

Seven Lakes' Welborn seeded 3rd, 5th going into state
SPORTS, B1

Katy Times

Local, 5-Star Heating & AC Service
BVS
HOME EXPERTS
281-394-0031
GoBVS.com
TACLA11315E

VOLUME 109, ISSUE 8

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

KATY AREA SEES UNPRECEDENTED WINTER WEATHER *Infrastructure and home hardware fail in subzero temps from Uri*

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Winter storm Uri bore down on the Katy area last week leaving overnight temperatures in the teens in the region. The unprecedented cold hit the rest of the state as well, causing the state's electrical grid to become overtaxed and energy officials to take measures to protect infrastructure that left many Texans in dark, unheated homes without water.

"It's been a brutal week – one of the worst in memory for most – but we are getting through," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo in a Feb. 18 press conference. "Now, the lights may be on, but we're not quite yet out of the dark. We're not quite yet out of all the challenges."

Weather impacts

Power, which had been out for more than one million Greater Houston residents, including those

in Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties, had been mostly-restored to the region Thursday morning after being mostly-absent for days. Some residents experienced intentional outages designed not to overtax the then-fragile power grid while still allowing them to heat their homes somewhat, while others did not receive any power for the entire week. About 20,000 Harris County households whose power was not restored by Thursday were on portions of the electrical grid which had sustained hardware damage that would take more time to complete, Hidalgo said.

"The bulk of this 20,000 homes without power are due to lingering mechanical issues caused by the storm," Hidalgo said. "And Center-Point tells me their crews have been out nonstop addressing those issues, and they're not stopping anytime soon."



COURTESY INFRAMARK/TODD BURRER

Harris County, meteorologist Jeff Lindner with the Harris County Flood Control District posted these photos to social media after receiving them from water services company, Inframark, showing water plant infrastructure that had been damaged due to the cold. Some of these pieces of hardware were wrapped and insulated but were still seriously damaged because of the extreme conditions.

See **WINTER**, page A6

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



FILE PHOTO BY RAY BORCHERT | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins senior guard Crystal Smith was named a nominee for the 44th annual McDonald's All-American girls team on Thursday, Feb. 18.

Tompkins' Smith named All-American nominee

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins senior guard Crystal Smith was named a nominee for the 44th annual McDonald's All-American team on Thursday, Feb. 18.

For the second consecutive season, the prestigious boys and girls All-American games will not be played due to health and safety reasons because of the ongoing COVID-19

Smith leads Falcons to regional quarters, see B1

pandemic, but athletes have the recognition of being named finalists, as well as those who are eventually named to the teams.

See **SMITH**, page B5

Whistleblower alleges misconduct by Katy Animal Control employees

Euthanizing, false reporting and more shock Katy residents

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Part-time Katy Animal Control Officer Chelsea Gerber has come forward with allegations against her coworkers, Animal Control Supervisor David Brown and fellow officer Spencer Antinoro. Gerber alleges Brown's leadership has Katy Animal Control violating multiple policies and laws, including improperly euthanizing and disposing of animals.

"In general, I started to see things such as animals without kennel cards, not documented in (our system)," Gerber said. "The call would come straight into Katy Animal Control and never be reported to a dispatcher. Just a whole bunch of scenarios like that – other red flags – cats being euthanized on the truck (or) after hours in the building, left in their cages overnight."

See **ANIMAL CONTROL**, page A3



CHELSEA GERBER

The allegedly mishandled euthanizing of this long-haired tabby cat is what Katy Animal Control Officer Chelsea Gerber said prompted her to make her second attempt to file a formal complaint with Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz regarding improper practices at Animal Control.

HAVE A NEWS TIP?
news@katytimes.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
281-391-3141



February 25, 2021
12 pages | \$1

Katy's beloved Midway BBQ falls victim to structure fire

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy Fire Marshal Greg Peterson announced via press release Saturday that Midway BBQ at 6025 Highway Blvd. in downtown Katy had been heavily damaged by a structure fire. Nine Katy Fire Department vehicles and six units from neighboring agencies responded to the blaze.

"Crews arrived on scene and found light colored smoke pushing from the attic and smoke showing from all overhangs," Peterson said in the press release. "Upon further inspection crews found heavy fire conditions inside and began actively putting water on the fire. The fire was reported under control at 3:45 a.m."

Monday afternoon, Peterson said initial inspection of the building led him to believe that the fire may be electrical in nature, though a full investigation is still needed. He does not suspect foul play, but rather believes electrical components may have been damaged by the power surges and outages associated with Winter Storm Uri.

Midway BBQ Operations Manager Jason Carlisle said the restaurant appears to be at total loss upon initial inspection,

though the business is insured. Losses include the taxidermy items and other memorabilia – including photos, décor and general keepsakes – which were destroyed in the blaze, he said. He added that the Meyer family, owners of Meyer Foods, the operating company for Midway BBQ, intends to rebuild. The rebuild could take as long as about one year to complete.

"We would like to thank everybody in the Katy Community that has reached out with prayers and offers of help. We will be back," Carlisle said.

The restaurant employs 24 staff said Trish Cummings, whose father Herman Meyer is the founder of Meyer Foods. Meyer Foods operates not only Midway BBQ, but also Midway Meat Market and Midway Deer Processing, both located at 5901 Highway Blvd. in Katy. Herman said Meyer Foods would be utilizing as many Midway BBQ staff as possible at those locations to make sure they remained employed. Staff will receive wages for the week of Feb. 15 as well as for the hours they were scheduled to work the week of Feb. 22, she said.

"They're the first people that are on our list that we're concerned about," she said.

See **MIDWAY BBQ**, page A3



COURTESY TERRIE BAKER

Multiple fire departments worked in tandem to fight the Midway BBQ fire, but damage was still severe. No firefighters or civilians were injured in the blaze.

Enrollment for 2021–2022 school year now open, preschool through 12th grade!



Call our Admissions Team today or email csturm@faithwest.org to set up your personalized family tour

faithwest.org | 281-391-5683 | 2225 Porter Road | Katy, TX 77493



Freeze overwhelms plumbers, depletes repair supplies

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

As Winter Storm Uri bore down on the Katy area, one thing many homes were unprepared for is the cold weather's impact on plumbing. Pipes in Texas homes are often placed in crawl spaces designed to move air and reduce humidity in the area above the home and are only lightly insulated - causing disastrous water outages and damage during severe winter weather.

"The attic space is just like a wind tunnel to get that humidity out of the attic, because if it gets trapped up there, you've got moldy (conditions)," said Paul Obsta of Obsta Plumbing.

Paul said that feature was by design because, unlike homes in the north where construction is designed to keep heat in the home and cold out, southern homes are designed to prevent humidity from accumulating and to keep cold inside the home, making homes ill prepared for conditions such as that brought about by Uri.

Dorinda Obsta, Paul's wife and business partner, said the winter storm had caused Obsta Plumbing, like most other plumbers in the area, to be overwhelmed with calls. While the plumbing community is working hard to address problems as quickly as they can, many have an overwhelming amount of work to take care of, she said.

At the time of the interview, the Obstas had more than 600 homes on a waiting list to try to help, but with only five plumbing crews to dispatch and a shortage of repair parts across the state, some homeowners could be waiting a while for repairs.

"We had to filter everything to booking online only," Dorinda said. "That way we could truly manage a first-come-first-served basis and handle people because we didn't want people jumping in line."



Katy area resident Larry Zammit submitted this photo of his living room after a pipe burst in the crawl space above the family's lounging area. Homes in Texas, including Katy, are designed to shed heat and keep in cool air-conditioned air, so plumbing is often not insulated sufficiently to protect against severe winter weather.

What to do now

The Obstas said their five trucks that usually run three calls a day on a regular full-time schedule are now working five calls per day and working 18-hour days in order to try to facilitate repairs quickly.

While most insurance companies don't cover plumbing repairs, Paul said, they will usually cover water and property damage caused by broken pipes and serious plumbing leaks. However, depending on the situation, those expenses may be provided through reimbursements rather than upfront payments to homeowners or renters and generally plumbers do not work with insurance companies for the cost of repairs they complete.

The Obstas recommended that homeowners who need repairs make appointments as needed with plumbers in the area but asked that extraneous appointments be cancelled proactively to help plumbers manage their workloads. They said plumbers will understand area residents calling around to get the first available plumber to do the work and thus won't be upset by the cancellations that help them manage an extraordinary workload.

Prepared for the future

The Obstas also recommended proactively looking over plumbing and looking at what preventive measures can be put in place to ensure plumbing is protected from severe weather as much as possible.

Steps residents can take include purchasing covers for outdoor spigots, reviewing owners manuals for sprinkler systems, knowing how to turn water heaters off and on and knowing where the master valve for the home's water main is located.

"The most important thing if you are in a house is to know where the shutoff valve is, and if there's not one to know how to shut the water off at the street," Dorinda said.

"Because if you can do those two things, you can mitigate damage, big time."

Cutting off water at the street often

requires a special tool called a water key, Dorinda explained. The part usually sells for less than \$15 and is available at some local hardware stores and online.

Residents should also ensure their renters and homeowners insurance is up to date and understand the water damage coverage offered by their insurance, Dorinda said.

Avoiding scams

The Obstas said disasters such as Winter Storm Uri and Hurricane Harvey, are often big draws for scammers posing as plumbers or handymen. To avoid scams, the Obstas recommended customers request the plumbing professionals license which is issued by the State of Texas.

"Always ask for their credentials," Paul said. "... The homeowner can request to see their license at any moment in time, so if (a plumber) walks into (a resident's) house and they say, 'I want to see your license.' That plumber is supposed to produce that license at that point."

If the plumber does not have the license on them at the time, it is possible to verify the plumber's credentials by searching for the plumber or plumbing company on the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners' website, the Obstas explained.

Plumbers are also required to carry appropriate insurance as well, and evidence of that insurance must also be provided on demand they said.

Anyone suspecting price gouging for plumbing services or any other disaster-related event should contact their county attorney's office. Harris County has set up a hotline at 832-471-1600 while Fort Bend County residents can email reports of price gouging to ReportGouging@FortBendCountyTx.gov.

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY IN ASSOCIATION WITH

COUNTRY REWIND TOUR

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

DARRYL WORLEY BRYAN WHITE ANDY GRIGGS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26

TICKETS \$35 IN ADVANCE | \$40 DAY OF SHOW | DOORS 6PM

WILDCATTER SALOON IN KATY, TX

26913 KATY FWY, KATY, TX 77494

OPENING ACTS: SCOTTY ALEXANDER, BRYAN MARTIN, & SOUTHERN DISPOSITION FREE AFTER PARTY SHOW FEATURING "FRAMING THE RED"

TICKETS AND MORE INFO @ WWW.COUNTRYREWINDTOUR.COM

Cheatheam Designs completes renovation plans for new KCM HQ

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Newell Cheatheam of Newell's Designs announced in a brief press release that he has completed renovation designs for Katy Christian Ministries' new headquarters building located at 3506 Porter Road, just east of Katy's city limits.

"When we were in the stage of needing drawings for our new property, it was a no brainer to partner with Mr. Newell Cheatham, a longtime friend of KCM," said Katy Christian Ministries Executive Director Deysi Crespo.

The new building includes a 3,073-square-foot food pantry, more than 2,629 square feet of leasable area that can be shared with community groups, more than 2,600 square feet of offices, corridors and restrooms and other basic amenities to serve the ministry's needs.



NEWELL CHEATHEAM

Crespo said she was grateful for Cheatheam's contributions to KCM, including doing all of the preliminary planning at no cost and charging a reduced rate for final drawings of the new space. KCM

was able to raise more than \$200,000 to put a down payment toward its new building and is still working toward its \$305,000 goal.

"(Cheatheam) worked closely with us to capture our vision and we were very pleased for the work he rendered considering the short timeframe he was given. He has a passion for KCM and is always willing to help in any way possible," Crespo said.

The capital campaign is still ongoing and those wishing to donate may do so at: <https://bit.ly/3siWd2p>

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times

SUDOKU

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

Level: intermediate

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678
281-391-3141

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Ancient Persian city
- Spindles
- Stake
- Retrain
- Close by
- Commercial
- One who publicly announces
- American ballplayer
- Junior's father
- Go up or climb
- Concern
- When you hope to get there
- Iacocca and Oswald are two
- Plant of the lily family
- Male college organization
- National capital
- Raccoonlike animal
- Symbols of fertility
- Astronomy unit
- Series of ridges in anatomy
- Hebrew leader
- A portent of good or evil
- Supreme goddess
- Gelatinous substance
- Engage in a contest
- Famed ballplayer Ruth
- Pledge
- _, _ denotes past
- Revival
- Spanish surname
- Gold
- Elsa's sister
- Workplace
- Large quantity of something
- Engraved
- Discount

CLUES DOWN

- Shoe
- Disquiet
- Posture
- Large nests
- Soviet "Second Symphony" composer
- Joins two pipes of different diameter
- Exist
- Overdose
- Pleat of fabric
- Predict the future
- Burgeoning technology
- Having made a valid will
- Having no fixed course
- _ route
- Lethal dose
- Indian musical pattern of notes
- Athlete
- Geological times
- Atomic #21
- In support of
- Brew
- Certificate of insurance
- Taxi
- Type of saying
- For cigars
- Phil __, former CIA
- Local area network
- Gym class
- Philippine Island
- Not great or bad
- Eastern part of NY state
- Gov't lawyers
- Constructions
- Former British gold coin
- Unkeyed
- Rechristen
- Threaten persistently
- Southeast
- Cools your home
- Removes the leaves
- Regretted
- Thus
- Relief organization (abbr.)
- Exclamation of surprise

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678
281-391-3141

NEWS



COURTESY KATY ISD

Katy ISD Police Department Officers Timothy Loya (center) and Jose Perez (right) are sworn in by KISD Police Chief Henry Gaw at the district's Feb. 22 trustee meeting.

Katy ISD swears in new officers, addresses bond management

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD swore in two new KISD Police Department officers, examined budget issues and took action to manage the district's bond debt in multiple ways at its Feb. 22 meeting. The board also approved attendance waivers for students who would not be taking STAAR tests this year due to exemptions granted to some students by the state of Texas.

More details regarding exemptions to STAAR testing will be sent to parents and posted to the district website soon, a district representative said.

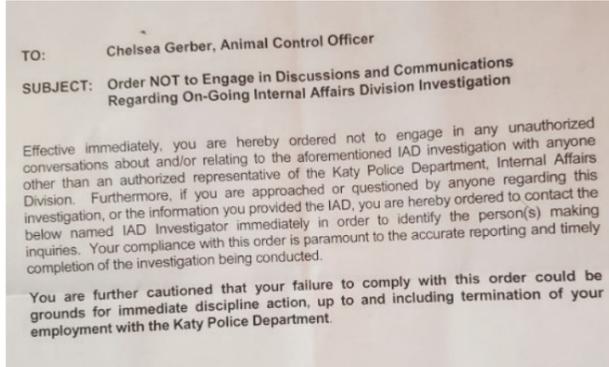
The board authorized the issuance of \$40 million in bonds authorized by voters in 2017 at the advice of KISD Chief Financial Officer Christopher Smith. Smith said this would be the fourth and final issuance of bonds authorized by voters in the 2017 election. The board also authorized district staff to defease – or cancel out by early repayment – some of the district's outstanding bond debt.

At the recommendation of Maintenance and Operations Director Mark Tiedt, the district authorized the replacement of aging bleachers at Beck, MacDonald and McMeans junior

high schools as well as Cinco Ranch and Taylor High Schools. The contract was awarded to Key Enterprises with a maximum contract amount of just more than \$786,000 with contingencies included. Tiedt said the bleachers being replaced were costing about \$60,000 a year to operate safely and were not ADA-compliant, as the new bleachers would be. Installation is tentatively expected to be complete in August of this year.

Tiedt also requested and received approval for portable classrooms to be installed at Bryant, Leonard and McElwain elementary schools as well as Adams Junior High School and Paetow High School with a not to exceed cost of \$1.97 million. Cost includes installation of the buildings and connection of the buildings – of which there are 18 – to campus infrastructure. Brown and Root will complete the work.

Replacement of the chiller for Katy Elementary School was also approved at a cost of about \$292,000. Tiedt said the current chiller, which had met its expected service life, was not working properly and was causing additional costs and inconveniences to the district. Funding for the new chiller will be provided by savings from 2017 bond projects, he said.



Animal Control Officer Chelsea Gerber was asked to sign the document pictured, in part, here in November 2020 when Katy PD's Internal Affairs Officer Lee Hernandez began his investigation into her allegations of inappropriate conduct at Katy Animal Control by multiple coworkers. She has since been speaking with attorneys regarding whether it is enforceable or violates any Texas whistleblower laws such as The Texas Whistleblower Act.

ANIMAL CONTROL

from page A1

Gerber said she brought her concerns to Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz in June of 2020. She met with Diaz June 23, 2020 and discussed concerns including possible falsified records, possible collusion with Angie Wells – a Fort Bend County woman who had more than 200 animals removed from her home March 8, 2020 – the inappropriate disposal of euthanized animals and Brown not correctly administering pentobarbital when euthanizing animals. Gerber told Diaz Brown had made a statement about Wells owing him \$50,000, insinuating Wells had offered to buy Katy Animal Control a new truck in exchange for Brown's assistance. That assistance, Gerber felt, might have interfered with the investigation into Wells' animal hoarding and included possible falsification of animal control calls and other records.

Katy Times reached out to Fort Bend County animal cruelty investigator Howard Kreusel regarding the allegations of collaboration between Brown and Wells, but Kreusel said he was not authorized to speak with the press and would ask for a manager to return our call. No return call was received in time for publication.

Gerber said she met with Kreusel in September of 2020 and provided as much information as she could to assist him with his investigation Wells' and Brown's possible collaboration.

Gerber has nearly 50 gigabytes of evidence she shared with Katy Times, including videos, photos, recording, digital journals and other items supporting her claims. That information was also provided to Katy PD investigators, she said.

Gerber said she was not provided with follow up information regarding an investigation as required by Katy Police Department internal policy.

Gerber said she followed up on her complaint in December 2020 and added more allegations of inappropriate behavior by Brown. After speaking with Antinoro, she had discovered Brown had directed Antinoro to dispose of animal remains in city dumpsters, a violation of Texas regulations which require animals to be buried deep enough scavenging animals will not consume them and get poisoned by the pentobarbital in the remains. She also had concerns regarding a long-haired tabby cat whose euthanasia had been botched, she said.

"That euthanasia prompted me," she said. "That was kind of my final straw, witnessing that cat struggle for hours. I reached out to both the mayor and the chief of police and requested them at a meeting as soon as possible."

Mayor Bill Hastings did not attend the meeting, Gerber said.

Hastings posted a public statement on Jan. 18 regarding the Animal Control Department situation which had been leaked to social media by then, causing an uproar in the community.

"We understand there are some concerns circulating through the community regarding our Animal Control Department. We have begun addressing some of the concerns," Hastings said.

Hastings said the city would apprise residents of progress as staff addressed the concerns in more detail.

After both meetings, Gerber said Diaz offered to transfer her to Katy PD's dispatch services. She declined and after speaking with her husband, requested a leave of absence during the investigation out of concern for her safety. She also expressed concern the city may not have followed whistleblower laws applicable to government employees.

"My impression of what was supposed to happen is, first, my complaint be taken seriously. Second, my identity and my actual information that I'm complaining about be kept confidential," Gerber said of her situation and the nondisclosure agreement she was asked to sign by a Katy PD investigator. "I feel like my First Amendment Rights were severely violated. I shouldn't have to keep quiet about criminal or inhumane activity."

According to Houston law firm Feldman & Feldman, "Under (The Texas Whistleblower Act), public employees are protected from various forms of retaliation by employers, including suspension, termination or any adverse actions against the employee."

Gerber said no solid answer authorizing a leave of absence was officially given after she requested one, but Katy Times has verified with Katy Human Resources Director Angelina Tredway that Gerber is on a leave of absence.

City Council Member Rory Robertson said he was concerned about Katy Animal Control prior to Gerber's complaint and had already seen signs things were not right in the department before videos were leaked to a Facebook account under the name "Mark Huff" which was later proven to be an alias for an unknown individual. Robertson had requested data from the city and while a higher than he liked euthanasia rate showed in the data, it seemed like everything was in line with his expectations, though he wanted some improvements as he came into office.

"Then, about a month later, a city employee contacted me and showed me the videos," Robertson said. "I was horrified and I knew that those videos – in their context – ... were



CHELSEA GERBER

In multiple videos leaked to social media and provided to Katy Times by Chelsea Gerber, Katy Animal Control staff discuss or participate in disposing of animals improperly in city dumpsters. Multiple sources told the Times animals that are put down by animal control should be cremated or buried at least four feet below ground in order to prevent the drugs used in euthanizing being consumed by local wildlife.

not in line with the report that I saw."

Gerber denied being "Mark Huff" and said she believed someone she'd confided in prior to signing the nondisclosure form with Katy PD had created the alias.

The videos show multiple animals being mistreated while in the care of Katy Animal Control. One depicts a black cat that had been put down by Brown overnight and left in its cage for Gerber to find when she came into work the next morning, the injection stick he'd allegedly used to administer a lethal injection to the cat left lying around with pentobarbital still in the syringe. Another shows cats in an outdoor birdcage panting with insufficient water or shade to keep cool, and footage of a Katy Animal Control staff member moving frozen animal remains to a vehicle for dumping, as well as a conversation between Gerber and Antinoro wherein Antinoro describes following a directive from Brown to scout which city dumpsters would be serviced by the city's trash company soon to ensure animals were not seen in them.

Diaz said he could not comment specifically on an ongoing investigation; however, at a Feb. 2 Katy City Council workshop he discussed multiple animal control policy changes.

Generally, he said, the city would maintain its current training practices and place additional training requirements for Katy Animal Control staff, including training offered by Harris County Animal Control.

"(Brown) and (Antinoro) will actually go to the Harris County facility and cross-train so they can just learn different techniques from a giant facility and come back and bring what is applicable to us," Diaz said.

During the presentation, Diaz said 80% of animals taken into the shelter in 2019 were returned to owners or transferred to rehoming rescues and reported that number increased to 88% in 2020. Katy Animal Control does not offer direct adoptions. Diaz said the city partners with about 20 rescue agencies, including Houston Chow Chow Connection. He said the city donates \$25 to these agencies for each pet they take in.

However, Ellen Schutz a volunteer with Houston Chow Chow Connection said she knows the organization does not partner with Katy.

Locally, Katy Animal Control is known to work with Special Pals Shelter and Citizens for Animal Protection to facilitate pet adoptions.

In his Feb. 18 statement, Hastings said he was extending hold times for animals at the shelter from 72 hours to seven days.

Diaz said multiple policy changes are also set to take place at Katy Animal Control. Rather than only following Texas' minimum guidelines for shelter operations, the city will be adopting procedures mirroring Harris County's; a contracted company will be identified to properly dispose of animal remains; and euthanizing animals will be overseen by a veterinarian moving forward. A residential advisory board has also been created to allow residents, city officials and animal control experts to provide input on shelter operations.

Robertson said he was not satisfied with the presentation at the Feb. 2 workshop and wanted more to be done but understood there was a lot of research and time needed to bring Katy Animal Control up to the standard expected by its citizens.

Robertson was concerned processes were not being followed by Katy Animal Control. He was especially concerned about a cat named Jasper which had been killed in less than 72 hours and had not been scanned for a chip which would have helped return Jasper to his owner. Robertson had also researched how Katy could become a no-kill shelter and humanely dispose of animals and set up adoptions at the facility. Still, he said he understands investigation is a process, and he has faith Diaz will take care of the situation in time after a properly-conducted investigation.

Katy Times reached out to David Brown for comment but did not receive a response in time for publication.

"The only thing that I see happening is reform – which is great," Gerber said. "I am not knocking the reform. I'm glad they're taking a really good, hard look at it and that they're considering making some big changes. One thing I haven't seen happen is the accountability for the actions that spurred that reform."



COURTESY TRAVIS SCOTT

When fire crews first arrived on-scene light-colored smoke was coming from the attic and all overhangs of the building. Upon looking inside, crews found a heavy blaze underway. A cause has not yet been determined. The following day, the exterior of the building appeared scorched and blue tarps were placed on the roof to protect the interior from water damage.

MIDWAY

from page A1

Carlisle said the company was still waiting on an assessment from its insurance company, but the restaurant appears to be a total loss on the inside.

Midway BBQ has been a staple of the Katy food scene for years with the location that burned down being about 10 years old, with one addition since that location was built. Prior to that, the barbeque spot was housed at the current location of Midway Meat Market, a few hundred meters away from the current location.

Katy Mayor Bill Hastings said his heart went out to Herman Meyer and his family whom Hastings has known for more than 40 years. Hastings said he has seen Herman continuously support the people of Katy through the Meyer Foods family of businesses and in other ways. Hastings said Midway BBQ has been Herman's pride and joy for some time.

"It's very unfortunate," Hastings said. "Not only for the (Meyers) but for the community too."

The Katy community is already working toward helping out with a fundraiser planned for March 6 at MKT Distillery, located at 5373 First Street in Katy's historic rice silos. The event will feature live music from local singer Hayden Baker along with musician Darrell Wayne. The event will run from 2:30-8:30 p.m. that day and will also feature a silent auction

MEMENTO FINDERS

The Meyer family is asking for the public's help in replacing the photos lost during the Midway BBQ fire. Those with copies of photos that were previously posted on the walls at the barbeque restaurant or those with new photos of good memories at Midway BBQ are asked to email them to: midwaymeat-market@yahoo.com.

and raffles to support Midway's staff. Those wishing to contribute items for the fundraiser should contact Adrienne Davitz via email at ajdavitz@gmail.com.

MKT Distillery is also collecting funds for employees through a donation jar located at the distillery's tasting room. Those wishing to donate cash to assist the staff of Midway BBQ may do so by stopping by during the distillery Saturdays from noon to 10 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.

Nicholas Jessett and his wife, Nicci Jessett expressed their support for the Midway BBQ team via MKT's Facebook page.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the owners and employees. The City of Katy was awesome to us when we couldn't open last summer and now we couldn't open last summer and now we want to pay it forward," the Jessetts said.

Biden, Social Security, my retirement and the wealthy

It's February. It's cold. To fend off the winter blahs, I dream of one day retiring to a warm beach, where I'll stand in the surf, sipping beverages from glasses with little umbrellas in them.

I spend hours using the Social Security Benefits Calculator to determine how much Social Security will pay me, after I've paid in many thousands of dollars throughout my working life.

And I wonder if my full Social Security benefits will be there when I retire, so I can afford to escape cold, gloomy winters.

It's a realistic question. In 1950, there were about 16 workers paying into Social Security for every person drawing benefits. Today, there are roughly two.

According to Kiplinger, "starting in 2021 the program's annual costs will exceed its income from employee and employer payroll taxes and interest earnings. Once the program turns that corner, Social Security will begin drawing down assets in its trust funds to continue providing full benefits."

If nothing is done, the trust fund will run dry by 2034 and will only be able to pay 76% of its promised benefits.

Worse, that would also take a heavy toll on elderly Americans who struggle to get by with Social Security as their primary income.

The Biden administration has a plan to prevent cuts and increase benefits for elderly Americans most in need - but wealthy Americans aren't going to like it much.

Currently, workers pay a 6.2% Social Security payroll contribution on wages up to \$142,800; their employers pay an additional 6.2%. If you're self-employed, like me, you pay the whole 12.4% - which we former English majors refer to as "a lot!"

Social Security was considered an insurance program when it was created in 1936. Under its original classification, payroll contributions weren't really "income taxes" at all, but "insurance payments" made



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

throughout our working lives so we can get monthly retirement benefits until we die.

But some policymakers don't see the program that way. They see it as too heavily funded by the middle class and not funded enough by the well-to-do.

Consider: A self-employed person who earns \$142,800 a year pays the exact same amount of Social Security taxes - \$17,707.20 - as someone who earns, say, \$10 million a year.

The Biden administration hopes to change that, by keeping the cap at \$142,800, but having the 12.4% payroll tax kick back in on incomes of \$400,000 and up.

In that scenario, a self-employed person earning \$10 million would be taxed 12.4% on the first \$142,800, nothing on income beyond that up to \$400,000, then an additional 12.4% on the rest of his income.

If my calculations are correct, his Social Security contributions would jump from \$17,707.20 to more than \$1.2 million - what we former English majors call "a heckuva lot."

Forbes reports the change would affect about 800,000 buzzing-mad high earners.

I don't know how such a large tax change would affect markets, investing, the economy and ultimately me. Frankly, government math makes my head hurt.

I just hope to goodness our policymakers, as divided as the rest of the country, will find a way to collaborate to bring a meaningful solution to the Social Security challenge, so that I may one day enjoy my retirement on a warm beach, sipping beverages from glasses with little umbrellas in them.



Out in the cold: There but for the grace of God

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.
- 1 Corinthians 15:10

He couldn't have been more than a kid, early twenties maybe, though he looked older. Life outdoors tends to age a person prematurely. He was homeless, addicted, alone.

I'll call him "Daniel" and I met him at a homeless shelter where I was volunteering with my wife the other night. More accurately, Denise is the active volunteer, serving on boards, giving out scarves and blankets, getting to know the residents. Mostly, I tag along for support.

On this particular night, temperatures were in the teens and a steady snowfall covered the streets and sidewalks in front of the church where we waited for walk-ins.

Denise recognized Daniel from another shelter where she volunteers. She asked him how he was doing, what he was up to, showed him where he could sleep for the night and where to get some food in the kitchen.

For the four hours we were there, from 8 p.m. to midnight, Daniel left and returned a few times. At one point, he produced a drawing pad on which he had made a few sketches. He showed them to Denise and she made a fuss, as you would when one of your kids presents you with a few doodles.

A little later, Daniel asked us what the temperature was



RICH MANIERI
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

supposed to be tomorrow. It took a minute but it dawned on me that he wasn't asking us about the weather in an effort to make small talk. He wanted to see if it was going to be warm enough to survive.

As we spoke to him, I couldn't help but wonder. How did he get here? What led a young and seemingly healthy young man to an aimless existence on the streets? Certainly, addiction is part of the answer but only part. What happened in his past? Was he ever nurtured or encouraged by anyone?

Then, after the questions, came the realization that there are so many others, like Daniel, living life day-to-day; outdoors and forgotten.

It is true that a few homeless people are homeless by choice. Though able to work or even get back on their feet in a shelter, they choose homelessness instead of structure and rule-following. Denise will tell you that some of the men with whom she worked at the shelter simply walked away on their own rather than follow the house rules. Others were kicked out.

I had another thought as I spoke to Daniel. Could I have been him? With a slight alteration of circumstances, could I have wound

up in the same situation due to job loss, financial ruin or illness?

Oh, we say, "Not me. Don't be ridiculous. Those people are sick. They have problems. They can't be helped and they don't know how to help themselves." Exactly.

There was a time when it was easy for me to disregard young men like Daniel. After all, in Philadelphia, there were hundreds of them. It was easy to walk by, not make eye contact, even snicker. "Better him than me," as if I were somehow impervious to personal catastrophe.

We're all fragile, vulnerable, mortal. Ask the people of Texas where a winter storm has turned life upside down.

While politicians bicker about why it's so cold and whose fault it is, millions of residents are freezing, without power or drinking water. Warming shelters have opened throughout to state. People who were warm and secure suddenly found themselves hungry, cold and in need of help.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, there are an estimated 553,742 people in the U.S. experiencing homelessness on a given night. In the Kentucky county where I live, 400 public school students were identified as homeless in 2019.

This is not a call to action to volunteer or donate to your local homeless shelter, though you may feel led to do that. Rather - and I'm speaking to myself as much as anyone - it's a call to compassion and empathy.

The truth is there's less daylight between Daniel and me than I was ever willing to admit.

Katy Times

SUSAN ROVEGNO | Publisher
R. HANS MILLER | News Editor
DENNIS SILVA II | Sports Editor
DON GRABOWSKI | Designer
DEBBIE PREJEAN | Bookkeeper

OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678
PHONE: 281-391-3141

TO REPORT NEWS:
Call 281-391-3141 or email news@katytimes.com

TO REPORT SPORTS SCORES:
email sports@katytimes.com

ADVERTISING:
For information on advertising in the Katy Times, in print or online, contact us at 281-391-3141 or email katyclass@katytimes.com. Advertising deadline is noon on Friday for both classified and retail advertising.

BILLING:
Address billing inquiries to: Debbie Prejean, Bookkeeper bookkeeping@katytimes.com

PRESS RELEASES:
Press releases are accepted but are not guaranteed for publication. Press releases should be e-mailed only to news@katytimes.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
We encourage your Letters to the Editor submissions, but we reserve the right to edit for content and for space restrictions. All letters must contain the full name of the person who wrote the letter, as well as their address

and telephone number for verification purposes. Letters can be submitted via e-mail to news@katytimes.com.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
The Katy Times (ISSN 067-180) is published on Thursday for \$35 per year in Harris, Waller and Fort Bend Counties and \$45 elsewhere by The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678. Periodical-rate postage paid at Katy, Texas 77494.

CORRECTIONS:
We strive for accuracy and transparency in our reporting. If you believe that we have made a factual error in reporting, please call 281-391-3141 or email editor@katytimes.com with a link to the story in question, along with information on what you believe is factually incorrect in the reporting. Individual columns in the Katy Times do not necessarily reflect the newspaper's editorial opinion.

CIRCULATION:
Address billing inquiries at 281-391-3141.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678.

ABOUT OUR NEWSPAPER:
The Katy Times is a member of the Texas Press Association. The weekly newspaper is published every Thursday. Visit our Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.katytimes.com for more news and information.



CONSTITUTION CORNER

U.S. Constitution

ARTICLE III: SECTION 3

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court. The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attained.



TRIBUTE

Alvin Holloway Sinclair, Jr., (90) of Katy, Texas went home to be with the Lord on February 11, 2021 after battling a lung condition called pulmonary fibrosis for a little more than two years.

Holloway was born on July 9, 1930 in Sarepta, LA and grew up in northwest Louisiana. He served as a sergeant in the Marine Corps during the Korean War as an aircraft mechanic and he was Honorably Discharged. Upon his return from the Korean War, he then attended Texas A&M College and earned a degree in mechanical engineering in 1955.

He married Helen Wilkins on January 30, 1955 and after graduation, Holloway went to work as an engineer with United Gas Pipe Line Company in New Orleans. He moved to Houston in 1972 and worked with United Texas Transmission Company and one other pipeline company until he retired in 1993.

After retirement, Holloway and Helen relocated to Katy, Texas in 1994 and soon joined Kingsland Baptist Church where he was able to pursue his passion or service to others and mission work. He was able to serve with several members his family at his side in a 3-generation mission setting. This brought him intense joy. His favorite trip was his last one to the Holy Land. He finally got to walk in the steps of his Lord and Master. He got to see, touch, and feel the land where Jesus conducted his earthly ministry.

Holloway is preceded in death by his parents A.H. (Holloway) Sinclair and Louise Clanton Sinclair of Shreveport, LA. He survived by 59 direct descen-



ALVIN HOLLOWAY SINCLAIR, JR.
1930-2021

dants including his wife of 66 years, Helen. Their children, Bryan Holloway, David, Michael, Paul, and Ross along with their wives Kim, Carol, Ann, Timisha and Dayna respectively. 16 grandchildren and their spouses and 20 great grandchildren not including three more that are on the way and due in 2021. Holloway is also survived by his brother Bennie and wife Joyce, Spring, TX and Sister Tabitha Wagner and husband Duane, Katy, TX.

Holloway's funeral is under the direction of the Schmidt Funeral Home in Katy, Texas. A Celebration of Life service is scheduled for February 27, 2021 at Kingsland Baptist Church, 20555 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, Texas 77450 with family visitation at 3:00 pm and others at 3:30 pm and the service at 4:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts to honor Holloway Sinclair's life and his love for missions may be given to Kingsland Baptist Church Missions Fund. Burial will be at Belle Bower Cemetery near Longstreet, LA on March 6, 2021.

For a full obituary, visit www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net.

KATY AREA EVENTS FOR MARCH 2021

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

MARCH 11

FIERCE AND FEMINIST: NEW HEROINES IN YA

Join moderator, journalist and author Aurora Dominguez for a free, Katy Budget Books-sponsored event with writers Katharyn Blair, Namina Forna, Alexandra Monir and New York Times best-selling author Tracy Wolff as they discuss female heroines in young adult literature. This event is free and will be held via Zoom at 8 p.m. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/3bxWdF1>.

STATE OF THE COUNTIES

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce presents an update from the county judges for Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties. Fort Bend County Judge KP George and Waller County Judge Trey Duhon will deliver live comments while Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo will provide a prerecorded message for the event. Details on possible livestreaming of the event via Facebook are being worked out at this time. The live event will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton - Houston West located at 16435 I-10, Houston. Chamber Members \$40. Prospective Members \$50. Table for eight \$500. Sponsorships are also available. <https://bit.ly/3dyMSzr>

MARCH 18

THE ROCK AGENTS LIVE AT THE OAKS

The Oaks Kitchen and Bar in Cane Island hosts The Rock Agents for a live concert at 2100 Cane Island Pkwy. Reservations are required in order to allow the venue to ensure social distancing is practiced and those wishing to attend can contact The Oaks at 281-574-4144 to reserve a table. The show is expected to run from 6:30-9:30 p.m. <https://bit.ly/2NQpEdj>

MARCH 26

TRAPT WITH FLAW, LIVE AT THE WILDCATTER

Trapt and Flaw will be joined by Houston band Straight Jacket Theory and Wir at one of Katy's best-known music venues, The Wildcatter Saloon located at 26913 Katy Frwy., on the west side of Katy. The venue's outdoor seating will provide opportunities for social distancing to ensure public safety. General Admission \$20. Reserved table or picnic table \$25. Show begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 11 p.m. Visit <https://bit.ly/3alqHoH> for additional information and ticketing.



STOCK PHOTO BY DAVID YU

While the pandemic is still a concern, several events with social distancing precautions and opportunities for fun an education are still planned for March in the Katy area.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosts state legislators Cicil Bell, Paul Bettencourt, Gary Gates, Joan Huffman, Lois Kolkhorst and Mike Schofield for an update on Texas' current legislative session. The event will be held at Pearl and Vine located at 26151 Nelson Way in Katy and may be livestreamed through the chamber's Facebook page. Registration is \$25 for members and \$40 for nonmembers. <https://bit.ly/3umE1H0>

MARCH 27-28

SPRING KATY HOME & GARDEN SHOW

The Katy Home & Garden Show's annual spring event will take place at the Katy ISD Merrell Center at 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy. This year's events will include presentations on green living, chef demonstrations, kitchen and bath ideas, more than 20 booths with unique gifts and a gift and garden market run by the Brookwood Community, an educational nonprofit that provides jobs and builds a sense of belonging for adults with disabilities.



Superior services with affordable prices

Stephens&Flowers
Funerals and Cremations

4003 Front Street, Brookshire 77423
713-859-6117
<http://Stephensflowersfunerals.com/>



The Katy Times

Directory of Local Churches & Houses of Worship

BAKER'S BOOKS
Usually Open: Wed-Fri: 2-6 PM
Sat: 10-1PM
@22237 Katy Frwy., TX
(ad revised: 01/03/20)

Schmidt FUNERAL HOME
Serving Katy and West Houston since 1945
(281) 391-2424
1508 East Avenue • Katy, Texas 77493
Mailing Address: 1415 East Avenue, Suite B • Katy, Texas 77493

Katy Hardware
Kay & Mickey Powers, Owners
559 Pin Oak Rd.
Katy, TX 77494
281-391-3437 • Fax 281-391-6922
www.katyhardware.com

Katy Veterinary Clinic
Serving the Greater Katy Area Since 1964
Kari Cleavinger, D.V.M. • Lori Smith, D.V.M.
Hillary Barra, D.V.M. • Catherine Berry, DVM
Jessica Machala, DVM
27227 Hwy. Blvd., Katy
Open M-F 7-6 • Sat 8-12 281-391-3169 • www.katyvetclinic.com

TRUE FIX A/C & Heating
Quality Service for over 42 Years
Living in KATY, Working in KATY & KATY Proud
281-392-9334
www.truefix.com

hb Harrison & Bethke
Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
281-492-6064
21715 Kingsland Blvd. Ste. 105
Katy Tx, 77450
katyfeeth.com
M-Th 7am-7pm
Fri. 7am-3pm
Sat. 8am-2pm

Country Care
Landscaping by
Since 1980
Irrigation, Sales & Service
P.O. Box 758 • Katy, TX 77492
281-391-1833
Fax: 281-391-1845
Albert W. Thompson
Owner
www.landscapycountrycare.com • countrycare@consolidated.net

KELLER & SADLER, CPA'S
A Partnership of Professional Corporations
Office: 281-392-5744
1260 Pin Oak Rd., Suite 114
Katy, TX 77494
Fax: 281-392-5818
Steve@kellerandsadlercpas.com

Clay's
MORTUARY & CREMATIONS
Honoring Families. Celebrating Lives.
IN YOUR FAMILY'S TIME OF NEED...
3923 Fifth Street
Brookshire, TX 77423
281-CLAY-WAY (281.252.9929)
ClaysMortuary.com

ASSEMBLY OF GOD EL SHADDAI ASAMBLEA DE DIOS
5610 LILAC STREET • 281-391-8339
PASTORS, PETER & ESTELA PINON
FAMILY LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
24911 ROESNER ROAD • 281-392-0637
ALBERT CORTEZ, PASTOR • WWW.FLAG.CHURCH

JOURNEY CHURCH
541 PIN OAK ROAD, KATY • 281-391-3326
SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:30 AM
WWW.JOURNEYCHURCHKATY.COM
JEREMIAH HILL, LEAD PASTOR

BAPTIST ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
655 DANOVER • 281-391-2263
TYRONE FREEMAN, PASTOR
BRIDGEWATER BAPTIST CHURCH
FRANZ ELEMENTARY • 2751 WESTGREEN BLVD. • 281-578-0970
MICHAEL THOMPSON, PASTOR

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH MAYDE CREEK
2855 GREENHOUSE ROAD • 281-492-2689
LARRY MADDOX, PASTOR
KATY'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
600 PIN OAK • 281-391-1100
COLEMAN PHILLEY, SR. PASTOR
GOOD NEWS BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOUSTON
2502 KATY HOCKLEY CUT-OFF • 281-391-9199
VIRGIL YEHNER, PASTOR

KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
20555 KINGSLAND BLVD. • 281-492-0785
PASTOR RYAN RUSH
PARKWAY FELLOWSHIP
27043 FM 1093 • 281-391-6673 • WWW.PARKWAYFELLOWSHIP.COM
PASTOR: MIKE MCGOWN
PARKWAY FELLOWSHIP
5819 10TH ST. • KATY, TX 77493 • 832-222-9282
REDEEMER COMMUNITY CHURCH
24201 CINCO RANCH BLVD. • 281-371-21-56
MITCH MAHER, PASTOR

RIVER BEND BAPTIST CHURCH
26700 FM 1093 • 281-346-2279 • WWW.RIVERBENDC.ORG
JOHN C. CROWE, PASTOR
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, West Campus
19449 KATY FREEWAY • 713-465-3408
DR. ED YOUNG, PASTOR
TRI-COUNTY BAPTIST
5715 PEEK ROAD • 281-371-3900
RICK SHRADER, PASTOR

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
10000 SPRING GREEN BLVD. • KATY, TX 77494
281-579-6724 • TRINITYKATY.ORG
PASTOR JOSH GUJARDO
WESTLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1407 GRAND PARKWAY SOUTH • 281-392-5099
ROY MEADOWS, PASTOR
WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH & ACADEMY
3883 LAKES OF BRIDGEWATER DR • 281-492-3448
REV. RICHARD D. BUTTS, PASTOR

ANGLICAN THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHIAS DIOCESE OF MID AMERICA
4142 DAYFLOWER • 281-463-2304
GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH
24968 KATY RANCH ROAD, KATY, TEXAS 77494
281-769-5544 • WWW.GRACEANGLICANKATY.COM
RECTOR: ROBERT HENSON

CATHOLIC EPIPHANY OF THE LORD CATHOLIC
1530 NORWALK DR. (NOTTINGHAM) • 281-578-0707
FR. TOM LAM
ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH
5356 ELEVENTH ST. • 281-391-4758
FR. CHRISTOPHER PLANT, PASTOR
ST. EDITH STYAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
3311 N. FRY ROAD • 281-492-7500
REV. RYSZARD KULMA, PASTOR

CHRISTIAN FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
22101 MORTON ROAD • 281-492-2693
REV. HEATHER TOLLESON, MINISTER
CURRENT-A CHRISTIAN CHURCH
26600 WESTHEIMER PKWY • 281-395-4722
DARREN WALTER, MINISTER

CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH OF CHRIST - KATY
5438 E. 5TH STREET • 281-391-7606
CINCO RANCH CHURCH OF CHRIST
6655 S. MASON ROAD • 281-579-3100
AARON WALLING, MINISTER

CHURCH OF CHRIST IN BRIDGEWATER
21650 CRESTBROOK COVE DR. KATY, TX 77449
FRY ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST
2510 FRY ROAD AT FRANZ • 281-578-1897
BOB PULLIAM
WESTPARK CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETING AT FULSHEAR COMMUNITY CENTER
281-712-1492 WWW.WESTPARKCOC.ORG

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES
1225 W. GRAND PARKWAY SOUTH • 281-392-3310
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
1936 DREXEL, KATY • 281-391-2785
REV. MARK WILKINSON

LUTHERAN CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH
700 S. WESTGREEN • 281-398-6464
PAUL GOEKE, LEAD PASTOR
LIVING WORD EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN
3700 SOUTH MASON ROAD • 281-392-2300
MEMORIAL LUTHERAN MISSOURI-SYNOD
3RD ST. & AVE. D, KATY • 281-391-0171
JOHN DAVIS

VICTORY OF THE LAMB-WISCONSIN SYNOD
20351 CINCO RANCH BLVD. @ PEEK RD.
281-395-0544 • NATHAN BUEGE, PASTOR

METHODIST FIRST UNITED METHODIST - KATY
5601 FIFTH STREET • 281-391-2121
DR. RICHARD L. WHITE, SENIOR PASTOR
GRACE FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2655 S. MASON ROAD (NEXT TO GREAT S.W. EQUESTRIAN CENTER)
281-646-1903 • JIM LEGGETT, PASTOR
HOLY COVENANT UNITED METHODIST
22111 MORTON ROAD (AT MASON) • 281-579-1200
FRED WILLIS, SENIOR PASTOR

ST. PETER'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
20775 KINGSLAND BLVD. • 281-492-8031
DR. PAT SPARKS, PASTOR

MORMON CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
1928 DREXEL • 281-391-0687 • 281-391-5439
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
1603 Norwalk • 281-578-8934
BISHOP SCOTT BAUER
NOTTINGHAM COUNTRY WARD
281-578-8930

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
9950 SOUTH MASON
281-398-7796

NAZARENE WESTSIDE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
3434 FRY ROAD • 281-492-0234
REV. KENT SCHWAMBERGER, PASTOR

THE FELLOWSHIP
22765 WESTHEIMER PARKWAY • 281-395-3950
WWW.THEFELLOWSHIP.ORG • JERRY EDMONSON, PASTOR
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH
1507 KATY FLEWELLEN RD. • 281-646-1084
DON GRIFFIN, PASTOR

HOSANNA!
17700 CLAY RD. • 281-345-1182
JAMES P. BELL, PASTOR
KAINOS COMMUNITY CHURCH
19946 SAUMS ROAD • 281-599-1473
JOE AND YOLAND HERRON-PALMORE, PASTORS

KATY BIBLE CHURCH
2500 AVENUE D • 281-391-7284 • 281-391-6855
MATT MANCINI, PASTOR
KATY COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
24102 KINGSLAND BOULEVARD • 281-391-0099
TIM BARKER, PASTOR

KINDRED SPIRIT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
22025 I-10 W., RAMADA LIMITED HOTEL, RM. 306
281-855-3402 • REV. L. R. FURR, PASTOR

LIFE CHURCH
2610 GREENBUSCH • 281-395-5433
SAM RUDD, PASTOR
CHRISTS MERCY
3506 PORTER RD. • 281-391-2273
WADE CASHION, PASTOR

NEW HORIZONS WORD OF FAITH CHURCH
906 AVENUE A (CHAPEL) • 281-391-6770
EDDIE L. STALLWORTH-CHERRY, JR., PASTOR
NORTHWEST BELIEVERS CHURCH
5423 E FIFTH STREET • 281-829-8985
LARRY CONNER, PASTOR

POWERHOUSE CHRISTIAN CENTER
1818 KATYLAND ROAD • 281-391-0095
G. F. WATKINS, PASTOR
CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
MEETING @ WOODCREEK J.H.S • 713-705-4878

RESURRECTION CITY CHURCH OF KATY
DR. BLANCHARD D. LAYTON, SR., SENIOR PASTOR
MINISTER CRISLEDA VALVERDE, ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR
CHURCH SERVICES: 11:30 - 1:00
5819 10TH STREET
CHURCH #: 281-291-8596
PASTOR'S CELL: 832-332-4687
MINISTER'S CELL: 832-335-2552

CROSSINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH
26100 CINCO RANCH BLVD.
KATY, TX 77494
WWW.CROSSINGSCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG
MEETS AT 10:40 AM AT KILPATRICK ELEMENTARY

PENTECOSTAL TRINITY FAITH CHURCH
10TH & AVE. D • 281-391-3310
DR. PHILLIP AND JILL CELEMENTS, PASTORS
HERITAGE FAMILY CHURCH
2120 KATY HOCKLEY CUTOFF • 281-391-1010
MICHAEL FILLMER, PASTOR
WWW.HERITAGEFAMILYKATY.ORG

THE PENTECOSTALS OF KATY
1941 WESTBOROUGH • 281-829-1175
ROB MCKEE, PASTOR

PRESBYTERIAN CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL-PRESBYTERIAN
1351 S. MASON RD. • 281-579-1080
REV. CARTER SANGER, PASTOR
GRAND LAKES PRESBYTERIAN
6035 S. FRY RD.
REV. DEAN POGUE, PASTOR
281-646-7500
NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN
1350 N. MASON ROAD • 281-492-8520
REV. BRIAN LONG
CHRIST CHURCH PCA
10818 GASTON ROAD
281-392-0002
REV. FRED GRECO, SENIOR PASTOR

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1913 EAST AVENUE • 281-398-1301
PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST

WINTER

from page A1

Fort Bend County was in a similar situation Thursday morning, County Judge KP George said. Most homes had power restored and those with lingering power issues were portions of more seriously damaged portions of the grid.

By Tuesday morning, only 78 homes or businesses were reported to be without power in the three counties that make up the Katy area, according to poweroutage.us, a website that tracks power grid status across the nation.

The problem many still face is an outage of water due to pipes freezing. (See our coverage on how plumbing issues on page A2.)

Local response

Local authorities scrambled throughout the week on a variety of levels to try to keep residents safe from the cold temperatures. Local buildings were also hit with damage from the cold as pipes burst and many local municipalities shut down except for emergency response teams.

Both Katy and Royal ISDs closed from Feb. 15 until Feb. 23 due to the freezing temperatures, power outages and uncertainties related to water services. Classes resumed Tuesday, Feb. 23 for RISD and most campuses in KISD.

"The longevity of last week's wintery weather and freezing conditions took a toll on so many of our families, homes and even our schools," said KISD Board of Trustees President Ashley Vann in a Feb. 23 video posted to YouTube.

The video showed crews repairing damage to one of Katy ISD's campuses which had suffered water damage due to broken pipes.

Water availability was as much a problem as power availability throughout the week as city's and municipal utility districts worked to maintain systems damaged by the cold. Throughout the Katy area, boil water notices were issued because of the impact to water infrastructure.

Water outages impacted almost all of the MUDs in the Katy area, prompting cities and counties to work to distribute water and food to those in need. Katy Christian Ministries and various other nonprofit organizations partnered with one another to ensure water was distributed. Louisiana's Cajun Navy also delivered drinking water to the area. Grocery stores and even some fuel stations placed purchasing limits on water, milk and other essentials to try to spread available supplies as much as possible due to water shortages.

In the city of Katy, residents were allowed to set up bulk items for pick up including three bulky items such as furniture, mattresses or appliances, 15 bags of general debris such as sheetrock and insulation and general materials bundles not exceeding four feet in length and 40 pounds in weight.

In Brookshire, much of the relief effort was organized through The Hangar Unity Center with assistance from Brookshire Alderperson Kim Branch, who credited the distribution of assistance to the in the community.

Brookshire residents took to Facebook to express frustration with a lack of communication from the city itself as well as the Brookshire Municipal Water District which did not have anything posted to its website regarding the weather and power losses until late in the week.

"Someone from BMWD needs to update the citizens of Brookshire on what's going on with the water. How is the world is it okay for everyone to just be left in the dark," said Brookshire area resident Mistie Flores in a Feb. 18 Facebook post.

Emergency information was mostly posted to social media by the



FORT BEND EMS

Ambulances, police, fire crews and other first responders braved the icy roads throughout the week to ensure the public's safety needs were met. Fort Bend EMS reported responding to more than 900 calls from Monday to Friday the week of Feb. 15. Harris County Emergency Services District 48 representative Jason Tharp said the department's fire crews had responded to 260 calls while EMS crews responded to 308 calls during that same timeframe.



COURTESY JESICA MERRITT

Battlehops Brewery was able to keep water running and provided water to the public as it became apparent many residents had lost water service due to burst pipes.

Brookshire Police Department, rather than through the official city website, BrookshireTexas.org.

Most water districts were no longer under a boil water notice as of Tuesday morning, but residents are encouraged to check with their MUD - there are nearly 80 in the Katy area - to determine the status of their water.

Some facilities in Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties were damaged or shut down due to power outages and, in some cases, flooding due to burst pipes, but repairs were underway and many had reopened as of Tuesday afternoon. Even the Waller County Library was affected by burst pipes, though County Judge Trey Duhon said most of what was needed was to replace damaged flooring. He recommended residents use caution as their pipes unfreeze which may lead to the discovery of more pipe breakages as things continue to thaw and water is restored.

"Be careful if you leave your home unattended with the water on because if the leaks occur while you're not there, you could have more damage than necessary. If you are not sure whether all of your pipes are unfrozen yet, it might be best to shut off the water to the house if you are gone and then turn it on slowly when you are present, so you can watch for leaks as your pipes are re-pressurized after everything has thawed," Duhon said.

Moving forward

As the Katy area works to recover from Winter Storm Uri, many of the

area's residents are still working to repair their homes due to burst pipes, address immense and unexpected electrical bills - some reaching thousands of dollars even though power was out at their homes for most of the week of Feb. 15 - and get back into an already-awkward routine in the era of COVID-19.

As of Saturday, Feb. 20, President Joe Biden had declared a disaster for the state of Texas as a result of Uri and associated damages. The move frees up disaster assistance through FEMA and other government agencies.

Price gouging is also a concern for area residents and county officials as water outages and other disaster-related shortages came to bear in the counties that make up the Katy area.

"We need to talk about scammers," said Hidalgo. "As we've seen, disasters bring out the best in people - and also they bring out the worst in some. We continue to hear stories of folks trying to take advantage of the situation and charge unfair prices for vital resources."

Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee has set up a website with information regarding how to file a complaint related to price gouging, Hidalgo said. She added that residents who suspect they are a victim of price gouging should keep any related receipts, make note of the situation and report price gouging incidents promptly.

Fort Bend County Judge KP George said Fort Bend County has also set up a hotline and website for price gouging.

In Waller County, Duhon said residents can file a complaint with the Waller County District Attorney's Office or through the Office of the Texas Attorney General which has a website set up for such complaints.

According to the Texas Attorney General's website, price gouging is a violation of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act.

Residents still facing issues related to the aftermath of Winter Storm Uri should refer to the sidebar for local resources which may be able to help.

The storm also put a hold on issuing COVID-19 vaccinations throughout the area. However, vaccinations had resumed as of Tuesday afternoon in all three counties. Health officials were prioritizing providing second doses of the vaccines prior to once again providing initial doses.

Accountability remains on the horizon regarding what area officials cited as the Electric Reliability Council of Texas' failure to ensure Texas' power infrastructure was prepared for a winter storm. Texas Governor Greg Abbott made addressing the concerns a top priority for the Texas Legislature after natural gas, coal and wind energy sources went down due to various problems.

ERCOT Senior Director Dan Woodlin told Bloomberg News on Feb. 15 that the majority of the state's power woes were associated with "frozen instruments at natural gas, coal and even nuclear facilities, as well as limited supplies of natural gas."



HARRIS COUNTY

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo signs a disaster declaration Feb. 14 in anticipation of the impact Winter Storm Uri would have on Harris County.



SUSAN ROVEGNO - KATY TIMES PUBLISHER

Across the state, drivers had to figure out how to maneuver through intersections with out-of-service traffic lights. This light in the Katy area at S. Fry Road and Yorkway Drive just south of I-10 was still not fully functional as of the morning of Feb. 18.



NICK ADOURIAN

Avenue D in downtown Katy was iced over with sleet that had packed to ice in some places. Many area residents said Winter Storm Uri was the first time they'd seen snow or sleet stay on the ground for more than a few hours during lifetimes of living in Texas.



FORT BEND COUNTY/FACEBOOK

Fort Bend County Judge KP George provides a Feb. 18 update regarding restoration of power to most of his county. George's own home was damaged as water pipes burst in the ceiling.

EMERGENCY RESOURCES

Due to the various disaster declarations at the county, state and federal levels, many Katy area residents are eligible for assistance in recovering from Winter Storm Uri. Below are resources for those in need of assistance after the storm.

GENERAL RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

FEMA:
Online: www.disasterassistance.gov
Hotline: 800-621-3362
or
800-462-7585

Catholic Charities:
Online: www.catholiccharities.org/winterstormhelp/

United Way:
Phone: Dial 2-1-1
Text: Send message HOUSTONFREEZE to 898211
En español: Envía HOUSTONAYUDA a 898211

Katy Christian Ministries
(Food, water and general assistance)
Online: www.ktcm.org
Hotline: 281-391-9623
Food Pantry: 281-391-3730
Domestic Abuse: 281-391-4357
Sexual Abuse: 281-693-7273

Harris County:
Online: www.readyharris.org

Fort Bend County:
Office of Emergency Management
Online: www.fbcoem.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/judgekpgorge>

Waller County:
Residents are encouraged to contact the United Way.

The Hangar Unity Center
4010 Fourth Street, Brookshire
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Hangar-Unity-Center/216527075595615>
Note: Residents should follow The Hangar's Facebook page for announcements regarding specific community support events.

PRICE GOUGING ASSISTANCE
Residents may file complaints related to price gouging through their local district attorney's office or through the Texas attorney general.

Texas Office of the Attorney General
Online: <https://bit.ly/3dCUtgb>

Fort Bend County
Online: <https://bit.ly/2ZLSmyu>
Hotline: 832-471-1600

Harris County
Online: www.harriscountycas.org/report-price-gouging
ConsumerHelp@cao.hctx.net
Text: 346-354-7459

Waller County
Office of District Attorney Elton Mathis
645 12th St., Hempstead
Phone: 979-826-7718

Note: Some URLs in this sidebar have been shortened using the bit.ly service in order to conserve space and facilitate ease of access for readers.

YOUR NEWS. YOUR WAY.

Find out what all your friends are talking about

Katy Times THEKATYTIMES

Follow us on Facebook for easy access to **KATY TIMES**

AREA SPORTS NOTEBOOK



BRIAN RANDLE

MAYDE CREEK'S RANDLE TAKES COACHING JOB AT RANDLE HIGH

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Mayde Creek head football coach/athletic coordinator Brian Randle has accepted the same role for Lamar Consolidated ISD's newest high school, Randle High. Randle High, named after Brian's father Dr. Thomas Randle, is set to open in the fall. Thomas Randle is retiring in June after serving as superintendent at LCISD for the last 20 years. Brian Randle led Mayde Creek to a 4-5 record last season in his only year at the helm of the Rams. "This is a very unique situation," Randle said in a heartfelt goodbye video to Katy ISD and Mayde Creek posted on Twitter on Feb. 19. "To be able to open up a brand new school in itself is extremely unique, but to open up a school that's named after your hero is surreal. It's a dream come true." Katy ISD officially posted the Mayde Creek job opening on Feb. 19. ... Katy High junior line-backer Ty Kana verbally committed to the University of Southern California (USC) on Saturday, Feb. 20. Kana compiled 72 total tackles, 11 tackles for a loss, three sacks and one fumble recovery for the Class 6A Division II state champion Tigers last season. He was a team captain, the only junior to hold that recognition. ... Taylor senior linebacker Ahmed Thomas verbally committed to Texas Lutheran University on Saturday, Feb. 20. During his career as a Mustang, Thomas compiled 116 tackles, four tackles for a loss, three pass break-ups, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery. He was revered in the program for his tireless work ethic and strong leadership skills. ... Former Taylor standout and Houston Texans fullback Cullen Gillaspia teamed up with Buffalo Bills linebacker Tyrel Dodson on Feb. 19 to provide meals at The Breakfast Club to help Houstonians impacted by the severe winter storm that hit the state last week. Gillaspia and Dodson are former Texas A&M teammates. ... The University Interscholastic League announced Friday, Feb. 19, updated basketball playoff information to accommodate

See **NOTEBOOK**, page B5

UIL STATE SWIMMING & DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

WORKING FOR IT

Seven Lakes' Welborn seeded 3rd, 5th in events going into state

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

During her freshman year at Cinco Ranch High School, Seven Lakes senior Maddie Welborn was exhausted. For months upon months, almost every morning and every night, she trained for swimming. She was burnt out, and because of it she started to see a dip in her performance.

So Welborn took a break from competitive swimming as a sophomore. She still trained, but on her own time.

"It made a difference," Welborn said. "It think it helped to have that."

When she transferred to Seven Lakes after her sophomore year because her mom worked at the school, Welborn was still in a difficult place mentally, however. She had negative thoughts about how she was swimming at the time.

But all of that soon changed. These days, Welborn has a "way more" positive mindset than she did then, and it shows. The University of Kentucky signee is seeded third in the 200-yard freestyle (with a time of 1-minute,



DENNIS SILVA II

Seven Lakes senior Maddie Welborn is seeded third in the 200-yard freestyle and fifth in the 100-yard freestyle going into the UIL state swimming championships Monday, March 1, in San Antonio.

49.20 seconds) and fifth in the 100-yard freestyle (50.98 seconds) going into the UIL state swimming championships Monday, March 1, in San Antonio.

Welborn has found her way, and not only as an athlete.

"Her growth has been huge, not just as a swimmer but as a person," Seven Lakes coach Jordan Beck said. "She's really come out of her shell a lot. Last

year, she was reserved and a little hesitant. This year, she's great. She's her hardest critic and has very lofty goals that she'll work to meet.

"It's a joy to coach her. I wish I had more than that two-year window, but that two-year window has made a big impact on the program because of who she is."

See **WELBORN**, page B6

Katy ISD will be well represented at the UIL state swimming and diving championships that start off this weekend in San Antonio, see B6

Seven Lakes sophomore Koval a diving wonder

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Not everyone can be Seven Lakes High's Kailey Koval.

Not everyone can win a regional diving championship. Not everyone can qualify for the UIL state diving championships in just their second year in the sport. Not everyone can have a legitimate shot at a top-10 finish at said state meet.

Not everyone can accomplish all this as a sophomore.

"She's fortunate enough to be, in my opinion, kind of an athletic freak," Katy ISD diving coach Jake Kinzbach said.

Koval enters the state championships

Monday, March 1, in San Antonio seeded 11th after scoring 396 points to win the Region V-6A meet on Feb. 4. But as recently as this time last year, Koval wasn't even sure she wanted to dive.

The former gymnast and pole vaulter only tried the sport because her mom recommended it as an elective.

"I tried it and I was definitely smacking on everything," Koval said, laughing. "It was just so different from gymnastics. In gymnastics, you land on your feet, and in diving you're going in head-first. But things started to catch on and the sport started to spark my interest. Around regionals last

See **KOVAL**, page B6

DENNIS SILVA II

In just her second year of diving, Seven Lakes sophomore Kailey Koval is a regional champion in the sport and a state qualifier, seeded 11th heading into the UIL state diving championships March 2 in San Antonio.



DENNIS SILVA II

Tompkins' girls basketball coaches and players celebrate with an area playoff championship banner following their 57-42 win over Memorial on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Merrell Center.

Falcons in regional quarters for 1st time since 2015-16

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tompkins girls basketball team's 57-42 Class 6A area playoff win over Memorial on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Merrell Center meant more than the typical early postseason 'W.'

One, it erased the bitter taste from last year's area playoff defeat to Cy-Fair. Two, it sent the Falcons to the regional quarterfinals

Tompkins guard Smith named McDonald's All-American nominee, see A1

for the first time since the 2015-16 season.

See **FALCONS**, page B2

DENNIS SILVA II

Paetow guards Brian McKnight (left, in white) and Trevor Frank (right) double-team a Weiss ballhandler during the second half of their Class 5A area playoff game Tuesday, Feb. 23, at A&M Consolidated High School in College Station.

Marlatt, Panthers advance to regional quarters for 1st time

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

COLLEGE STATION—Everett Marlatt wasn't having any of it. The thought of his high school basketball career ending was a non-starter.

No. 20 state-ranked Paetow

trailed Pflugerville Weiss by a point at halftime of their Class 5A boys basketball area playoff game at A&M Consolidated High School, and the Panthers senior forward wasn't ready to give in.

See **PANTHERS**, page B5

Call Today!
281-394-0031
GoBVS.com
TACLA11315E

"Giving Away" 43 High Efficiency Furnaces for ONLY \$1579 with purchase of Off-Season Central Air Conditioner! \$3961 Value. While supplies last.

FALCONS

from page B1

“It was definitely (about) getting the area round off our back. Last year was crushing,” coach Tamatha Ray said of the two-point setback to the Bobcats. “These kids were on a mission, and those four returners learned from last year about how to manage a game. We held it together.”

Those four returners are seniors Crystal Smith and Kenzie Durnford, and sophomores Loghan Johnson and Fiyin Adeleye. In their own ways, they made sure a repeat of last season didn’t happen.

Smith, recently named a McDonald’s All-American nominee, set the tone with 10 first-quarter points early. She did so in a variety of manners, including a pair of short fadeaway soft jumpers that drew appreciation from the crowd.

“I just wanted the win,” said Smith, who finished with a game-high 16 points and four steals. “This game meant a lot, not just for this team but the team last year that lost in this round. There was pressure to get past this round, but pressure gets me going and makes me dig in even more.”

Durnford had six points and five rebounds. Johnson contributed 10 timely points and snared a game-high eight rebounds. Adeleye had a huge third quarter, scoring five crucial points to keep Memorial at bay when the Mustangs threatened to make a game of it with a trio of 3-pointers.

Even those who weren’t on varsity last year, like senior forward Ashley Ngene, made their impact felt because they understood the significance of the game. Ngene was impressive off the bench with 11 points, six rebounds and three blocks.

“We were ready to make a statement,” Ngene said. “We got out way too early last year and we didn’t want to repeat that tragic loss. We wanted to start hot, stay hot and come away with the win.”

Defensively, the Falcons were once again relentless. They forced 18 turnovers and held a perimeter-oriented Memorial team to just 4-for-21 shooting from 3-point range. Tompkins made a concerted effort to push Memorial’s shooters off the 3-point line and to their weak hand.

“Memorial is very efficient,” Ngene said. “They’re a very good shooting team, so we had to get up above the 3-point line and get in their face.”

Tompkins, ranked No. 14 in Class 6A in the state, improved to 19-3 and will play undefeated Dulles in the third round. A win would put Tompkins in the regional semifinals for just the second time in program history.

The Falcons’ success this season is already a considerable turnaround from just two seasons ago.

After her sophomore season, Smith wrote “#FalconCulture” on a whiteboard in the team’s locker room in her usual small handwriting. Tompkins had missed the postseason and finished 5-7 in district play.

The message intrigued Ray.

“I walked in and was like, ‘Oh, OK. Let’s talk about that.’ She didn’t even know what our culture is or was,” Ray said. “Her freshman year and sophomore year, leadership wasn’t good. Those were good kids, but not leaders. It was still a new school at that time. But she saw it. Culture.”

Along with Durnford, who, like Smith, has played varsity since her freshman year, Smith helped cultivate a new standard for the program. A new way of doing things that has produced substantial success that not even she saw coming.

“Did I think it would become what it is now? No,” Smith said. “I honestly was just writing because I felt we needed accountability and to take responsibility for our teammates and being energized at practice even when we’re tired and drained. Just being together. I feel we’re making a good example for the younger girls because we’re bought into coach, we’re bought into each other and it’s not just a one-man show. We’re bought in as a team.”



Taylor’s boys basketball team fell short of its goal of making it to the third round of the playoffs for the first time in program history, but the Mustangs did accomplish their other two goals of making the playoffs and winning a district championship for the first time since 1995.

Mustangs fall short in playoffs, but team is ‘unforgettable’

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor’s boys basketball team had three goals this season: make the playoffs, win the district championship and make it to the third round of the playoffs, the regional quarterfinal stage that has eluded the program.

The Mustangs accomplished two of the three, as a necessary step toward the third was derailed by a strong third quarter by Fort Bend Bush in their Class 6A bi-district playoff game Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Merrell Center. Trailing by two points at the half, Taylor was outscored by seven in a third quarter that ultimately led to an 83-71 defeat.

Taylor finished its season 15-6 overall and a district champion for the first time since 1995. Bush, boasting talent and skill well beyond its fourth-place standing in District 20-6A, improved to 12-9.

Broncos junior Zion Bourgeois scored 15 of his 21 points in the third quarter, mostly on pull-up midrange jumpers. With the Mustangs’ defense attending to 6-foot-9 senior post Brandon Love, Bourgeois took advantage.

“I don’t think we were ready to come out for that (third) quarter, to be honest,” Taylor coach

Matthew Brayton said. “I don’t know what it was. Sometimes in our third quarters, we kind of struggle. The biggest thing is No. 1 (Bourgeois) scored 15 in the third quarter. We knew he could shoot it, but we wanted to shut No. 24 (Love) down. We could only slow down No. 11 (junior Tyler Smith) so much; the kid is special. When I looked up in the fourth quarter, (No. 24) had six (points) and No. 1 had 21, and that’s ... we can only shut down so many things.”

Bush’s size, length and athleticism were overwhelming. Smith, another 6-9 Bush forward, had 19 points and made three of five 3-pointers. Love had only six points through the first three quarters before scoring seven, five on free throws, in the fourth. Sophomore guard Ryan Hill was Bush’s fourth player in double-figure scoring with 10.

Senior guard Jake Arnold led Taylor with 22 points, five rebounds and three assists. Arnold capped off a remarkable career as a Mustang. As a sophomore, he was a little-used reserve; a good game meant scoring five points. But over the next two seasons, Arnold worked and worked and worked, eventually becoming one of the top five scorers in the Greater Houston area, scoring

more than 1,000 career points as a Mustang, and earning a scholarship to NCAA Division I Houston Baptist.

“I have never been prouder of a kid I’ve coached in my life, and it had nothing to do with his game,” Brayton said. “It had nothing to do with his improvement from his sophomore to senior year. It’s his leadership and overall attitude. He was once a guy who would get on officials and would whine and complain a little bit. I did not know if he had that leadership in him, but the way he changed and listened when we talked ... I’m so proud of more than just his game.”

Arnold said it was during his junior year that he realized concerning himself with things like officiating took away from his influence as a teammate.

“It might not affect the stat sheet, but it could affect the overall team,” Arnold said. “I realized when I did that (complain to the refs), other people could follow suit. I made it a point to stop and set the example, lead by example.”

Junior forward Troy Harris, a revelation as a junior varsity call-up just three weeks ago, added 20 points and six rebounds off the bench for Taylor. Senior forward Anthony Pelzer scored 11 points.

Add in tough-minded senior guard Luke St. Julien and stalwarts like Caleb Hart, and Brayton said this year’s Mustangs were “unforgettable.”

“I love that group,” Brayton said. “They’re something people will never forget. I just told them I loved them and thanked them. I’ve been coaching for 20 years and it was the best season I’ve ever had. I loved being around them and I loved watching them compete. The longer I coach ... of course you want to win, but it’s not about that. It’s about the relationships and keeping up with them and hoping they’re more successful than you and hoping they become great men, great fathers.”

The eight seniors—Arnold, Pelzer, St. Julien, Hart, Ricardo Millan, Michael Cummings, Jake Perry, and Matthew Shorb—left their mark on the court and off it.

“It’s the relationships, really,” Arnold said. “You can’t really explain going through the ups and downs, strength and conditioning camps every morning at 7 a.m. Stuff like that brings guys closer, and without that, there’s no this year. These coaches gave me a platform to play and get better, and the relationships with my teammates are lifelong.”

Cinco Ranch falls in area round, but strides made

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Step by step, Cinco Ranch’s girls basketball team made considerable strides over the last few seasons.

After making the playoffs for the first time since 2015-16 last season, the Cougars won a playoff game for the first time since 2014-15 this season before running into the freight train disguised as Cy-Creek, the No. 1 team in Class 6A in the state.

Cinco Ranch’s season came to a halt in the area round, as Cy-Creek ran away with a 67-29 win in their Class 6A area playoff on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Merrell Center, but it is a program heading in the right direction.

“We got better,” said senior guard Abby Bala, who scored a team-high 14 points to go with two steals. “My freshman and sophomore years, we didn’t make the playoffs at all. Junior year, we made it. This year, we made it to the second round. We just kept improving, and I don’t think you can ask for anything more than that.”

Cinco Ranch ended its season 13-7 overall in coach Tamara Collier’s first year at the helm. Cy-Creek, undefeated at 28-0, was simply too much, led by its senior backcourt of University of Texas signees Kyndall Hunter and Rori Harmon.

Hunter scored a game-high 23 points and drilled 10 of 18 shots to go with four steals. Harmon scored 17 points on 6-for-9 shooting to go with six rebounds, three assists and two steals.

“They’re tough,” Bala said. “They’re both going to UT, and you’ve just got to play hard and give it all you’ve got.”



Cinco Ranch senior guard Abby Bala (22), shown here in this January 2020 file photo, scored a team-high 14 points to go with four steals in the Cougars’ Class 6A area round playoff loss to Cy-Creek on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Merrell Center.

Cy-Creek forced 15 turnovers and outrebounded Cinco Ranch, 35-24. Cinco Ranch played hard and did not back down from its elite opponent despite Cy-Creek having the upper hand in size, talent and athleticism.

“We’ve got kids that fight and take on the challenge,” Collier said. “We came out flat at the beginning, and it became about who was going to have heart and fight. Regardless of how great of a team Cy-Creek is, our girls took that from all the girls.”

Bala played aggressively all game long, but surrounded by a core of inexperienced, raw talent,

she had little help. Junior Madison Mascorro and sophomore Dani Williams scored four points apiece. Aside from Bala, Cinco Ranch players were often reluctant to shoot against the speed and length of Cy-Creek’s defense.

Collier started just two seniors against Cy-Creek, Bala and forward Samara Simpson. Five sophomores played in the first half, when Cinco Ranch saw a seven-point deficit after the first quarter bloom into a 32-13 disadvantage at halftime.

Cinco Ranch never stopped hustling—Bala and Co. dove for many loose balls during the fourth quarter—but Cy-Creek generated

easier offense off its 14 steals. Sophomore Sofia Budnik led Cinco Ranch with eight rebounds. Mascorro added five rebounds.

“I love this team,” Bala said. “I love working with them. I wish I had another game with them, but I don’t. I’ll miss them, but they have a good future.”

Bala will play at Missouri Western State next year. She will go knowing she helped give her all in reviving Cinco Ranch’s program.

Bala saw growth in her perimeter shooting and leadership skills this season. It wasn’t an easy year, as she had to adjust to a slew of underclassmen and a new head coach with fewer games and practices due to COVID-19 issues, but she made the most of it.

“I learned so much, like talking the team up, picking others up,” Bala said. “Play hard. College is going to be a different level, so I learned how to compete better, harder.”

Collier said she wished she had more years with her star guard Bala, the leader of a departing senior class that includes Simpson, Mariann Garcia, Krystyna Podskarbi and Isabella Meyers.

“I love that kid,” Collier said. “She plays hard every day. She wanted someone to push her. I challenged her all the time, and she kept wanting more and more.”

The future is now the present for Collier and Cinco Ranch, a foundation and culture still waiting to be realized.

“Being able to push each other and getting these girls to play more year-round,” Collier said of what the team can build upon. “A lot of them don’t. Once this team starts holding each other accountable for how hard they need to work, I guarantee Cinco Ranch will be on the map.”

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

Falcons, Rams, Spartans fall in bi-district

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins fell behind 10 points after the first quarter and never recovered in losing its Class 6A boys basketball bi-district playoff game to Ridge Point, 71-58, at the Merrell Center on Feb. 20.

The slow start ultimately doomed the Falcons, who had seven turnovers in the first quarter. Ridge Point's lead reached as many as 22 points in the second quarter. The Falcons rallied back to close within 10 points with 5:39 left, but Ridge Point played keep-away successfully, milked clock and secured the win at the free throw line, making 10 of 12 in the final period.

Tompkins finished its season 13-10. Juniors B.B. Knight and Joel Oluokun led Tompkins with 11 points apiece. Junior Sean DuBose Jr. had eight points off the bench.

The Falcons graduate six seniors: Jason Resewehr, Kala Nakaya, Jackson Schulenberg, Merrill Tecson, Luke Weil and Gio Pierrot.

RAMS' FAST START SPOILED BY KNIGHTS

Mayde Creek got off to a fast start against Elkins in their Class 6A boys basketball bi-district playoff game on Feb. 20, but the Rams' momentum didn't last as the Knights rallied for a 66-37 win at Hopson Field House in Missouri City.

The Rams led 15-10 after the first quarter, but were held to 22 total points over the final three as Elkins won for the 16th time in 17 games. Mayde Creek finished its season 12-9.

Sophomore Angel Sonnier led the Rams with 15 points.



Mayde Creek senior guard Jermon Washington III (5), left, beats Fort Bend Elkins' Shane Bell (1) for a layup in their Class 6A bi-district playoff game on Saturday, Feb. 20, at Hopson Field House in Missouri City.

Of the seven total play-off appearances in 30-plus years of Mayde Creek basketball, three have come in the last three seasons under head coach Anthony Fobb.

The Rams graduate eight seniors: Josh Vane-gas, Joskar Diaz, Jermon Washington, Elijah Elder, Ammad Fondal, Ezekiel Eze, Sando Fahnbella and Brian Ortiz.



PRENTICE C. JAMES | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Seven Lakes senior guard Ashwin Nair (5) fires a 3-pointer during a Class 6A bi-district playoff game against Fort Bend Travis on Saturday, Feb. 20, at Hopson Field House in Missouri City.

SPARTANS FALL TO TIGERS

Seven Lakes lost to Fort Bend Travis, 76-46, in their Class 6A boys basketball bi-district playoff game on

Feb. 20 at Hopson Field House.

Senior guard Ashwin Nair led the Spartans with 15 points, all on 3-pointers.

The Spartans finished their season 13-7. Four of

five starters will return, including standout freshman guard A.J. Bates Jr.

Seven Lakes graduates two seniors from its rotation in Nair and forward Stennett Prior.

STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME

With news and sports coverage from the **Katy Times**

SUBSCRIBE TODAY FOR JUST \$35.00 per YEAR!

- Go to KatyTimes.com and click the SUBSCRIBE button in the top-right corner
- OR
- Call 281-391-3141
- OR
- Mail your name, address and payment to Katy Times, PO Box 678, Katy, Tx 77492-0678

Katy Optiks

Enhancing vision with style

701 S. Fry Rd. Ste. 125
Katy, TX 77450
281.492.1209
www.katyoptiks.com

NOW THERE ARE TWO STATIONS TO HEAR HOUSTON'S BEST SPORTS TALK RADIO

TUNE IN NEAREST YOU

ESPN HOUSTON ((97.5 FM)) **ESPN HOUSTON** ((92.5 FM))

PEARLAND PASADENA THE WOODLANDS BAYTOWN SUGAR LAND KATY CYPRESS WEST HOUSTON

JOHN GRANATO • LANCE ZIERLEIN
CHARLIE PALLILO • JOEL BLANK • JOSH INNES
FRED FAOUR • A. J. HOFFMAN

APEX EXECUTIVE SUITES

Contact: Ashley@apexexecutivesuites.com
Katy Main Number: 281.505.1106
www.apexexecutivesuites.com

EXECUTIVE SUITES

- Dedicated office space with 24/7 secure access, business address service, lounge, mail room & coffee bar
- Operational Business Hours staffed reception area Monday thru Friday 9 AM - 5 PM
- Community Manager to greet guests & inform you of their arrival
- Mailroom with copier, scanner, printer, fax machine
- Private furnished office single to team occupancy
- Notary Services
- Virtual Offices
- Conference and Meeting Room Rental
- Co-working spaces
- Day office
- Day pass

Katy location full service
Fulshear and Sugar Land virtual office services available now
Conroe location and services coming soon

Your productivity is your business. Your convenience is ours.

Katy Times CLASSIFIEDS

Your Classified Ad Source In Print & Online!

Call 281-391-3141
or visit www.katytimes.com
to place your ad today!



WORD AD RATE		DEADLINES	
\$14.00 per week for 15 words. Each additional word 54¢.	Display Ads Friday noon	Word Ads Monday noon	

620 HOUSES FOR SALE

2,000 SQ FT, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, fireplace, kitchen island, granite downstairs bar located in quiet neighborhood in Crystal Beach, Tx by School. For more information, call 936-488-1314.

February 18 Puzzle Answers

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

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given in accordance in terms and provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverages code that Venturas Restaurant has filed an application for wine and beer retailer's permit, food and beverages certificate. Said business to be conducted at 5205 S Mason Road #100, Katy, Texas 77450. Adela F Ventura, Owner

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

KATY TIMES CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL TODAY! 281-391-3141

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

IBMC HOSE

SEIMADAME

CTLAIRIMU

HELENA ROILING

ACETIC YUCATAN

THYSELF GUSTERA

MAMSNARESSR

OPECATARE

LASETLYESHIVA

ACANTHICHAASED

RESTARTTERMED

ARUIJLLP

BUSMEN NBE

PRISSYGYM

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

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

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 2972 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON FEBRUARY 08, 2021:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 12, ARTICLE 12.03 "TRAFFIC SCHEDULES" OF THE CITY OF KATY CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING SECTION 12.03.009 "SPECIAL HAZARD INTERSECTIONS CONTROLLED BY NO U-TURN SIGNS"; CREATING AND INCORPORATING A DESCRIPTION OF SUCH INTERSECTIONS RECORDED IN TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE INVENTORY - SCHEDULE VII ; ADDING TWO (2) TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES TO PROHIBIT U-TURNS AT A CROSSOVER INTERSECTION OF THE 1300 BLOCK OF PIN OAK ROAD; AUTHORIZING THE CITY SECRETARY TO PUBLISH ONLY THE CAPTION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$200 FOR A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the authority of Transportation Code Chapter 251, Subchapter E to consider the installation of No Thru Trucks Signs at the following location:

Kingsland Blvd. - "No Thru Trucks" from Jordan Ranch Blvd. to Peterson Road.

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

COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The County of Waller proposes to purchase the following items on competitive bid:

**COLD MIX ASPHALTIC PAVEMENT
CRUSHED LIMESTONE
HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE (HDPE) PIPE**

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., March 8, 2021 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. March 10, 2021, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on March 24, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.

A contract shall not be awarded to a bidder who is not the lowest dollar bidder meeting specifications unless, before the award, each lower bidder is given notice of the proposed award, and is given an opportunity to appear before the Commissioners' Court and present evidence concerning the lower bidder's responsibility.

Bid award shall be based on either unit price or lump sum as indicated on the BID SHEET.

Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County.

Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at www.co.waller.tx.us.

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EVERYTHING FOR THE HOME!

Golden Triangle HOME GARDEN SHOW

March 5-6-7

Ford Park Beaumont Texas

See a multitude of Home Improvement Professionals in 1 location!
GoldenTriangleHomeAndGardenShow.com

NEED EXTRA CASH !!! ???

I BUY RVs & MOBILE HOMES

Travel Trailers • 5th Wheels
Goosenecks • Bumper Pulls

In Any Area!!! Any Condition!!!
Old/New !!! Dirty or Clean !!!

I PAY CASH 956-466-7001
No Title - No Problem - We Can Apply For One
ANR Enterprises

THE Place to buy your new Boat or RV!

SouthEastTexas Boat, Sport & RV SHOW

March 5-6-7

Ford Park Beaumont Texas

See 50 Boat and RV Brands in 1 Location!
SouthEastTexasBoatRVShow.com

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of February 21, 2021

ACREAGE

Hunting/investment/recreational property. We have some of the best in Texas! From the Hill Country (Edwards, Menard, Coke, Val Verde County, free ranging exotics) to South Texas (Kinney, Duval, Live Oak County, whitetail, hogs). Large or small acreage. 30-year fixed rate owner financing, only 5% down. Call toll-free or email for individual prices and terms. www.ranchenterprisesltd.com, 800-876-9720.

AUCTIONS

Guns of Estate Auction - Feb. 27, 10 a.m., Wheeler County Show Barns. 50+ Guns: rifles, shotguns, handguns, ammo, 80 gun safe. See www.loydauction.com for info & pictures. See Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers on Facebook, Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers (806) 334-0407 (Lic. 7119), Cole Wilson Auctioneers (806) 662-5796 (Lic.17319).

Special Female Sale, Sat. Feb. 27, noon, Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Hallettsville, TX. Available to buy & bid online: LiveAuctions.TV 2.0, Margo Paeltz (937) 515-1194, Kim Hagan: (361) 293-4720, Mark Hagan: (361) 293-8116, Mike Heller: (361) 293-4949, David Heller: (979) 743-0436.

EVENTS

Southeast Texas Boat, Sport & RV Show, March 5-7, Ford Park, Beaumont, TX. See over 50 brands in 1 location! SETXBOATRVSHOW.COM.

Golden Triangle Home & Garden Show, March 5-6-7, Ford Park, Beaumont, TX. See a multitude of Home Improvement Professionals in 1 location! GoldenTriangleHomeAndGardenShow.com.

GENERATORS

GENERAC Standby Generators. The weather is increasingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. FREE 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Schedule your FREE in-home assessment today. Call 1-855-704-8579. Special financing for qualified customers.

INTERNET

AT&T Internet. Starting at \$40/month w/12-mo agmt. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Get More For Your High-Speed Internet Thing. Ask us how to bundle and SAVE! Geo & svc restrictions apply. Call us today 1-855-439-5457.

MAINTENANCE

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-815-5722.

MEDICAL

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

Life Alert. One press of a button sends help FAST, 24/7! At home and on the go. Mobile Pendant with GPS. FREE First Aid Kit (with subscription.) CALL 844-831-1525. FREE Brochure.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures. Call 1-855-901-0467 for details. www.dental50plus.com/txpress. 618-4219

WANTED

FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call (312) 291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com.

Need Extra Cash - I Buy RVs & Mobile Homes - Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition - Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title - No Problem, we can apply for one. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing At Their Special Meeting To Be Held Via Teleconference.

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2021

The City Council of the City of Katy will hold a special meeting on Monday, March 22, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., by teleconference* at 1-877-391-0239, Access Code: 874 8421 4280

The Hearing Is Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 621; Amending Ordinance No. 2915 "West Ten Business Park" Planned Development District; Amending Certain Requirements And Restrictions For Development Within The "West Ten Business Park" Planned Development District; Providing A Penalty Of \$2,000 For Each Day Of Violation Of Any Provision Of This Ordinance; Repealing All Ordinances Or Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; And Providing For Severability.

10 REALLY GOOD REASONS TO INVEST IN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

Katy Times

www.katytimes.com • 281-391-3141

- REACH:** Weekly & hyper-local single source advertising vehicle reaches more of your potential customers within your "Circle-of-Influence".
- QUALITY:** Your very best prospects are newspaper readers. They have higher levels of education, higher household incomes and higher value of their primary residence.
- TARGETED:** Focused hyper-local editorial content ensures loyal readership.
- IMMEDIATE:** One of the fastest forms of advertising. Short deadlines allow advertising messages to be created and delivered in a matter of days.
- FLEXIBILITY:** Advertising that fits the size of the business and the size of the event, with short deadlines.
- CREDIBILITY & TRUST:** Consumers trust newspapers and frequently seen ads create a level of implied trust. You purchase the trust the Newspaper has spent many years building.
- SELECTIVE NOT INTRUSIVE:** Today's shoppers are far less likely to accept advertising that is spooned out to them. Newspapers are the medium used most for shopping during an average week. (59% of Shoppers)
- ENVIRONMENT:** Readers trust the newspaper to regularly deliver relevant news and information. People still love to read their names of people they know, or see their pictures in the local newspaper.
- RELIED UPON:** Newspaper advertising is a valuable commodity to consumers. Newspapers outdistanced other media in terms of: shopping plans, comparing prices.
- RESULTS:** Consistent newspaper campaigns have been very effective in building Brand recognition, delivering Merchandising messages and motivating customers with attractive "Call-to-Action" limited opportunities.

Texas Press Statewide Classified Network
273 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads
Start At \$250 • Email ads@texaspress.com

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

SPORTS

PANTHERS

from page B1

"I'm a senior and I didn't want to go home," Marlatt said. "That's the goal, to keep playing, and when it comes to that, you've got to do what you've got to do to help your team win and put yourself in the best position to keep going."

Marlatt put actions to words as he scored all of his team-high 10 points in the second half to help the Panthers escape pesky Weiss, 49-43, on Tuesday, Feb. 23, and advance to the regional quarterfinals for the first time in program history.

Paetow improved to 21-1 and overcame a sluggish first half to outlast the Wolves (16-6). Paetow plays the Kingwood Park-Austin McCallum winner in the third round.

"We have a lot of heart," said Marlatt, who added five rebounds and hit three big free throws in the closing minute. "We were down at halftime, not playing well, and we didn't get down on ourselves. We came back out, heads up, ready to go."

In a game where points were at a premium, Paetow compiled 10 team fouls, leading to six Weiss points from the free-throw line, and seven turnovers in the first half. The Panthers were sloppy defensively, with a lot of reaching and grabbing, and got nothing toward the rim offensively in the first two quarters. Four of their eight field goals were 3-pointers.

Still, there was little cause for concern. "Coach told us we were fine," junior center Charles Chukwu said of the halftime talk. "We just had to take care of the ball better and be a little bit more disciplined defensively."

The Panthers' energy and effort were considerably better in the second half. Defensively, the pushing and pulling stopped. Offensively, buckets were easier to come by thanks to improved ball movement and attacking off the dribble.

It was an effort inspired by Marlatt, who scored five points in the third quarter.

"He's so coachable that he takes what we say at halftime and just runs with it," coach Michael Niemi said. "He just wants to win. He's a competitor. He found his shot, he got to the rim, that spurred his defense. He made some shots and settled in."



DENNIS SILVA II

Paetow senior wing Everett Marlatt scored a team-high 10 points, all in the second half, to go with five rebounds in the Panthers' Class 5A area playoff win over Pflugerville Weiss on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at A&M Consolidated High School in College Station.

Paetow got out in transition more as well. In their halfcourt offense, after Weiss countered Paetow's high-post attack by sending more help, the Panthers went more to their wings, who sliced through open gaps with dribble penetration and opened up the floor more.

But it was defense that made the difference. The Panthers forced 10 turnovers and the Wolves attempted just four free throws in the second half after parading to the foul line early on.

"We've been preaching discipline defensively all year, and we picked it up in the second half," Niemi said. "They wouldn't let us turn them over as much as we'd normally like so we can get out in transition, so we needed to sit down defensively and not let them get to the rim so easily and contest shots. We did that in the second half."

Marlatt was the only Panther in double-figure scoring, but junior guard Trevor Frank scored nine points on 3-for-4 3-point shooting, senior guard Jayden McCullough added an explosive nine points and three steals off the bench, and Chukwu finished with a powerful nine points and 12 rebounds.

Senior guard Khi Watkins added six points and three rebounds.

"It's huge for our program," Niemi said. "We get beat by Manor in the area round last year, come back and beat another Austin area team to get to the quarterfinals. For the program as a whole, it means we're moving forward. These guys are hungry, and you can tell in practice and shootarounds with their intensity and level of focus. They never think they're going home after the next game."

SMITH

from page A1

More than 700 girls and boys basketball players were nominated to the teams, which honor the best talent from around the country. Smith is one of 21 players from the Houston area named as a nominee.

The final 48-player rosters were announced Tuesday, Feb. 23. Only two Houston area players made the final teams, Cy-Creek High's Rori Harmon and Kyndall Hunter.

"While we're disappointed we can't hold in-person games this year, that does not take away from the accomplishments of this class and they will forever be a part of the legendary group of past and present McDonald's All Americans," selection committee chairman Joe Wootten said in a statement.

Smith is averaging 12.3 points, 3.3 assists, 3.0 rebounds and 2.5 steals for the No. 14 state-ranked Falcons, who are 19-3 and in the regional quarterfinals of the playoffs for the first time since 2015-16.

"I saw the post on Instagram," Smith said. "I wasn't thinking I was going to be on it, but as I read all the names, I saw mine and immediately dropped my phone. I texted my mom and she congratulated me and said how proud

she was of me. That meant the most, just seeing all the hard work behind the scenes come to light."

Tompkins coach Tamatha Ray is effusive in praise of her star guard.

"I don't know if I have enough words," Ray said. "The kid just wants to play ball. She is constantly putting in the work, and not just going to the gym and shooting. She is working. Before practice, after practice ... she's that gym rat, but she comes in with an objective and doesn't leave until she checks that box. She puts in the hours, the touches, and that's why her game has improved year after year. Some players plateau after their junior year. Not her. She doesn't quit working."

Smith is the program's all-time leader in career points. The two-way point guard is a signee to Tarleton State University.

"This is something I've always dreamed about and was a goal that I didn't tell anyone but my trainer," Smith said. "Just seeing my name on the list was like watching a dream come true and was just one of the ways of showing the people who have poured into me along the way that it was worth it."

The 21 Houston area players named as nominees:

Joshua Fanuiel, Fort Bend Elkins High School, Missouri City
Noah Kon, Houston Christian High School, Houston
Edgar Romero, Strake Jesuit College

Prep, Houston
Kaleb Stewart, Atascocita High School, Humble
Raven Adams, Ridge Point High School, Missouri City
Gia Adams, Jersey Village High School, Houston
Amani Bartlett, Houston Christian High School, Houston
Alexis Clayborne, Clear Falls High School, League City
Aleiyah Fontenot, Ridge Point High School, Missouri City
Tori Garza, New Caney High School, New Caney
Payton Gorgan, Westside High School, Houston
Rori Harmon, Cypress Creek High School, Houston
Kyndall Hunter, Cypress Creek High School, Houston
Jada Malone, The Village School, Houston
Adaora Nwokeji, Summer Creek High School, Houston
Briana Peguero, Jersey Village High School, Houston
Kaley Perkins, Langham Creek High School, Houston
Shanna Petty, Westside High School, Houston
Crystal Smith, OD Tompkins High School, Katy
Bre'yon White, Shadow Creek High School, Pearland
Kaiya Wynn, Foster High School, Richmond

H.S. SOCCER STANDINGS THROUGH FEB. 24

DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT				OVERALL		
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE
Cinco Ranch	6	1	0	18	10	1	0
Seven Lakes	5	1	0	15	12	1	0
Taylor	4	2	1	13	5	4	1
Tompkins	4	2	1	13	6	3	1
Morton Ranch	2	5	0	6	4	5	1
Katy	1	6	0	3	2	8	2
Mayde Creek	1	6	0	3	4	8	1

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

GIRLS

	DISTRICT				OVERALL		
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE
Seven Lakes	6	0	0	18	12	1	0
Tompkins	6	1	0	18	10	3	1
Taylor	2	3	2	8	9	4	2
Katy	2	3	2	8	5	5	4
Cinco Ranch	1	4	2	5	3	5	3
Mayde Creek	1	4	2	5	7	5	2
Morton Ranch	1	4	2	5	4	5	2

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

DISTRICT 19-5A

	DISTRICT				OVERALL		
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE
Paetow	5	0	1	16	10	2	5

x-clinched district title
y-clinched playoff berth

GIRLS

	DISTRICT				OVERALL		
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE
Paetow	2	3	1	7	4	5	2

x-clinched district title
y-clinched playoff berth

NOTEBOOK

from page B1

interruptions created by the winter storm. The girls basketball championship games will now be played March 10-11 at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Playoff round certification deadlines were also changed to allow all games to be played. The UIL also rescheduled the UIL girls state swimming and diving championships to March 1-2. The boys state swimming and diving championships are still scheduled for Feb. 26-27. ... Seven Lakes is ranked No. 6 in this week's Texas Girls Coaches Association Class 6A state soccer rankings. The Spartans are 12-1-0 overall.

(The weekly sports notebook highlights notes and news that occurred in the Katy area within the last week. To submit a news item, email dennis.silva@katytimes.com or message on Twitter @densilva2).

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

CLEANING

Signature CLEANING CONCEPTS
(713)295-0413
https://www.signaturecleaningconcepts.com

ELECTROSTATIC DISINFECTING
Stop the spread of COVID-19 and other germs

- Maintaining a high level of cleanliness is vital to the safety of your facility
- Unlike other commercial cleaning services, we are equipped with the right tools to stop the spread of disease. We use advanced technology to effectively and efficiently clean even the most hard-to-reach surfaces.

CPA

AFFORDABLE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES
MOBILE SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

LORETTA L. HIGGINS, PH.D., CPA
832.710.2780

EFILE SERVICES, PAST TAX RETURN FILING,
TAX REFUND ADVANCE LOANS FOR SELECT CLIENTS

SCAN ME

YOUR AD HERE

THIS SPACE JUST \$20.00 per week!

For more information, contact Debbie Prejean
281-391-3141
debbie.prejean@katytimes.com

Katy Times

POOL SERVICE

Call Today for a free POOL QUOTE!

BB Brosi Brothers POOL SERVICE

BEST of KATY 2020

Kevin Ambrosi | 832.812.8274

#1 Pool Service in the 2020 Best of Katy contest!

WINDOW CLEANING

KTX Window Cleaning, LLC

BEST of KATY 2020

SCHEDULE A FREE ESTIMATE
www.ktxwindowcleaning.com

Katy ISD well-represented at state meets

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD qualified five regional champions and eight relay teams to the UIL state swimming and diving championships at the Bill Walker Pool and Josh Davis Natatorium in San Antonio. The boys compete Feb. 26-27 and the girls compete March 1-2.

Here are the state qualifiers by school. Regional champions, and the events that they won, are in bold type:

>> Cinco Ranch: junior Brandon Guo (100-yard freestyle, 46.18); boys 200-yard freestyle relay (1:24.35); boys 400-yard freestyle relay (3:08.69).

>> Jordan: **freshman Kaeli White (500-yard freestyle, 5:04.39).**

>> Paetow: sophomore Kaleb Velazquez (diving, 353.95 points).

>> Seven Lakes: **sophomore Kailey Koval (diving, 396 points);** senior Maddie Welborn (200-yard freestyle, 1:49.20; 100-yard freestyle, 50.98); junior Grace-Lyn Cox (100-yard breaststroke, 1:04.83); girls 200-yard medley relay (1:47.52); senior Justin Liao (100-yard breaststroke, 57.47).

>> Taylor: **senior Abbie Alvarez (200-yard individual medley, 2:05.28; 100-yard butterfly, 55.06); senior Rox-**



Taylor's girls swimming team won its third consecutive regional championship two weeks ago and looks to best last season's fourth-place standing at the UIL state championships.

RYAN DUNSMORE | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

ana Nolte (500-yard freestyle, 5:00.01); girls 400-yard freestyle relay (3:32.28); girls 200-yard freestyle relay (1:37.77); sophomore Mariana Diaz Ponce (100-yard breaststroke, 1:04.90); senior Amy

Evans (100-yard breaststroke, 1:04.97); girls 200-yard medley relay (1:46.71); sophomore Logan Pack (50-yard freestyle, 21.12); boys' 200-yard medley relay (1:34.59).

>> Tompkins: **junior Matthew Aigner (diving, 435.50 points);** boys 200-yard medley relay (1:34.43); senior Drew Ladner (50-yard freestyle, 21.10; 100-yard freestyle, 46.10).

WELBORN

from page B1

The races Welborn swims are "not fun at all," Beck said. Still, she thrives.

"I love challenges," Welborn said. "I'm always trying to tell myself I can always do better. Every time I get in the pool, I'm always trying to improve on something."

Welborn is mentally tough. She "embraces the suck and she goes for it," Beck said.

"A few weeks ago, we were doing sprint sets and I put up times of where I want them to be," he said. "She was like, 'I can't do this.' So, I said, 'If you do this, we can end practice,' and she ended up going the time she said she couldn't do. That's just the mentality. She's going to work and push."

During the devastating winter storm that plagued the area last week, Welborn still found a way to swim. She drove to a neighborhood outdoor heated pool and practiced. She did not practice Monday, when it snowed, or Tuesday, when roads were iced and her mom forbade her from driving, but she practiced Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in near-freezing temperatures.

"It's about my goals," Welborn said. "Whatever I'm trying to go for, I know it's going to pay off at the end of the season. State or any meet, I know whatever work I put in at the pool will show."

Welborn focuses more now on swimming her own race instead of concerning herself with how



Seven Lakes senior Maddie Welborn talks with coach Jordan Beck about her practice workout during a morning session Saturday, Feb. 20, at Cinco Ranch High School.

DENNIS SILVA II

fast competitors are going. That's been a significant change in her approach.

She's also learned to pace herself better. Before, she was scared to get out too fast in the 200 free-

style. But now she knows she has to if she wants to stay with leaders of the pack. It's why she's improved on her time in the 200, swimming a 1:49.20 at regionals this year op-

posed to her eighth-place time of 1:50.45 at state as a junior last year.

"I really want to medal this year since it's my senior year," Welborn said. "But going for a best

time would also be good. I really want to see what I can do."

For the 16th consecutive year, and 15th under Beck, Seven Lakes is sending a qualifier to the state championships. Welborn will join junior teammate Gracelyn Cox, senior Justin Liao, the girls 200-yard medley relay, and sophomore diver Kailey Koval in the Alamo City.

It's a considerable accomplishment reflective of the culture established. The program is built upon trust and leaders, Beck said.

"It's the kids buying into the culture," he said. "They know what's come in the past and they want to keep building on what's been built. We have a ton of kids who come back to the program all the time and are still invested, and it helps carry on to the new groups because they don't want to be the ones to slow us down."

More importantly, kids feel like they're part of a family when they join the Spartans' program. That fosters openness and work ethic. It's partly why Welborn ultimately found her comfort zone.

"It's a really positive culture for a high school team," Welborn said. "I've heard of a lot of bad experiences for just high school sports in general. It can kind of be negative. But this is a positive, driving culture that tries to make everyone around us better. I enjoy it. It's nice to see the girls who swam here and what they're doing in college and know that if I work hard, I could be doing the same thing in a couple of years at that same level."

KOVAL

from page B1

year, I was sitting in fourth or fifth place, and I made up my mind then that I wanted to keep going with this."

Now she hopes to compete in college.

"This is my passion," Koval said.

Kinzbach credits his pupil's rapid ascension in the sport to how much she puts into it.

"She's just a super, super strong girl, and she works her butt off," he said. "She comes to practice with me for two hours and then she goes to her club practice for another two hours. So, she puts a lot of time and dedication into it."

Koval has learned to harness her strength. It's why she went from a top-five finish at regionals last year to champion this year.

"She's a strong, muscular individual. With her being new to diving, that can sometimes make it more difficult because you're doing things wrong, but you're doing those wrong things stronger and more exaggerated, if that makes sense," Kinzbach said. "She's started to fine-tune all those small little details a lot more, and now she's able to jump higher, spin faster. The fact that this is only her second year diving, ever, is insane."

Koval is enamored with the flight of diving. She also sees it as a platform for creative expression. She scoffs at the notion that many people think diving is swimming. They're two completely different sports, and, she believes, one has more personality than the other.

"It's the fact that it's just so much like gymnastics, but has its own type of individuality," Koval said of diving. "I love aerodynamics and trying to defy gravity in ridiculous ways. The way you can technically fly and do tricks if you produce enough power. You can amaze so many people and maybe even inspire others."

Eventually, Kinzbach sees Koval being able to do a "reverse 2 1/2" by her senior year, which is rare and only accomplished by the best of divers because of how difficult of a position it is. A reverse 1 1/2, for instance, is standard.

But Koval's strength is remarkable, and it's because of her physical gifts that Kinzbach thinks Koval has the potential to do things few high school divers are able to do.

And though Kinzbach believes a top-eight finish at state is attainable for Koval, it's just as important for her to see where she stands among the best of the best and experience what will be needed to get better in the future.

"I definitely want to do my personal best, but also get in the top 10," Koval said. "I want to know where I'm at, but I want to do my best and get in the top. I'm excited. I get to be with all these amazing athletes, and it's like, 'Holy moly.' It'll be a learning experience and I need to get to where I'm the best, too. I push myself every day to get there. Seeing that competition helps me grow as a diver, and that's where the state meet is going to be really good for me."

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
855-621-0448

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid February 15 - May 2, 2021

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.





Sunny's

GRAND PARKWAY
SELF STORAGE

SECURE ~ SAFE ~ CLEAN

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED.
WHERE WE TREAT YOU LIKE FAMILY.

1555 W. Grand Pkwy N., Katy, TX 77493 ~ 281.395.3449



www.selfstorageinkaty.com • sunnysselfstorage@gmail.com

1 MONTH FREE

Must be paid in Advance – with Coupon. New move-ins only. One coupon per customer/party. Not valid with any other offer. Subject to availability. Restrictions apply. Call for details.

2 MONTHS FREE

Must be paid in Advance – with Coupon. New move-ins only. One coupon per customer/party. Not valid with any other offer. Subject to availability. Restrictions apply. Call for details.