotter, bottom row in white, signed to continue her athletic career at William Penn University.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

four-time Nationals placer, two-time state runner-up, three-time state qualifier, three-time district champion, and now a William Penn Statesman signee.

Cotter is just as successful off the mat. She is vice president of her Morton Ranch Class of 2021, an AP student, ASL Honor Society and Club president, a member of the

National Honor Society and student council, and a Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy member and mascot.

Cotter appreciates growing up in Katy and carving the path for

the "opportunity to reach greatness." She also thanks her coaches, parents, sister, family, friends, and all her fans for helping her dreams come true.

# Aristoi Classical repeats as flag football state champs

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

For the second consecutive season, Aristoi Classical Academy is the Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League flag football state champion.

The Griffins topped Dallas' Uplift Peak Preparatory, 46-21, on Dec. 12, 2020, to complete a 10-0 season. Over the last two seasons, Aristoi Classical Academy is 22-0.

"This team wanted to make their own legacy. They wanted their names on the banner," Aristoi coach BJ Sarver said. "This was a difficult year, and we weren't sure there would be a division. The kids overcame the uncertainty of COVID and still figured out a way to become family on the field. They stepped up in a big way."

The Griffins trained throughout the year as there was no off-season due to restrictions because of COVID-19.

"The team took conditioning to another level," Sarver said. "There were no camps this summer or fall. They had to train on their own and get into condition quickly. They are a smart team and they can outrun you."

Aristoi athletic director Kendrick Davis knew this year's team would be special, even after graduating five seniors from last year's state champion team.

"There were holes they needed



COURTESY ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY

For the second consecutive year, Aristoi Classical Academy won the varsity flag football state championship on Dec. 12.

to fill," Davis said. "So, they worked on different positions, dedicated themselves to extra practices, and improved their plays. They were determined to repeat as champions."

Players and coaches agreed that opening Griffin athletic field last fall was a significant factor for their success this season.

"Having your own field has a huge impact," Sarver said. "We can walk into our own backyard and

have practice. That's nice."

This year's Aristoi quarterback, Seth Thompson, followed in the footsteps of his older brother Darius, who led Aristoi to its first state title last season. According to Sarver, Seth took the reins and led the team in a different way.

"This year's game plan was different," Sarver said. "Seth is more of a passer. He learned a lot from Darius, and he reads the defense well."

The Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League was comprised of 36 teams this year.

"The competition is good at this level," Sarver said. "We've learned that we are definitely a thorn in the sides of some teams because they can't beat us."

As a result of their spectacular season and play, five Aristoi players were named to the TCSAAL all-state team. Those

student-athletes were Seth Thompson, Jacobey Thompson, Robert McElroy, Brandon Stafford and Michael Perkins.

Aristoi Classical Academy is a tuition-free, public charter school, offering classical education to students in grades K-12. Aristoi currently has three campuses, two in historic Katy and one in Cypress, with a total enrollment of nearly 1,100 students.

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[debbie.prejean@katytimes.com](mailto:debbie.prejean@katytimes.com)

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An application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a P, BE, and E permit by Liquors 2 u, LLC to be located at: **801 FM 1463, Suite 300, Katy, Fort Bend County, Texas 77494.** Officer of said corporation Mireille Wehbe is the president.

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
FEBRUARY 10, 2021 9:00 A.M.  
COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM,  
WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed ATLAS 14 related revisions to The Subdivision and Development Regulations and conduct a 30 day Public Comment period from February 3, 2021 to March 4, 2021 for these revisions to The Subdivision and Development Regulations. To review the proposed revisions, visit <http://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/County.Engineer>.

All comments should be directed to [y.scott@wallercounty.us](mailto:y.scott@wallercounty.us).

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in the Public Hearing.

**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 to discriminate." 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.

### January 28 Puzzle Answers

R	E	A	P		F	R	G		R	A	H				
A	R	I	E	L	L	A	R	R	A	B	I				
D	A	N	A	E		O	V	A	A	C	E	S			
S	U	S	U	S		W	I	N	G	E	L	S			
					A	D	E	N	O	M	A	S			
P	R	E	M	A	T	U	R	E	L	L	Y				
R	E	T	I	R	E	D	S	A	O						
E	V	A	D	E					P	A	S	C	H		
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M	O	A	B	L	O	G		A	A	H	E	D			
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N	E	B	N	S	L	A		R	A	C	K	S			
D	A	I		H	E	R		R	H	E	E				

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

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### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A BILL IN THE LEGISLATURE OF TEXAS

Notice is hereby given of the intention to introduce in the Regular Session of the 87th Legislature of Texas a bill creating and establishing a special district consisting of approximately 46 acres and located within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Houston, Texas, and wholly within Harris and Waller Counties, Texas, to be known as Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 5, under the provisions of Article 16, Section 59 of the Constitution of Texas and pursuant to the inherent power of the Legislature to create special governmental agencies and districts, with powers including those given to municipal utility districts operating pursuant to Chapters 49 and 54, Texas Water Code, and including road powers under Article III, Section 52 of the Constitution of Texas. The bill will provide for the district's administration, powers, name, duties, operation, and financing. The property proposed to be included within the district is generally located northwest of the intersection of Mathis Road and Betka Road. The costs for the publication of this notice were paid by The Muller Law Group, PLLC, and a full copy of the legal description of the property can be obtained by calling Nancy Carter at (281) 500-6050.

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

### NOTICE OF CLAIM TO ADVERSE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that JAMES JONES III, pursuant to Chapter 16, Sec. 16.0265 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, has filed a claim of adverse possession to certain real property located in Waller County, Texas, as more particularly described in an Affidavit of Adverse Possession recorded as Instrument 2100233 in the real property records of Waller County, Texas.

Any person disputing the claim of JAMES JONES III must file a controverting affidavit or file suit to recover their co-tenant heir's interest in the real property in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 16, Sec. 16.0265 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

Dated this the 8th day of January 2021.

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to the City of Katy will be received at Katy City Hall at 901 Avenue C, Katy, TX 77493 until 10:00 a.m. local time, Friday, February 12th, 2021 and then publicly opened and read aloud for **STORM WATER PUMP STATION FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.** Proposals received after closing will be returned unopened. Bid opening will be online using the Zoom application:

Web Application: Zoom <https://zoom.us/>  
Call in: 877-853-5257 Meeting ID: 875 1110 4809

A **NON-MANDATORY pre-bid** conference will be held online on Thursday, February 4th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Below is the website and call in information:

Web Application: Zoom <https://zoom.us/>  
Call in: 888-475-4499 Meeting ID: 843 3571 3312

Each **PROPOSAL** shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds and Guaranty on the forms provided within five days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening of **PROPOSALS**, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.

The successful bidder must furnish **PERFORMANCE, PAYMENT, and MAINTENANCE BONDS** on the forms furnished with the **PROPOSAL**, in the amount of one hundred percent of the total Contract price, from a surety company acceptable to the Owner.

Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at the CivCastUSA Website ([www.CivCastUSA.com](http://www.CivCastUSA.com)). Reproduction charges will apply according to CivCastUSA rates.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all **PROPOSALS** and to waive irregularities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the **PROPOSAL**, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the **PROPOSAL**.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas General Land Office - Community Development & Revitalization and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin.

The City of Katy is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Section 3 Residents, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit bids.

All contractors/subcontractors who's System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration is not active or that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

**INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Attention: Mr. Doug Bergen, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 3600 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042, until 1:30 p.m., Local Time, Thursday, February 11, 2021, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the Landscape & Irrigation to Serve Uplands Business Park Phase 1 for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Waller County, Texas". Bidders may elect to submit bids electronically via <https://bids.lja.com>. Due to the pandemic and Federal guidelines of not gathering in groups of more than 10 people, people of the public who wish the attend the Bid Opening must do so by telephone. The telephone number for the Bid Opening is 713.358.8400, Access Code 0252512.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Landscape and irrigation improvements.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory audio/web pre-bid conference will be held on Friday, February 5, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time. To attend the pre-bid conference via web-format, go to <https://micollabuca.ljaeng.com/call/0212620>. To attend the audio format pre-bid conference, dial 713.358.8400, Access Code 0212620.

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. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

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., 3600 W. Sam Houston Parkway S., Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042 or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding documents.

A Bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and bid securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and bid securities must be submitted through <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidder must register on this website in order to submit a Bid and bid security and there is no charge to submit Bids and bid securities on this website.

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

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

**The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/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

**Notice to Bidders**

The City of Katy requests competitive sealed proposals (bids) for selective demolition and interior office renovation to the third (3rd) floor of the Katy City Hall building located on a block bounded by Avenue C, 1st Street, Avenue D and 2nd Street in downtown in the incorporated limits of the City of Katy, Texas.

**Bid Due Date:**  
Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 10:00am (Bids submitted after 10:00am will not be accepted)

**Bid will be received at the following Location:**  
City of Katy  
901 Avenue C  
Katy, Texas 77493

**Pre-Bid Conference:**  
A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 1:30pm at the Katy City Hall 901 Avenue C Katy, Texas 77493

**Please Note:** Face masks are required to be worn during this time (and the Bid Opening), as well as remaining social distanced apart 6 feet from the other attendees.

**Scope of Work:**  
The Project consists of construction of the following:

Interior office build-out of 4 offices and reception area (total of 1,074 S.F.) on the third (3rd) floor of the City Hall building. The scope of work includes selective demolition and renovation to accommodate new offices. The work is interior only.

**Evaluation Criteria:**  
The contract will be awarded to the most qualified General Contractor based on the bidder who provides the best value for the City. In determining the best value for the City, the municipality may consider the following weighted criteria:  
(1) the purchase price (30%);  
(2) the reputation of the bidder (10%);  
(3) the quality of the bidder's goods or services (5%);  
(4) the extent to which the goods or services meet the City's needs (10%);  
(5) the bidder's past relationship with the City (15%);  
(6) the impact on the ability of the City to comply with laws and rules relating to contracting with historically underutilized businesses and nonprofit organizations employing persons with disabilities (5%);  
(7) the total long-term cost to the municipality to acquire the bidder's goods or services (5%); and  
(8) completeness of the bid (20%).

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive irregularities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the Bid, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the Bid.

**Bid and Bond Requirements:**  
Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds and Guaranty on the forms provided within five days after the Notice to Proceed is received by the General Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening the Bids, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.

The successful bidder must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds on the forms furnished with the Bid, in the amounts of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, from a surety company acceptable to the Owner.

**Bid Documents:**  
Plans and specifications will be available on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at the CivCastUSA website <https://www.civcastusa.com>.

SPORTS

# Warriors, Panthers strong at 21-5A swimming meets

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan and Paetow competed at the District 21-5A swim championships on Friday, Jan. 29, at the Conroe ISD Natatorium. It is the inaugural year of competition for the Jordan High swim teams, and each had strong first impressions.

The Jordan girls finished third overall as a team with 97 points behind district champ Magnolia and runner-up Kingwood Park. Jordan freshman Kaeli White was the district champ in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5-minutes, 04.05 seconds. She also finished second in the 100 backstroke.

"To be the first district champ at Jordan makes me feel really proud to be a Warrior," White said. "Being able to go to district with a group of girls that I've grown really close to, even through this pandemic, has been amazing."

Paetow's girls finished eighth as a team with 16 points. Panthers coach Mike Jones was named Coach of the Meet.

The top four in each event qualified for regionals.

Girls regional qualifiers from Katy ISD were Jordan's third-place 200 medley relay team of White, Vanessa Moonsammy, Victoria Hewitt and Isabella Mesa, Paetow's Gabriella Donnelly (fourth, 200 freestyle), Jordan's Athena Bazzi (third, 200 individual medley; third, 100 breaststroke), Jordan's Victoria Hewitt (fourth, 100 butterfly), White (first, 500 freestyle; second, 100 backstroke), Jordan's fourth-place 200 freestyle relay of Victoria Hewitt, Athena Bazzi, Hannah Knicely and Isabella Mesa, Moonsammy (fourth, 100 breaststroke), and Jordan's fourth-place 400 freestyle relay of White, Ella Flathouse, Moonsammy and Bazzi.

On the boys side, Jordan, too, finished third as a team with 81.5 points behind district champ Kingwood Park and second-place Magnolia. Paetow's boys finished fifth with 37 points.

Boys regional qualifiers from Katy ISD were Jordan's Jonathan Palmattam (fourth, 200 freestyle), Jordan's Kai Walter (third,



JORDAN HIGH ATHLETICS

Jordan High freshman Kaeli White won first in the 500 freestyle and second in the 100 backstroke at the District 21-5A meet on Friday, Jan. 29, in Conroe. She is the program's first district champion.

500 freestyle), Jordan's fourth-place 200 freestyle relay of Sebastian Leal, Leonardo Nguyen, Manuel Diaz and Edelmiro Lucio, Paetow's Alex Sombero (third, 100 backstroke), Jordan's fourth-place 400 freestyle relay of Leal, Nguyen, Diaz and Walter, and Paetow divers Kalen Velazquez (second) and Johnny Pleites (third).

The Region IV-5A boys and girls meets will be held Feb. 5-6 at Don Cook Natatorium in Sugar Land. At regionals, the top swimmer in each event is the only guaranteed spot for state. An additional eight call-ups will advance in each region.

## MUSTANGS

from page B1

Not only does Apple have an elite senior nucleus of talent like Alvarez (University of Houston signee), Taylor Schababerle (Washington State signee), Emma Clark (South Dakota signee) and Pashen, he has a tough-minded, experienced group that knows and appreciates what it takes to win.

"In terms of high school swimming, they don't know anything else other than success," Apple said. "The year before Emma, none of our teams made it to state. When these seniors came in as freshmen, they made it instantly. Relays, individuals. For these girls, their three years here so far, they've always made it to state. It's very much their expectation that this is what they do."

When these seniors were freshmen, the Mustangs placed fifth as a team at state. In 2019 and 2020, Taylor placed fourth each time at state. A standard has been established.

Pashen believes if one of the relay teams had not been disqualified at regionals last season, the Mustangs could've easily gotten third at state. Schababerle said underclassmen have performed beyond their years and given the team significant, quality depth, a boon to a no-nonsense senior class that years to bring home another decorative flag from state awarded to each team that finishes in the top five.

"We've all watched each other grow up and we've encouraged each other to do better and keep working," said Schababerle, who competes in the 200 and 500 freestyles. "Seeing your friends work hard and do better makes you want to work hard and do better. It has to come from within, but we all have it. That makes it better."

The Mustangs have needed that guile and moxie, particularly during a weird rollercoaster season thanks to COVID-19.

This season, Taylor has had practices split between athletes who are doing virtual learning and those who are doing in-person learning. It has made it difficult for relay teams to practice. Many practices have been canceled altogether because of COVID-19 protocols. Athletes have been in and out of action because of contact tracing.



DENNIS SILVA II

Taylor coach Matt Apple talks to his girls regional qualifiers during a morning practice on Monday, Feb. 1, at the Taylor High natatorium.

Because of the limited numbers, practices have been shorter. Training has not been as rigorous or consistent as it generally is.

As if that wasn't enough, the Mustangs' campus pool was unusable for three weeks because of issues with the water temperature. Taylor had to practice at Morton Ranch High School in the meantime.

Apple said he's surprised the team is at this point of its season. He figured either the school would have been shut down already because of the pandemic or the UIL might have shut down sports by now like it did last spring.

"The fact that we're in the middle of our postseason is awesome," Apple said. "It's been hard dealing with the pandemic. There hasn't been a sense of team, or unity. All the stuff you do outside of the pool for team building, you can't do. The girls usually have sleepovers and the boys hang out together and play video games, and none of that is going on. It's very different."

"The fact they've stayed mentally focused is a testament to their experience. They know what to do, they know how to maintain."

That, they always know they can fall back upon.

"We have a culture of hard work and we want it," Schababerle said. "We train hard for what we want. We don't just go around all day. When you win, you want it again. Like, we won it last year, we're going to win it again this year. Coach cultivates that, because he makes us aware it's the work ethic that drives us."

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### INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495, Attention: President, Board of Directors, will be electronically received, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, February 23, 2021, and then publicly opened and displayed via: [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com) project portal for "Katy Pointe Section 4 & 5 Amenities for Harris County M.U.D. No. 495, Harris County, Texas"

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: trail grading, sidewalks/trails, planting, irrigation, lake fountain, site furnishings

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. **NO** pre-bid conference will be held.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than 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. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from [www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com): search "Katy Pointe - Section 4& 5 Amenities" or Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

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

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

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

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/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.

HARRIS COUNTY M.U.D. No. 495

### INVITATION TO BIDDERS

FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 130, Attention Mr. Daniel Smith, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of AEI Engineering, a Baxter & Woodman Company, 11450 Compaq Center Dr., Suite 660, Houston, Texas 77070, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021, and then publicly opened and read for "5,000-GALLON HPT for FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 130, Fort Bend County, Texas".

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: The addition of a 5,000-gallon hydropneumatic tank at Fort Bend County MUD 130 Water Plant No. 1, including all piping, valves, and appurtenances.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on THURSDAY, February 4, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, at the office of AEI Engineering, a Baxter & Woodman Company.

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.

Copies of the bidding documents are on file at the following locations:

[www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com): search AEI. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.]

AEI Engineering, a Baxter & Woodman Company  
11450 Compaq Center Dr., Suite 660  
Houston, Texas 77070

Bidding documents may be examined at the above locations or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$50.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) for each set of documents at AEI Engineering, a Baxter & Woodman Company. Checks should be made payable to AEI Engineering, a Baxter & Woodman Company. No cash will be accepted.

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. 130

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
FEBRUARY 10, 2021 9:00 A.M.  
COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM,  
WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed ATLAS 14 related revisions to The Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and conduct a 30 day Public Comment period from February 3, 2021 to March 4, 2021 for these revisions to The Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. To review the proposed revisions, visit <http://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/County.Engineer>.

All comments should be directed to [y.scott@wallercounty.us](mailto:y.scott@wallercounty.us).

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in the Public Hearing.

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TexSCAN Week of  
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