

SEVEN LAKES STAR
ALLY BATENHORST
NAMED GATORADE
TEXAS PLAYER OF
THE YEAR

SPORTS | B1

Katy Times



VOLUME 109, ISSUE 19

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

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021



PHOTOS BY R. HANS MILLER

This three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home in Katy had a list price of \$260,000 on HAR.com as of May 11. The roughly 2,100-square-foot home was appraised for about \$174,000 in 2018; and \$191,000 in both 2019 and 2020. Like many other homes, the market value has gone up due to changes in preferences driving high demand in the housing market in the Katy area and Greater Houston overall.

Katy area real estate presents challenging market for buyers

Pandemic, low rates push home-buying frenzy

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Homebuyers continue to seek out homes zoned to Katy ISD schools, but according to realtor Christi Borden of Better Homes and Gardens Gary Greene, homeowners are also seeking to move to the Katy area because of lifestyle preference changes caused by the COVID-9 pandemic.

"I (had clients close in late March) that had a really nice condo in east downtown (Houston) but you realize when all the cute walkability places you had for moving into the Heights and all those places where everybody wants to live — when those are all shut down (because of COVID-19) that your small space that you bought because you never planned to be indoors (no longer work for you)," Borden said.

As a result, homes in Greater Houston, especially in good school districts like Katy ISD, have seen

increasing demand since the pandemic started, Borden said. Katy area homes don't last long, Borden said, saying she estimates the market had, at times, about one month of inventory or even slightly less than that.

Months of inventory is a measurement that considers the number of homes available on the market and the average time it takes to sell that many homes, among other factors.

Borden said she has seen her clients make eight or nine offers on different homes, only to be outbid as homes go for \$15,000 or more over listing price. In many cases, she said, since home loans are based on appraised value, buyers are having to come to the negotiating table with a larger down payment to make up the difference between the amount they're approved for mortgages and the asking price of the property to be competitive.

"Sellers don't care about the bank valuation," Borden said. "They care about what a ready, willing and able buyer is willing to pay for the home. So, you may need to have enough cash on hand to bridge that delta between the bank's appraisal and what you have to offer to pay for it."

Bill Lacy, a senior mortgage orig-

inator with Independent Mortgage, confirmed Borden's assessment. He said that, over the last year, he's seen many home buyers have to bring more money to the table to close on a home purchase.

Lacy said that's a change from the year before the pandemic from about March 2019 to March 2020.

"I was fairly busy," Lacy said. "Interest rates were — at the time — at historic lows. Those were mid-threes and people were looking for houses and could find interest rates that were reasonable and loan programs were out there to meet most everyone's needs."

However, he said, as the pandemic has moved on, interest rates have gone even lower than prior to lockdowns in the late spring of 2020 as people were stuck at home.

"It was a normal market and everybody wasn't trying to get mortgage loans at the same time," Lacy said. "So it was just a regular good old mortgage market."

He said clients have told him that, once stay home executive orders were in effect, clients began seeing the faults in their homes and started

See **REAL ESTATE**, page A3

Pattison applies for grants, plans community cleanup events

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

During their May meeting, Pattison City Council heard an update from GrantWorks, the city's grants consultant, regarding the city's applications for Community Development Block Grant funds. Council members also heard an update from Mayor Joe Garcia regarding three upcoming community cleanup events.

"We welcome anyone that wants to come out and help (at those events)," Garcia said.

The first event is scheduled for this Saturday, May 15 and will allow the community to pitch in and help clean up the area near Bell Bottom Creek, Garcia said.

He added that he has reached out to the Reserve Officers Training Corps group at Royal ISD to ask for their assistance in coordinating the event. Cleanup operations will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. he said and volunteers are still needed to help pick up trash and debris in the area.

Garcia said he is hoping

See **PATTISON**, page A3



PATTISON MAYOR
JOE GARCIA

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

5 Texas-sized issues Katy residents should know about

BY GARY BORDERS
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

'Constitutional carry' bill close to becoming law

It is a near certainty that Texans will be allowed to carry handguns without a license soon as House Bill 1927 passed both chambers and heads to a conference committee to hash out amendments added in the Senate version.

Gov. Greg Abbott has said he would sign the bill, which means Texans would no longer be required to obtain a license to carry a handgun either openly or concealed.

Ultimate passage of the bill means Texas would join at least 20 other states with similar laws.

A University of Texas/Tex-



FILE PHOTO

as Tribune poll indicates most Texans oppose unlicensed carry and support criminal and mental background checks before all gun sales.

Drought conditions continue to improve across state

Much-needed rain in April has continued to ease drought conditions, according to the Texas Water Development Board.

Midland, for example, received 2.2 inches last month, more than the previous six months combined. Right now, 65% of the state is experiencing drought conditions, mainly in South and West Texas.

See **CAPITAL**, page A3

HAVE A NEWS TIP?

news@katytimes.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

281-391-3141



May 13, 2021
2 SECTIONS
12 pages | \$1

MET, Inc. works to help young dads flourish

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Marie Jones has been working with fathers in the Waller and Austin counties communities for the last three years to help them become better dads through MET, Inc.'s Fatherhood Program. The program offers dads with children up to 24 years old a chance to learn parenting, job and life skills.

"These guys do have a voice and they need to know that," Jones said.

The program is 12 sessions long and offers fathers a variety of resources to help them set up good relationships with their children, Jones said. The tools offered to men Jones works with include referrals to pro-bono attorneys to help establish custody orders, free job training opportunities, parenting classes, anger management and financial literacy. Each 1-2-hour, in-person training session allows them to network



COURTESY MET, INC.

MET, Inc.'s Fatherhood Program provides assistance to fathers with children up to age 24. In addition to job skills training, the men learn ways to interact and engage with their children in a positive manner.

with one another, discuss issues in their lives with an understanding group of people and an opportunity to learn how to engage

positively with their children.

"You know, you think you're hanging out with them in front of the TV, playing a game, and that's

great if you're playing games with them," Jones said she tells fathers. "But if you're sitting there while they're playing games, and you're (playing with your phone) ... you're not engaged with your children."

Jones said that, while she coordinates the program for her two counties, the program is also available to Harris County residents.

Jones said she understands that many of the men she works with have been dealt challenges in their lives that make things difficult as fathers. Many of them didn't have positive male role models in their lives or faced difficulties as single fathers in a system she feels favors mothers over fathers, sometimes unjustly. However, she said, if the dads work hard and apply themselves, they can be good fathers that provide positive examples, advocacy and support for their own children in ways that they were

See **DADS**, page A3

Leading Orthopedic Care to
KEEP YOU MOVING

HOUSTON
Methodist
ORTHOPEDICS &
SPORTS MEDICINE



OFFICIAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Schedule an appointment:
houstonmethodist.org/orthopedics
832.522.8280



Billboards herald it's hurricane prep time

Weather experts predict another busy storm season

On Friday, May 7, Fort Bend County Judge KP George and the Fort Bend County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management along with Clear Channel Outdoor launched the 2021 Countdown to Hurricane Season digital billboards.

"Hurricane awareness and preparation can reduce the impact of hurricane disasters. I urge all of you to take action and plan accordingly to protect your families, your property, and save lives," George said at a press conference revealing the billboards.

A total of 10 digital billboards will display the countdown from the start of the hurricane season on June 1 through the end of hurricane season on Nov. 30. The billboards are part of an annual preparedness campaign that serves as a reminder for area residents to take proper precautions and have a hurricane preparedness checklist on hand in case of a disaster.

Clear Channel Outdoor is providing the billboards at no charge to Fort Bend County.

More information regarding how to prepare for hurricane season may be found on Fort Bend County's Office of Emergency Management website at www.fbcoem.org.

"It is predicted that we will have another busy hurricane season. Our weather experts estimated that 17 named storms, eight hurricanes, and four major hurricanes will develop this year," George said.

HARRIS CO. PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE



HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A Harris County Sheriff's Office deputy leads a horse with an empty saddle and boots backward in the stirrups in honor of law HCSO officers that lost their lives in the line of duty during the 2021 Harris County Peace Officers' Memorial Service at Crime Stoppers of Houston headquarters. The annual event was held May 6 and included comments from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez.

Katy area Kroger robbed; authorities seek assistance locating suspects

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office reports that on Friday, May 7 at about noon, officers responded to a robbery of the Kroger grocery store at 1550 W. Grand Pkwy S. in the Katy area. Kroger staff reported a man wearing a face mask had come in and demanded money or he would "shoot up the place."

Employees complied with the suspect's demands and the suspect fled the store with an undisclosed amount of cash. Investigators believe two men were involved in the robbery. The first suspect is described as a male wearing a dark hoodie and black facemask. The second suspect is a male wearing a dark jacket,



Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office investigators are searching for the two men pictured above in association with a robbery at a Kroger store in the Katy area. The man on the left is accused of entering the store, threatening to "shoot up the place" and leaving with an undisclosed amount of cash, accompanied by the man on the right.

fluorescent traffic vest, white shirt and dark jeans. Both suspects left the scene in a blue four-door car.

Anyone with information regarding the robbery or how to locate the suspects should call Fort Bend County Crime Stoppers at (281) 342-8477. All calls to Crime

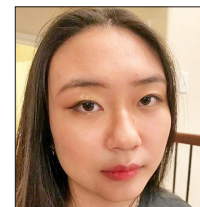
Stoppers are anonymous. Tips may also be submitted online at <http://www.fortbend.crimestoppersweb.com/>.

Information that leads to the apprehension and filing of charges on the suspects could earn up to a \$5,000 cash reward.

Katy ISD student earns scholarship

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP has announced that Avery Wang, a senior at Cinco Ranch High School, has been named as one of 40 recipients for its 2021 dependents' scholarships. Scholarships are offered to the dependents of employees who are seeking higher education.



AVERY WANG

"Part of our company's vision is to be the employer and neighbor of choice across the many communities where we operate," said Bryce Hallowell, public affairs manager. "A critical component of executing on this vision is to support educational pursuits of exceptional students from the many parents and guardians who make our company a great place to work. It is an honor for us to support scores of new bright minds every year."

Wang is the daughter of Kung Shung Wang, a senior process control engineer at Chevron Phillips Chemical's Cedar Bayou Plant in Baytown. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin to study physics and is currently involved in yearbook, Journalism Honor Society, Key Club, the Taiwanese Youth Society and is a National Merit Finalist.

Wang won the scholarship after a thorough review of her academic records and an assessment of her leadership skills and participation in school and community activities. Those include special honors, work experience, goals and aspirations, personal or family circumstances, as well as recommendations from advisers, teachers or employers.

Katy Optiks
Enhancing vision with style
701 S. Fry Rd. Ste. 125
Katy, TX 77450
281.492.1209
www.katyoptiks.com

Welcome back Katy!

KATY MARKET DAY

May 15TH
10-4pm
65 vendors,
Food trucks
Downtown
Shops open

Second St

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN KATY

Masks when social distancing is not possible.
Katymarketday.com

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

to vote for your favorite local business in

VOTE TODAY - VOTING CLOSSES May 17th

Cast your ballot at katytimes.com to honor Katy's most outstanding companies

Katy Times

281-391-3141

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Large, flightless birds
- Lifts and moves heavy objects
- Hyundai sedan
- Wear away by erosion
- Arranged alphabetically
- Top prosecutor
- ___-de-sac: Short dead-end street
- Digital audiotape
- Linguistics pioneer
- Singer DiFranco
- Arms of the sea
- Near-reach weapon (abbr.)
- Ballplayer's accessory
- You get one at the beach
- U.S. founding father
- W. Australia indigenous people
- Amounts of time
- Put on the shelf
- Russian dynasty member
- City along the Elbe River
- A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf
- Actor Damon
- ___ King Cole, musician
- Company that rings receipts
- Scatter
- Basics
- Part of a door
- Indicates silence
- Moved quickly on foot
- Monetary units
- A place to crash
- Many subconsciouses
- Group of countries
- About line of latitude
- Female follower of Bacchus
- A dentist can treat it
- Dull brown fabrics
- Int'l nonprofit

CLUES DOWN

- Midway between northeast and east
- Partner to cheese
- One from Utah
- A way to move
- Playing cards
- Baseball stat
- Long river in western Asia
- Grandmothers
- Entertainment legend Sullivan
- Steam bath room
- One who kills
- Food
- Swiss river
- Fleet
- Taxi
- Working class
- More (Spanish)
- High schoolers' test
- Large heavily built goat antelope
- Murdered in his bathtub
- Tease good-naturedly
- Morsel
- Cause persistent resentment
- A radioactive element
- Perform in a play
- Witty remark: Bon ___
- A great place to kayak
- Conclude by reasoning
- In an unfavorable way
- Complex of nerve tissues (abbr.)
- Machine for making paper
- Feline
- Yugo's hatchback
- Check
- Press against lightly
- Wind-pollinated plants
- ___compoop
- Commercial

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

REAL ESTATE

from page A1

looking to upgrade, especially as they looked to take advantage of further reduced interest rates over the last year or so. Compared to the year before COVID-19, things have changed, Lacy said.

“Back then, during that (2019-21) window, you could look at several houses and talk to realtors ...,” Lacy said. “There was an abundance of houses on the market that were in good shape. You could make a good offer and negotiate with somebody and it wasn’t a buyers’ market; it wasn’t a seller’s market – it was a balanced market.”

During the pandemic, both Borden and Lacy said they saw things shift to a definite seller’s market. Homes, Borden said, have often gone for more than the appraised value in a very competitive market with more than one offer being the norm.

Data from the Houston Association of Realtors shows a definite increase in demand for new houses. In April of 2020, Greater Houston had 3.5 months of housing inventory. As of April 2021, the most recent month for which data is available, Greater Houston had 1.4 months of inventory. During those same months, average single-family sales prices



2018 APPRAISED VALUE: \$138,000
2019 APPRAISED VALUE: \$152,000
2020 APPRAISED VALUE: \$163,000
2021 LIST PRICE (AS OF MAY 11): \$240,000



2018 APPRAISED VALUE: \$178,000
2019 APPRAISED VALUE: \$184,000
2020 APPRAISED VALUE: \$198,000
2021 LIST PRICE (AS OF MAY 11): \$245,000

Note: Appraised values are rounded to the nearest \$1,000.
SOURCE: HOUSTON ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

CATEGORIES	MAR 2020	MAR 2021	CHANGE
TOTAL PROPERTY SALES	8,894	11,692	31.5%
TOTAL DOLLAR VOLUME	\$2,603,914,927	\$4,055,801,250	55.8%
TOTAL ACTIVE LISTINGS	39,777	22,602	-43.2%
SINGLE-FAMILY HOME SALES	7,511	9,347	24.4%
SINGLE-FAMILY AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$309,356	\$370,847	19.9%
SINGLE-FAMILY MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$249,900	\$290,000	16.0%
SINGLE-FAMILY MONTHS INVENTORY*	3.4	1.4	-2.0 mos.
SINGLE-FAMILY PENDING SALES	6,942	11,182	61.1%

* Months inventory estimates the number of months it will take to deplete current active inventory based on the prior 12 months sales activity. This figure is representative of the single-family homes market.

SOURCE: HOUSTON ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, homebuyers have been looking to increase space in their homes as they’ve been forced to spend more time at home and the lifestyles and social aspects pull people toward suburban areas around Greater Houston, including Katy. Months of inventory have gone down significantly and homes continue to fly off the proverbial shelves, experts say. The two Katy-area homes above are examples of this trend.

rose from about \$310,000 to roughly \$371,000 across Greater Houston.

“I know some buyers that aren’t trusting the realtors

when we tell them if there’s multiple offers, this home is probably going to sell over list. If the buyer is still trying to get a deal, that’s an ill-in-

formed buyer,” Borden said. “That is a buyer who does not trust what they’re being told and that buyer will continue to lose (bidding wars).”

PATTISON

from page A1

that the event will grant the city recognition with the Trash Free Texas Program. The statewide program is designed to help fight roadside litter along roadways across the state which costs taxpayers in Texas millions of dollars a year to clean up.

The second event – a hazardous household waste cleanup day – is scheduled for May 22 at the Pattison Volunteer Fire Department, according to a brochure provided by the city.

The event is funded through a grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will allow Pattison and Waller County residents to turn in household hazardous waste at the Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Department at 2950 FM 359 in Pattison, Garcia said. The event runs from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or until the capacity of the available receptacles is reached.

Tires, electronics, household chemicals and cleaners, aerosols, camp stove propane bottles, fluorescent

light bulbs, paint and similar chemical products (limit 25 gallons per home), household batteries, used oil filters and vehicle fluids, pool chemicals and lawn and garden chemicals may all be turned in at the event.

Industrial, commercial and business waste will not be accepted at the event, nor will TVs, computer monitors, copy machines, water or fire-damaged electronics, dioxins, tractor tires, explosives, ammunition, smoke alarms, medical waste, gas or propane cylinders or general trash.

The final cleanup event will be held June 12 in cooperation with Allegiance Bank in Brookshire, Garcia said. Final details for the location and time of the event are pending and Garcia said he expects them to be finalized later this month.

City Council also authorized Garcia to negotiate an agreement for animal control services through the Waller County Sheriff’s Office. Such an agreement would have the city paying

WCSO for the service in conjunction with other Waller County towns that wanted to join in the measure. Such a contract would need to be approved by city council, once negotiated.

Evan Humphries with GrantWorks updated the council on the status of the city’s CDBG application. If approved, the grant funding through the Texas Agriculture Commission would allow the city to upgrade water service to about 40 current residents and would improve 3,100 feet of water lines throughout the city and add 10 fire hydrants to the city, improving safety, she said. If approved, the grant application would allow work to start in the fourth quarter of this year. The application was submitted the afternoon of April 30.

“With everyone’s wonderful help and assistance, we were able to submit it on (that day) at about 3 p.m. So, we got it in early. We had no technical issues and there was no problem to report,” Humphries said.

CAPITAL

from page A1

More rainfall in early May should improve the drought situation even more, according to TWDB.

Oak trees still recovering from winter storm

Winter Storm Uri didn’t just wreak havoc on homeowners and businesses that suffered from broken pipes and the extended power outage. The Texas A&M Forest Service notes that oak trees across the state are slow in leafing out, prompting many property owners to contact horticulturists, worried their trees have died.

Maybe so, maybe not, says veteran TFS forester Courtney Blevins. He advises property owners to wait before taking down an oak tree that still might come to life. “I think most of the oaks are going to come through okay,” Blevins said. “If your tree is leafing out really late, it’s obviously stressed. But most trees die from a combination of stressors, not just one thing.”

Blevins and longtime horticulturist and syndicated columnist Neil Sperry both say there is no hurry to take down an oak tree, even if it is actually dead. The best time to plant is in the fall or early winter, and even dead trees rarely pose an immediate danger.

“If your tree is dead, there’s no rush to take it down,” Blevins said. “That’s one big mistake people are making. They’re in a big hurry to take that thing down, thinking it’s dangerous to leave a dead tree standing, and it’s not.”

Outreach programs aimed to boost vaccine rate

As the rate of COVID-19 vaccinations continues to slow, several outreach programs are attempting to reach Texans where they work and live.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Texas Military Department have opened the State Mobile Vaccination Team Call Center. Texas businesses or civic organizations can call 844-90-TEXAS to schedule

a visit from a state mobile vaccine team.

To qualify, a business or organization must have 10 or more employees, visitors or members who wish to be vaccinated.

“Vaccines are the most effective tool in Texas’ fight against COVID-19, and we are committed to making COVID-19 vaccines even more widely available to Texans across the state,” Abbott said. “The State Vaccine Call Center will help connect businesses and civic organizations with these life-saving shots and ensure that more Texans have an opportunity to get vaccinated.”

The Texas Department of State Health Services is inviting pediatric health care providers to enroll in the COVID-19 vaccine program, in anticipation of the expansion of the Pfizer vaccine emergency use authorization to include adolescents 12 years and older.

DSHS sent a letter to more than 3,000 pediatric providers who already give vaccines to children.

With vaccine supply exceeding demand, DSHS will now fill vaccine orders as they come in and discontinue allocating the vaccine weekly. The vaccine is available more widely than ever at hundreds of Texas locations.

Nearly two-thirds have received at least one dose

More than 19.3 million Texans have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine — more than two-thirds of the state’s population — while 8.59 million are fully vaccinated, according to DSHS.

The number of new cases continues to drop, with 17,999 reported in the last week, along with 364 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. At its peak in mid-January, nearly 159,000 new cases were reported in a single week along with 2,311 deaths. Lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients who are hospitalized across the state remained steady last week at 2,508, according to DSHS.

DADS

from page A1

SIGNING UP

Young men interested in participating in the MET, Inc. Fatherhood Program may contact the program by:

- Calling 832-401-6180.
- Emailing: metinc@metinc.org.
- Registering online: www.metinc.org.
- Calling Marie Jones at 832-401-2053. (Waller & Austin counties)

denied growing up.

Job skills training through the program include options for HVAC certifications, fiber-optics, welding and forklift operation, among others.

MET, Inc. provides incentives to help clients successfully navigate all 12 of the training sessions, Jones said. A meal is provided at each meeting which is helpful from both a scheduling and financial standpoint, she said. Additionally, gift and gas cards are provided as the men move through the program. A \$10 gift card is provided at each session to help attendees – some of whom are living on

very strained budgets – afford the fuel it takes to continue coming. They’re also given small gift cards for completing enrollment surveys, attending each fourth session and completing the program.

“So, if they’re with me, we’re meeting in person and they could make \$320 (over two weeks) and be fed every time they come,” Jones said.

It isn’t all just free money though, Jones said. She expects her young proteges to put in the effort to make the program work for them. Her meetings have dads setting personal goals as fathers, professionals, students and in

other personal relationships, she said. Jones then helps them work through the steps to meet those goals and get on the right foot.

The Fatherhood Program is paid for through a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families, Jones said. The grant is in the first year of its second five-year award.

Clients in the program come from all backgrounds and walks of life, Jones said. She has worked with men of all races, religions and socioeconomic situations. She said she understands that each person

comes from a different culture that has set unique expectations for them as men. Those backgrounds can give them strength, she said, but can also put pressure on them to meet certain expectations – some of which can negatively impact clients’ self-worth and ability to trust others of different backgrounds.

“And I understand why they might not trust a white woman or white man, you know, but once they get in there, and they see that I’m real and I don’t care – they’re very respectful (and learn to trust),” Jones said.

Making the Private Office More Effective and Affordable

At APEX Executive Suites you are free to define exactly the office space you need, when and how you need it.

APEX™
EXECUTIVE SUITES

KATY – SUGAR LAND – CONROE

281.505.1106 | 25807 Westheimer Parkway, Katy TX 77494

Health insurance unattainable for too many Texans

BY TOM LUCE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

For far too many Texans, health insurance has become unaffordable — to the point of being unobtainable. For other Texans, even those with insurance, the cost of premiums and health care have become unsustainable.

Average annual premiums to cover a family on employer plans in Texas are more than \$20,000 — that's one-third of the average Texas household's annual income. These premiums are expensive because the underlying prices of care have risen, increasing the cost of premiums and out-of-pocket costs for insured Texans. To empower Texans to avoid excessively high-priced providers, we must make those prices transparent.

For other Texans, the price of care and availability of insurance aren't the only barriers; rather, a lack of facilities, providers, and access to care prevents many Texans from receiving the care they need when they need it.

We can, and must, address these issues, but one particular problem stands out when comparing Texas to other states: our state has highest uninsured rate — by far. Five million Texans lack insurance — nearly one in five Texans — which exposes them to potentially ruinous medical debt that they have no ability to avoid.

For many Texans, state and federal policy choices have left them without a realistic path to coverage. They cannot access Medicaid because they earn too much (in many cases, "too much" means \$1 per year) and cannot qualify for federal subsidies through the Affordable Care Act because they do not earn enough under current rules.

Today, Texas makes Medicaid available to parents who are at or below 14% of the Federal Poverty Level, which translates to a family of four earning no more than \$3,500 per year to qualify. Unless disabled or over the age of 65, childless adults are ineligible for Medicaid.

As a result, many full-time workers across Texas whose employers don't offer coverage are unable to obtain it on their own. Consider these hypothetical examples based on average Affordable Care Act Silver Plan premiums in the Marketplace:

- A 24-year-old grocery

clerk in Houston with one child making \$16,000 a year, slightly above minimum wage for a full-time job would pay \$3,671 per year in premiums — or 23 percent of her annual income. Out-of-pocket costs could total an additional \$8,550.

- A married 50-year-old couple in Dallas with three children, who were laid off and now are stringing together gig labor as delivery drivers making \$30,000 a year combined would pay \$13,987 per year in premiums, or 47% of their annual income. Out-of-pocket costs could total an additional \$17,100. In total, that could be more than the couple earns in one year.

For these Texans — and the hundreds of thousands falling into this "coverage gap" — our failure to act as a state has left hard-working Texans like them with no realistic way to obtain coverage that can protect them from ruinous medical debt.

Developing affordable health coverage solutions for the growing number of uninsured is critical so that Texas families and individuals can access the medical care they need today. Three out of every four Texans without health insurance report skipping care because of costs, according to Episcopal Health Foundation research.

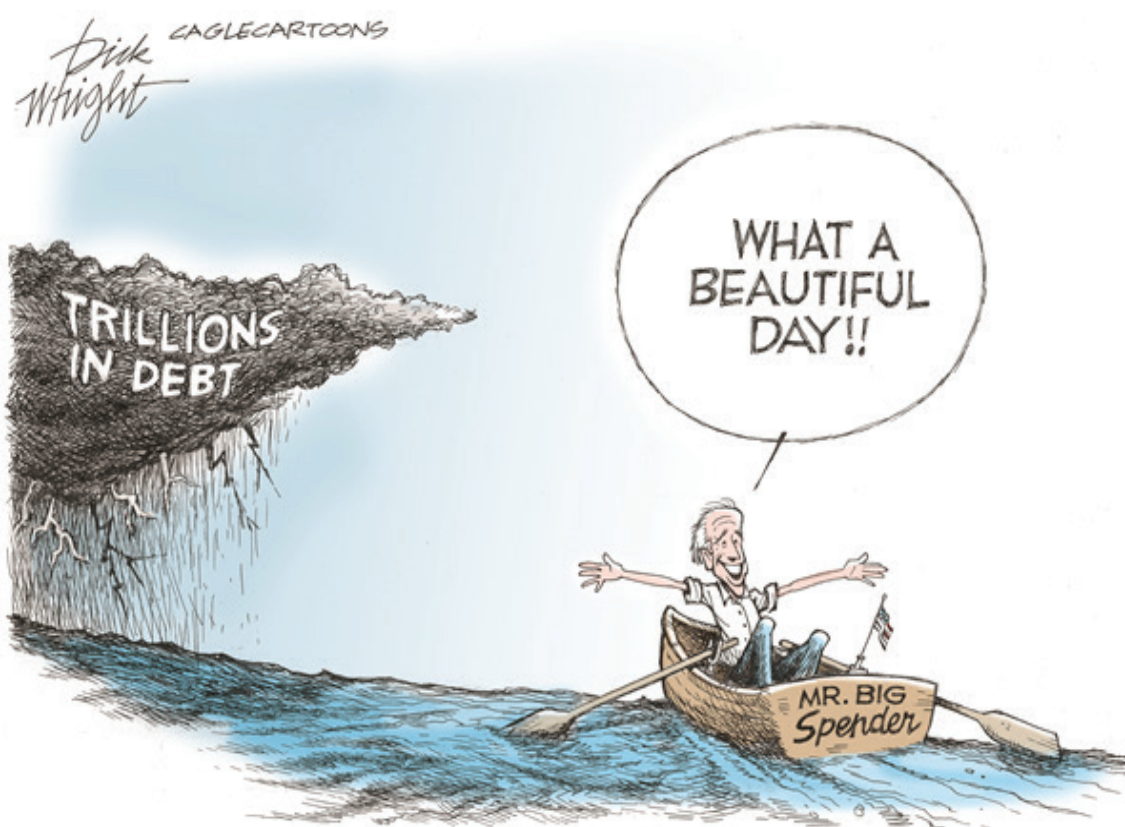
Health coverage would also reduce the threat of significant medical debt for Texans accessing emergency care. According to a 2018 survey by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, 29% of Texans — 6.2 million adults — have unpaid medical bills. Especially for low-income Texans, overwhelming medical debt can make an honest day's work seem futile.

However, our state government has the power to give Texans more coverage options.

Texas 2036 created The Health Coverage Policy Explorer. This tool allows all Texans — both policymakers and the public — to explore policy alternatives and combine policies to maximize both the number of covered Texans and federal funding streams.

Transparent, data-driven resources, like the Explorer, show that Texas has opportunities to create cost-effective solutions for our state.

Tom Luce, a longtime Texas civic leader, is founder and chairman of Texas 2036.



Voters signal turn to normal

Texas remain wary of the coronavirus, but are much more willing to go out, and to take part in activities that seemed a lot riskier just a couple of months ago.

And what they were most concerned about in February — the pandemic — has been replaced on their list by two perennial problems that have topped the list for years: immigration and border security.

It turns out that Texas is returning to normal in more ways than one, according to the latest batch of results from the University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll.

Only 23% of Texas voters said they're still staying at home or leaving only if they absolutely have to go somewhere. A year ago, 72% of us were saying that, and as recently as February, 34% were saying so. In the April 2021 survey, 33% said they're living normally; another 44% said they leave home, but they're careful when they do.

That's not quite pre-pandemic behavior, but it's getting closer and closer. That rise in apparent confidence matches increasing numbers of vaccinations and the end of the last big surge of new confirmed cases in Texas — which peaked in January and have flattened out in the last few weeks at levels not seen since last June.

At the same time, the number of people trying to get into the United States from Mexico and other countries was rising rapidly, and that border issue was reflected in voters' estimations of the most important problems facing Texas.

Some of the shift is evident in voters' assessments of the new president. Overall, Joe Biden has



ROSS RAMSEY
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Only 23% of Texas voters said they're still staying at home or leaving only if they absolutely have to go somewhere. A year ago, 72% of us were saying that, and as recently as February, 34% were saying so.

favorable job ratings equal to or greater than those of Greg Abbott, Ted Cruz, John Cornyn and other statewide officials in Texas. And voters here give him pretty good grades on his response to the coronavirus: 49% approve, and 35% disapprove.

But COVID-19, the top voter concern in February, has been knocked aside by immigration and border security, and Biden's grades on that subject are lousy:

23% think he's doing a good job, and 59% do not. As Daron Shaw, a University of Texas government professor and co-director of the UT/TT Poll pointed out, that's a weak spot Republicans are sure to notice.

The poll found an advantage for the new guy. Biden wasn't president during what has so far been the rockiest part of the pandemic. Gov. Greg Abbott, on the other hand, has been in charge in Texas the whole time, and his job ratings have suffered. As the state's response to the pandemic started a year ago, Abbott was viewed favorably by 56% of voters, unfavorably by 32%.

Citizens in trouble rally around leaders, right? But a year later, 43% of voters approve of Abbott's work overall, and 45% disapprove. His handling of pandemic responses is also tepid: 43% approve, and 48% disapprove.

The governor can always hope to catch up with voters' increasing optimism about the pandemic.

Given a list of "normal" activities they consider safe or not, a majority of voters would do anything from shopping for groceries to attending outdoor concerts or sporting events. Only a few activities are still out of bounds for a majority, like movies, going to the gym, indoor sporting events or concerts and going to bars and clubs.

Most Republicans were open to any of those activities, even the lowest rated; 63% said they felt safe visiting bars and clubs.

If they do go out for a drink, they might miss the usual political arguments they'd find at their favorite joint. Only 11% of Democrats think it's safe to show up in bars and clubs.

Katy Times

SUSAN ROVEGNO | Publisher
R. HANS MILLER | News Editor
DENNIS SILVA II | Sports Editor
DEBBIE PREJEAN | Bookkeeper
MARISSA FERREIRA | Page designer

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.



Section 1

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

Section 2

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

KATYTIMES.COM

Uri disaster assistance applications due by May 20

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy area residents have about one week to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency or U.S. Small Business Administration assistance if they were impacted by Winter Storm Uri, according to a press release from FEMA. The deadline for those who were impacted by unprecedented winter storm is May 20.

Those who were uninsured or underinsured against the damages caused by the winter storms may apply for aid at www.disasterassistance.gov or call 800-621-3362.

Phone lines are open from 6

a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Applicants should gather the following information prior to applying:

- Current phone number or other contact information.
- Address at the time of the disaster and current address, if different.
- Social Security Number.
- A general list of damages and losses caused by the storm.
- If insured, the insurance policy number or the agent and company name.

After registration, FEMA staff may contact applicants to request additional information or clarifications.

Those not fully covered by insurance may be eligible for

SBA loans. These low-interest loans are available to non-farm businesses – including rental properties – as well as homeowners and renters whose property was damaged as the result of the storm.

Homeowners may apply for SBA loans of up to \$200,000 to replace or repair their primary residence. Renters and homeowners may borrow up to \$40,000 to replace or repair personal property such as clothing, furniture, cars and appliances damaged or destroyed in a disaster.

Private businesses and nonprofit organizations may receive up to \$2 million in SBA loans for repair or replacement

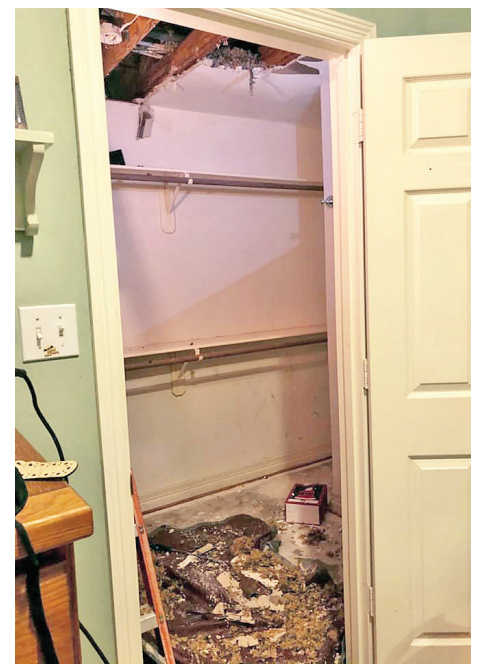
of the following:

- Real property.
- Machinery.
- Fixtures.
- Inventory.
- Leasehold improvements.

Fort Bend, Harris and Waller county residents are eligible to apply under disaster declarations at the local, state and federal levels.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY LORI SOUTHWORTH MORGAN

Many homes in the Katy area were damaged, along with the property within, during Winter Storm Uri the week of Feb. 14. Homeowners and renters who suffered property damage during the freezing weather have until May 20 to complete their applications for federal aid.



TRIBUTES

Don Edward Thomas of Katy, TX went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. He was born in Beaumont, TX on October 23, 1951, to Mary Marjorie Morrison Thomas and Otis William Thomas, Jr.

Don was a devoted husband, father, and friend. He has always had a passion for serving others around him that remained throughout his life. In his early years, he spent many days on the lake fishing with his family, especially with his dad and his brother-in-law, Robert. Eventually, he learned to scuba dive and became a certified instructor. Don volunteered many years with American Red Cross as an instructor and on the disaster relief team with his wife, Cathie. He was also a Boy Scout leader where he loved helping the kids earn badges, going camping, and ca-



DON EDWARD THOMAS
1951-2021

noeing to name a few. In his later years, he joined the West I-10 Fire Department as a volunteer in the Rehab Unit, then moved into the Fire Department as an EMT. Don joined the Community Volunteer Fire Department in 2014, where he received the EMS Rookie of the Year Award. Through it all, Don was an avid fan of country music and wore his cowboy boots everywhere he went.

His survivors include his wife, Catherine Thomas of Katy; his son, William Thomas of Katy; and daughter, Courtney Thomas of Katy; and sister, Janie Hopkins and husband, Robert, of Silsbee, Tx; and many friends and extended family members.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, and sister, Peggy Ann Thomas Holmes. A memorial service to celebrate his life will take place on May 15, 2021 at Memorial Lutheran Church in Katy, TX at 1:00 PM. A gathering of family and friends will take place following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made to the Thomas family at Memorial Lutheran Church.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

Judith Ann (Collins) Morris, 79, of Brookshire, Texas, passed away on Friday, April 30, 2021, in Houston, Texas.

Judith was born February 23, 1942, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the daughter of Marion Francis and Margaret Ann (Roberts) Collins. She grew up in the Tulsa area before moving to Houston where she graduated from Bellaire High School. Judith was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She also adored her animals. Judith enjoyed shopping at Hobby Lobby, gardening, cooking, and watching football.

She is survived by her daughter: Carrie Morris and Dave Ward of Richmond; son: Gary Douglas Morris and wife, Gail, of Dobbins; grandchildren: Hillarie Rollins and husband, Travis, of Bryan, Brianna Skinner and husband, Wayne, of Charleston, SC, Kendall Allen and husband, Marty, of



JUDITH ANN (COLLINS) MORRIS
1942-2021

Dickinson, Wyatt Morris of Montgomery, Kaya Morris of Richmond, and Trace Morris of Richmond; great-grandchildren: Kaiden, James, Conley, Maggie, and Marty; and sister: Connie Lynn Wallace of Grapevine.

Judith is preceded in death by her parents, Marion and Margaret Collins, husband, Gary Douglas Morris, and companion, Larry Peterek.

Family was present to

receive friends from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 6, 2021, at the Schmidt Funeral Home Chapel in Brookshire, Texas.

Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, May 7, 2021, also at the Schmidt Funeral Home Chapel with Tom Knapp officiating.

Interment followed in Fulshear Cemetery in Fulshear, Texas.

Pallbearers were Doug Morris, Wyatt Morris, David Wallace, Fitzgerald Parker, Marty Allen, and Danny Wallace. Honorary pallbearers were: John Brown and Wayne Skinner.

Friends who wish may make memorial gifts to Rosenberg Animal Control & Shelter, 1207 Blume Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Schmidt Funeral Home, PO Box 248, 819 Waller Avenue, Brookshire, Texas, 77423 - (281) 934-2424 - www.schmidtfunerals.com.

The Katy Times

Directory of Local Churches & Houses of Worship

BAKER'S BOOKS

Usually Open: Wed-Fri: 2-6 PM
Sat: 10-1 PM
@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

281-492-6064
21715 Kingsland Blvd. Ste. 105
Katy Tx, 77450
katyfeeth.com
M-Th 7am-7pm
Fri. 7am-3pm
Sat. 8am-2pm

Harrison & Bethke
Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

Landscaping by
Country Care
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

IN YOUR FAMILY'S TIME OF NEED...
Clay's
3923 Fifth Street
Brookshire, TX 77423
281-CLAY-WAY
(281.252.9929)
ClaysMortuary.com

Your Ad Here!
Call Debbie for more information
281-391-3141

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 ANTIPOCH 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 YEHNERT, 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.RIVERBEND.CC.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 STEIN 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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH ON THE ROCK
433 S. BARKER CYPRESS • 281-599-9777
JORGE H. CARDENAS, PASTOR
BELIEVERS' WORLD OUTREACH CHURCH
1600 WOODS ROAD • 888-334-BWOC(2962)
TOMMY AND RACHEL BURCHFIELD, PASTOR

THE EMPOWERMENT CENTER
20910 PARK ROW • 281-578-3535
DAVID ROBERSON, PASTOR
FAITH MANGER CHURCH
20701 KINGSLAND BLVD. @ DOMINION • 281-578-2550
DAVID L. BROWN, PASTOR
FAITH WEST CHURCH
2225 PORTER ROAD • 281-391-1111
GARY KERR, 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 CELESTINS, 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 SANDER, 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 SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1913 EAST AVENUE • 281-398-1301
PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST

Brookshire swears in new council members; community plans town hall

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

In a brief Monday afternoon meeting, Brookshire's newest alderperson, Monique Taylor, was sworn in for the Position 1 seat alongside re-elected Mayor Darrell Branch and Alderperson for Po-

sition 2 Lyndon Stamps after the council voted to approve canvassing of the May 1 election tallies.

Taylor took the Position 1 seat with about 69% of the vote in her race against incumbent Marilyn Vaughn. Branch retained the mayoral seat with roughly 62% of the

vote while Stamps held his position more narrowly with only about 34% of the vote, barely beating runner-up Susette Inez Baines.

The election is over, but Baines said she is working to still serve the Brookshire community. She is planning a town hall meeting for

city residents with representatives from city government as well as Waller County. The meeting will be held at The Hangar Unity Center - 4010 Fourth Street in Brookshire - at 2 p.m. on June 6. Anyone with questions for panelists can email those questions in advance

to brookshiretownhallmeeting@gmail.com. Questions are due no later than May 21, Baines said.

Confirmed guests as of May 11 include Waller County Sheriff Troy Guidry, Mayor Branch and Alderpersons Kim Branch and Taylor, Baines said.

Katy Times CLASSIFIEDS

Your Classified Ad Source In Print & Online!

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



950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a **MIXED BEVERAGE RESTAURANT PERMIT WITH FB** by **MACEO ENTERPRISES, LLC dba MACEO RESTAURANT AND TEQUILA BAR** to be located at **5304 BELL PATNA DR, KATY, FORT BEND, Texas.** Officer of said corporation is **DANNY PENTIN MEMBER/MANAGER.**

An application has been made with TABC for a BG License by **JWE Restaurants LLC dba Crust Pizza** at **9920 Gaston Rd #200, Katy TX 77494, Fort Bend County.** Owner **Joshua Ellis.**

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Owner: *Mason Creek Utility District*
Owner's Office: *847 Dominion, Katy, TX 77450*
Project (the Work): *Brondesbury Lift Station Conversion including demolition, structural modification, pumps, piping, valves, electrical work and other goods and services.*
Project location: *20203 Brondesbury Dr., Katy, TX 77450*
Owner proposes to let a contract for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owners Office by **June 4, 2021 at 2:00 PM**, when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on civcastusa.com. A pre-bid conference (non-mandatory) is set for May 21, 2021 at 10:00 AM at Owners Office. /s/ Len Forsyth, Project Officer.

ADVERTISE!
281-391-3141

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Owner: *Mason Creek Utility District*
Owner's Office: *847 Dominion, Katy, TX 77450*
Project (the Work): *Sanitary Forcemain Replacement including removal of approx. 390 LF, replacement with 14-in. fusible DR-18 PVC, asphalt trail and other goods and services.*
Project location: *In HCFCD easement north of 21602 Cimarron Pkwy., Katy, TX 77450*
Owner proposes to let a contract for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owners Office by **June 4, 2021 at 2:30 PM**, when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on civcastusa.com. A pre-bid conference (non-mandatory) is set for May 21, 2021 at 1:00 PM at Owners Office. /s/ Len Forsyth, Project Officer.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WALLER COUNTY
WALLER County intends to participate in the 2021 CDBG-MIT Fund grant program with funding from the Texas Land Office. We are soliciting proposals for a Grant Administrator related to this program. Submittals for these services will be accepted until 2:00 pm on May 24, 2021 at 836 Austin St, Hempstead, TX, 77445, Attn: Alan Younts, County Auditor or a.younts@wallercounty.us. The County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises including Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. The County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

ARE YOU ADVERTISING?
Your business is open. Your lights are on.
INVITE PEOPLE IN.
To advertise, call us at
281-391-3141
Katy Times

SUBSCRIBE! 281-391-3141

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021
City of Pattison & Waller County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day*

Special Thanks to:
Trey Duhon, Waller County Judge
Troy Guidry, Waller County Sheriff
Joe Trimm, Waller County Constable, Pct 4
Rick Kershner, Superintendent, Royal ISD
Brian Cantrell, Waller County OEM
Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Department
Waller County Environmental Division

DROP OFF LOCATION*
Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Department
2950 FM 359
Pattison, Texas 77423
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or until maximum capacity reached.

This event for City of Pattison - Waller County residents was made possible through grant funding from the Houston-Galveston Area Council and the TCEQ.

Important Items to Note
Guidelines

- Products in original containers
- Properly sealed and closed containers
- No mixing or consolidating products
- Transport in trunk or bed of vehicle
- Remain in your vehicle, follow CDC guidelines, and allow staff to remove product from your vehicle.

What to bring:

- Tires - passenger/light truck and 18-wheeler OFF the rim only
- Electronics
- Household chemicals and cleaners
- Residential products Labeled "caution", "warning" or "poison"
- Aerosols
- Camp Stove Propane Bottles
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Paints, Stains, & Varnishes - Limit of 25 gallons per household
- Household Batteries
- Used Auto oil, filters, anti-freeze, transmission and brake fluid
- Pool, Lawn & Garden Chemicals

What NOT to bring:

- No Industrial, Commercial, or Business Waste
- No CRT Monitors / TV's / Floor Standing Copier / Printer/Shredder
- No water or fire damaged electronic equipment
- No electronic equipment previously stored outdoors
- No tractor/agriculture tires; no unrecyclable tires
- No Dioxins
- No containers >5 gallons
- No Explosives, Ammunition or Radioactive waste (smoke alarms)
- No Medical & Pharmaceutical Items
- No Large Gas or Propane Cylinders
- No trash

We reserve the right to refuse items.

Recyclables can be taken to Waller County Recycling Center:
Visit their site for information on our local recycling program www.co.waller.tx.us/page/Recycling.

Questions? Email Joe Garcia at joe.garcia@pattison.texas.gov
For additional information, visit www.pattison.texas.gov

SÁBADO 22 DE MAYO DE 2021
La Ciudad de Pattison y el Condado de Waller Día de Recolección para Artículos de Casa, Residuos Peligrosos*

Agradecimiento Especial Para:
Trey Duhon, Juez del Conda do de Waller
Troy Guidry, Alguacil del Condado de Waller
Joe Trimm, Alguacil del Precinto 4, Condado de Waller
Rick Kershner, Superintendente del Distrito Escolar Royal
Brian Cantrell, Oficina de Manejo de Emergencias del Condado de Waller
Voluntaries del Departamento de Bomberos Area Pattison
Division Ambiental del Condado de Waller

LUGAR PARA DEJAR LOS ARTICULOS*
Voluntarios del Departamento de Bomberos del Area de Pattison
2950 FM 359
Pattison, Texas 77423
Horario: 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. hasta llegar a las máximas cantidades alcanzadas

Este evento para la Ciudad de Pattison, y los residentes del Condado de Waller, es a través de un fondo de subvenciones del área de Houston-Galveston Consejo y la TCEQ.

Elementos importantes para tener en cuenta:

Puntos importantes:

- Productos en envases originales.
- Envases debidamente sellados y cerrados.
- Favor de no mezclar ni consolidar productos.
- Transporte en la cajuela o en la plataforma de su vehículo.
- Permanezca en su vehículo, siga las pautas d el CDC y permita que el personal retire el producto de su vehículo.

Que puedo traer:

- Llantas de carros/camion as ligeras yvehículos de 18ruedas fuera de la llanta unicamente.
- Electrónicos.
- Productos quimicos limpiadores domésticos.
- Productos residenciales etiquetados como "precaución", "advertencia" o "veneno".
- Aerosoles.
- Botellas d propano de estufa de campamento.
- Bombillas fluorescentes.
- Pinturas, tintes y barnices: limite de 25 galones por hogar.
- Baterias para el hogar.
- Aceite de automóvil usado, filtros, anticongelante, liquid de transmisión y liquido de frenos.
- Productos quimicos para piscinas, césped y jardín.

Cosas que NO PUEDO traer:

- No Industrial, Comercial, y Desperdicios Comerciales.
- No CRT Monitores / TV's / Copiadoras / Impresoras / Trituradores de papel.
- Ningún equipo electrónico dañado por el agua o el fuego.
- Ningún equipo electrónico almacenado previamente al aire libre.
- No tractores/ / llantas para la agricultura, llantas no reciclables.
- No dioxinas.
- No contenedores > 5 galones.
- No explosivos, muriciones o desechos radiactivo (alarmas de humo).
- No artículos médicos y farmacéuticos sin.
- No cilindros grandes de gas o propano.
- No basura.

Reservamos el derecho a rechazar artículos.

Los materiales reciclables se pueden llevar al Centro de reciclaje de condado de Waller:
Visite su sitio para obtener información sobre nuestro programa de reciclaje local.

¿Preguntas? Envie un correo electrónico a Joe Gardia a joe.garcia@pattison.texas.gov
Para obtener información adicional, visite www.pattison.texas.gov

KATYTIMES.COM

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD

GOLDEN TOUCH

Cougars' resilient Flynt state's best in discus, shot put

BY DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

The two-time state champion thrower hated throwing the discus and shot put when she first tried it at 10 years old.

Amelia Flynt was all but irritated after her dad, Darren, took her to Lamar High School in Houston to try throwing some discuses.

"This is stupid," Amelia told Darren. "I'm never doing this again."

Life can be funny how things work out.

Fast forward seven years and Flynt, a senior at Cinco Ranch signed to compete as a thrower at the University of California, capped an inspiring high school career

See **FLYNT**, page B2



COURTESY OF DARREN FLYNT

Cinco Ranch senior thrower Amelia Flynt is pictured with her father, Darren, after winning gold in the discus and shot put throws at the Class 6A state track and field meet Saturday, May 8, at Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas at Austin.

HIGH SCHOOL STATE TRACK & FIELD NOTEBOOK

Onaleye caps Paetow career as state champ

BY DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

When she arrived at Paetow from Morton Ranch her sophomore year, Tumi Onaleye's world changed.

Onaleye was introduced to a new way of doing things in track and field, so much so that she refocused once she realized the sport could be her ticket to college.

Onaleye started taking

Full list of Katy ISD athletes' results at state track and field, see page B6.

the sport seriously, set goals and heeded the teachings of Paetow's coaches: girls head coach Erin Atwood, boys head coach Kenneth Decuir,

See **STATE**, page B5

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL



FILE PHOTO BY DAVE SANDERS | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Seven Lakes senior outside hitter Ally Batenhorst was named the 2020-21 Gatorade Texas Player of the Year on Wednesday, May 5. The 6-foot-4 powerful outside hitter averaged 6.6 kills and 4.3 digs per set in guiding the Spartans to a 25-1 record and the Class 6A state title in the 2020 season.

Spartans' Batenhorst named 2020-21 Gatorade Texas P.O.Y.

BY DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Capping off a remarkable senior season in which she dominated in leading Seven Lakes to Katy ISD's first volleyball state championship, Ally Batenhorst was named the 2020-21 Gatorade Texas Player of the Year on Wednesday, May 5.

The 6-foot-4 powerful outside hitter averaged 6.6 kills and 4.3 digs per set in guiding the Spartans to a 25-1 record and the Class 6A state title in the 2020 season. In all, Batenhorst recorded 574 kills, 371 digs, 33 blocks and 32 aces in 87 sets last season.

The Gatorade State Player of the Year award was established in 1985. Per Gatorade.com, it acknowledges the nation's most outstanding high school student-athletes for athletic excellence, academic achievement and exemplary character.

"It's pretty awesome," Batenhorst said. "Last year, I was just a candidate (for the award). I didn't make it to the finals. This one is an incredible feeling. It's an award not only for athletic performance, but academics and your character. That's what makes it special, and it's something I've always tried to accomplish. It's a really big deal for me."

The acknowledgment is the

"It's fun to coach talent, but, man, it's fun to coach a kid that plays with so much heart. She is a team player to the core, and you just don't find that in many elite players these days."

AMY CATALINE, SEVEN LAKES COACH

latest in a long line of distinguished awards for Batenhorst following a spectacular senior season that highlighted an outstanding high school career.

"I adore her as a person," Seven Lakes coach Amy Cataline said of Batenhorst following the team's state championship win over Klein on Dec. 12. "She loves her team-

mates and it shows. It's fun to coach talent, but, man, it's fun to coach a kid that plays with so much heart. She is a team player to the core, and you just don't find that in many elite players these days."

Batenhorst was also named an Under Armour All-American, Class 6A state championship game Most Valuable Player, 2020 MaxPreps All-America first-teamer, 2020 PrepVolleyball.com High School Fall All-American and academic all-state selection for her performance in 2020.

Batenhorst was also on the 2020 USA National Training team and helped the USA 18U national team to a gold medal at the NORCECA Volleyball Championships in Honduras in 2018. In the classroom, she has a 4.11 GPA.

Batenhorst's Gatorade P.O.Y honor came two days after the Spartans received their state championship rings during an awards ceremony on campus.

"It was so cute," Batenhorst said. "We designed it in December, and it was cool to see it. I like that it's a bright blue color. It also says, 'It's time,' which was our slogan. I love that because that was kind of our theme for the year. It was exciting to see my teammates and be able to

See **BATENHORST**, page B5

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Tigers homer-happy in area sweep of Heights

BY DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy High's softball team dug the long ball early and often in sweeping Houston Heights in dominant fashion in their Class 6A area playoff series Friday, May 7, at Katy High.

The Tigers drilled 10 home runs in 10 innings of play in two games against the Bulldogs, with six home runs in a 10-0, run-rule Game 1 win followed by four more homers in a 19-3, run-rule Game 2 win.

In his 25 years of coaching softball at Katy, Kalum Haack said he's never seen a power-hitting display like what he saw against Heights, a 15-10 team that finished second in District 18-6A.

"That was a pleasant surprise and shock," Haack said. "Hopefully we can continue to hit the ball that well. We

have the capability to hit home runs, but to group them all together like that kind of came out of nowhere. I'm glad to see it. Those kinds of things help build confidence."

Katy (20-3-2) advanced to play Fort Bend Travis (16-3) in this week's regional quarterfinals. The Tigers got there with 13 home runs in their last three playoff games.

"It's good to see that our mental game is there," said junior catcher Kaley Wyckoff, who had three home runs in the Heights series and has four in the playoffs. "We still have to get better with the small (ball) game, but if the home runs come, they come. We've been seeing the ball really well."

One of Wyckoff's homers was a two-run, inside-the-park hit to deep right field with one out in the first inning of Game 1. Wyckoff said she hasn't had an

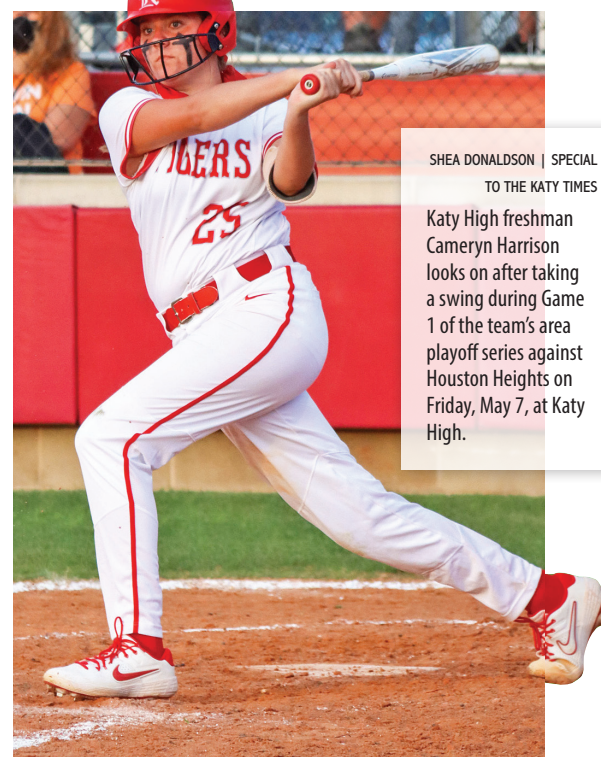
inside-the-park homer since she was "probably 11."

"I tried last week, and I got thrown out, so," Wyckoff said, laughing. "I slipped at every base. This time, I just went."

Freshman Cameryn Harrison was impressive once again and is picking up where she left off in the district season, an irrepresible force at the plate and in the circle. Harrison allowed two hits, struck out seven and walked three for the five-inning Game 1 win. She went 13 innings and struck out 26 batters before surrendering her first playoff hit on Kennedy Hill's single to lead off the fifth inning of Game 1.

"I think she's commanding her spots a lot better," Wyckoff said. "She's been more focused mentally."

See **KATY**, page B3



SHEA DONALDSON | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy High freshman Cameryn Harrison looks on after taking a swing during Game 1 of the team's area playoff series against Houston Heights on Friday, May 7, at Katy High.



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.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Young Cougars resilient in best run since 2014

BY DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

During the fall, Cinco Ranch's baseball team could not practice baseball. The Cougars' field was being renovated, so weekly offseason workouts consisted of two days in the weight room, another day of arm care, a day of speed/agility work, and Thursdays spent hitting fungoes on the turf football practice field.

It made for a difficult circumstance as third-year head coach Brett Wallace attempted to rebuild a team that graduated 15 seniors from the 2020 season, which was cut short after 15 games because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was not an ideal fall," Wallace said. "It was a grind."

So when Cinco Ranch advanced to the area playoffs for the first time since 2014 last week—doing so in dramatic, emotional fashion, rallying from a 6-0 fourth-inning deficit to win 7-6 in seven innings over favored Ridge Point—it was a testament to the resilience, pride and grit of a club that starts three sophomores, one freshman, and only four seniors in its lineup.

"Confidence-wise, being such a young team, a win like that shows us how great we really are and what we can accomplish when we work together," junior pitcher Zachary Royle said.

Cinco Ranch (18-11-2) plays Cy-Fair (25-8) in a one-game area playoff at 7 p.m. Friday at Cy-Fair High.

"We're ready for the next game, the next round," senior leadoff hitter and pitcher Clayton Keeling said. "We're all excited to get back to practice and get back to the next. I think that last game is in the past and we're only ready and focused on what's in the future."

That future gets brighter each game, thanks to the rapid maturation of a promising ballclub.

The Cougars are reaping the benefits from a rough early non-district schedule in which opponents combined for a .600 win percentage. Cinco Ranch played in seven games decided by two or fewer runs, winning four.

"The tough schedule prepared us for the possibility to make a postseason

run," Royle said. "A lot of our guys are sophomores, and even some freshmen mixed in there, too. They have had their first varsity games this season, so our schedule pushed us to work through some challenges, preparing us to pull through games like (Ridge Point)."

In an 8-7 loss to Katy to start the second round of district play, Keeling popped up to the catcher with the bases loaded and two outs in the seventh inning. Jump ahead to last week against Ridge Point, and Keeling, given the same situation, was poised and disciplined in drawing a walk to bring in the winning run.

"It's having that experience of being in that big moment, how to handle that (at-bat), and knowing to trust himself and make the pitcher come to him instead of being too anxious," Wallace said. "They'll just keep learning from these experiences and keep getting better."

Wallace had a ton of questions about his team coming into the season, and a fall offseason without the use of a baseball field didn't exactly help. The fact he didn't have a thorough evaluation of returning players due to the abbreviated 2020 season further stunted the progress of young talent that was considerable, but raw.

Wallace knew who his starting outfielders and starting catcher would be, but had concerns everywhere else, especially pitching.

None of Cinco Ranch's projected top three pitchers have thrown an inning this season. Junior Blake Hansen had Tommy John surgery in the fall, junior Aidan Carnahan had a stress fracture with two screws put into his elbow in the fall, and sophomore Gavin Rutherford has been plagued by elbow issues all season.

But the Cougars found a way. 'Development,' in all aspects of the game, mental and physical, has been the buzzword around the program.

Keeling emerged as an invaluable leader whose positive demeanor is infectious. Hansen always seems to get the big hit when needed. It's no surprise that those two are team captains.

Rutherford has been a revelation with four home

runs, including the big solo shot in the seventh against Ridge Point to bring the Cougars within a run.

Royle has stepped up on the mound. He throws up to 92 miles per hour and has shown tremendous composure.

"It was a big honor that Coach Wallace trusted me with the ball on the bump to go out there and fill it up on the mound," said Royle, who earned the start against Ridge Point. "I worked hard in the offseason and preseason to be prepared for this exact moment."

The Cougars' plate discipline has been a strength all season, impressive of a young team. It's been a M.O. of Wallace's to consistently put in work on the team's hitting approach, while assistant Kel Shannon has done an admirable job building the team's pitching depth.

"We're making plays under pressure and developing that clutch mentality, both at the plate and on defense," Keeling said. "We keep each other in check and accountable, and that hard work and trust we've established, the patience and confidence we have, has helped develop us into a team of faith."

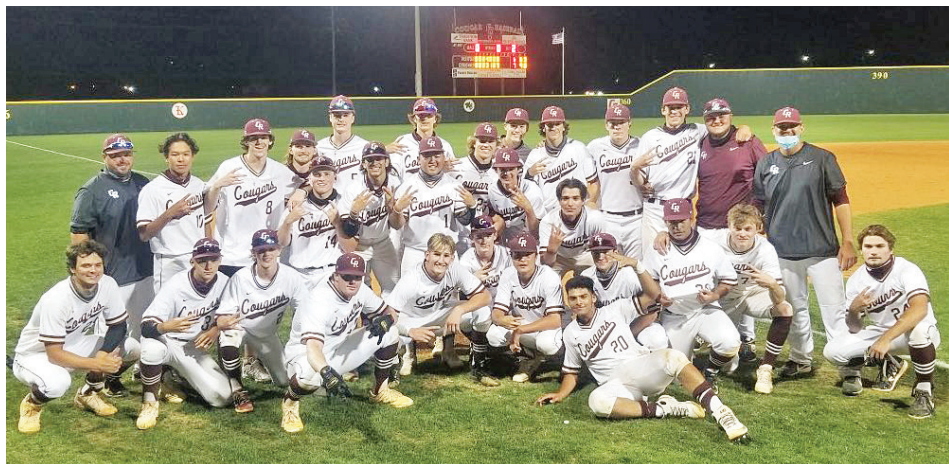
It's also a team of positive energy, vibes and optimism. It showed against Ridge Point.

"I rallied them up as soon as they came off the field (in the fourth inning) and told them we averaged eight runs or more in the second half of district (play), so six (runs) was nothing," Wallace said. "Just start chipping away."

The Cougars immediately scored three runs in the bottom half of the fourth to cut their deficit in half. They added another run in the fifth.

Rutherford's homer to lead off the seventh brought Cinco Ranch within 6-5. A double play, where a Cougar baserunner was called for runner's interference at second base, could have stymied hope and momentum. But the Cougars responded with singles from senior Tyler Duron and sophomore Rainer Castillo. Duron scored from first on an error to tie the game, setting the stage for Keeling's walk-off walk.

"These kids don't know the word 'quit,'" Wallace said. "They just keep fighting and plugging away."



Cinco Ranch baseball players and coaches pose for a photo after their 7-6 Class 6A bi-district playoff win over Ridge Point on Friday, May 7, at Cinco Ranch High.

NO. 3 TIGERS OPEN PLAYOFFS WITH SWEEP OF FORT BEND CLEMENTS



KATY ISD ATHLETICS

No. 3 state-ranked Katy High initiated its hopeful journey to the state baseball tournament with a sweep of Fort Bend Clements in their Class 6A bi-district playoff series last week, May 7-8. Katy took Game 1, 5-2, behind an impressive complete-game effort from senior Aiden Huerta. Huerta allowed two runs on five hits, struck out six and walked two in seven innings, improving to 5-0 this season. Seniors Caleb Matthews and Ryan Brome had two hits apiece. Junior Jhonattan Ferrabus had two RBIs. The Tigers dominated the Rangers in Game 2, 13-1, in five innings. Matthews took the Game 2 win, allowing one run on three hits over four innings, striking out three and walking one. The Rice signee is 10-0 this season on the mound. Matthews also went 3-for-3 at the plate. Brome homered for the Tigers, his sixth of the season. Katy (27-3) advanced to play Cy-Ridge in the area round of the playoffs later this week.

FLYNT

from page B1

as a state champion in both events, winning gold in the shot put with a throw of 46-feet, 5-inches and the discus with a throw of 173-feet, 7-inches, the latter a personal record, at the UIL Class 6A state track and field meet Saturday, May 8, at Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas at Austin.

"I went out there and told myself, 'Hey, just do what you know how to do,'" Amelia said.

Amelia didn't let the first impression of the sport dismay her. She tried it again in sixth grade and got hooked. The reward is greatness.

The sport is in the family's blood. Darren started throwing at 14 years old and threw for the University of Nebraska. Amelia's mother, Dagmar Pesakova, was also a thrower at Nebraska and also threw for Czechoslovakia. Pesakova was part of the first wave of foreign athletes to come to the United States in 1989.

"Amelia did some of the youth meets, the junior Olympics, and she showed a lot of promise early on," Darren said. "It just went from there."

A RHYTHMIC WORKER

Darren saw a natural ability in his daughter.

"Some girls you see, and they're super explosive and they throw far because of that," Darren said. "Amelia throws far because she's got really good rhythm. She's always been real good at dancing. She got her strength from me and power from her mom. But her two biggest assets is she works her butt off and she's just so rhythmic."

The bond between Darren and Amelia strengthened through throwing. Darren got divorced and had minimum visitation rights, but "miraculously," he said, her mother al-

lowed him to coach Amelia all he desired.

"I took advantage of that and it became our thing," Darren said. "She's daddy's girl and will probably always be that way. We have a good time, understand each other pretty good. Luckily, her junior high and high school coaches have all been OK with me coaching her. It's all worked out great."

Over the years, through thousands and thousands of hours of tireless work, Darren and Amelia honed the craft.

Darren's coaching philosophy differs from others. He emphasizes technique instead of weight-lifting. He also encourages an athlete to throw their farthest on the first throw of a meet, for an early intimidation factor, instead of building up to the best throw like most coaches prefer.

Through Beck Junior High, where Amelia still holds Katy ISD records in the discus (118-6.5) and shot put (44-7), to two back injuries that haunted her sophomore year and through a COVID-19 pandemic that canceled most of her junior season, it all came together for Amelia at state.

On her throw of 46-5.00 in the shot put: "I felt satisfied with it," Amelia said. "Do I wish I did better? Yes. But I would take that over totally tensing up and not throwing anything. I was happy having thrown the 49 (49-02.00, which ranks No. 1 in the U.S. in high school competition) I threw at regionals. I was really going into state more focused on doing what it took to win."

And the 173-7 personal record in the discus? "I was really satisfied," she said. "It shocked me how far I threw it; I hadn't been throwing very far recently. I'd been having some issues with my groin lately, and it was hurting a little bit."

The 49-02.00 and 173-7 marks are bests for Katy ISD high school girls track and field.

Injuries plagued Amelia throughout her high school career.

Around the time of the district meet her freshman year, she started experiencing spasms and lumbar back pain. She qualified for state in the discus, finishing with a silver medal at less than 100 percent health.

Amelia discovered she tore the L4 and L5 discs in her back, the two lowest vertebrae of the lumbar spine, when she went for an MRI in the fall of her sophomore year. Up until then, however, she practiced in pain, unable to go to the doctor and know what was wrong because the family had no insurance after Darren lost his job.

"That summer was really hard," Amelia said.

TOUGHENED

Amelia finally got surgery on her back that

fall, couldn't throw for six weeks, and then had a horrible setback when her family's car was rear-ended by a FedEx truck and she started having back spasms again.

And yet through all of that, Amelia refuses to join the pity party. In fact, she wouldn't have it any other way. She is toughened.

It's almost symbolic that she braids her hair back and marks three vertical lines of her face when competing at meets. She is a warrior.

"It's been a great four years," she said. "I went out there as a freshman and got second in discus, and that put me on the board for people to know my name. So, it did hurt when I didn't make it to state my sophomore year after all my injuries and surgery and the accident. It put a toll on me. My junior year, I was finally recovering from my injuries and everything started coming together, I was starting to throw really far, and after three meets, everything got shut down because of COVID. It wasn't fun."

"But getting to throw my senior year and getting to show my potential and what I am, it's perfect. I couldn't have asked for it to end any better."

It's that perspective that makes Darren proudest.

"The most important thing to me is she showed she's figured out the mental side of it," he said. "She's had a tough go of it. A good friend passed away this year. It's a lot of stuff she's had to go through to get to where she's at now, so I'm real proud of her. It's a lonely sport, where you're working hours and hours by yourself. So, it's neat when something like this happens and everybody gets to see the fruits of the labor."

And in doubling up on gold in Austin, Amelia granted a sweet parting gift for Cinco Ranch throws coach J.D. Fincher, who is retiring after 30 years of coaching.

"I was Coach's retirement plan," Amelia said. "He told me that since my freshman year. He came up to me crying after I won and my first words to him were, 'I guess you can retire now. This is it.' He's excited. I've never seen a football coach cry. Happy tears."

"He's one of the most hard-working people I've ever met. He's basically had two lives, first being in the army and now a teacher and having a kid, and he's taught me to live life. He's a very kind person who's helped me emotionally. Having him there, he always knows the right thing to say. I love that he's a lot like me, big and macho but a teddy bear."

IT'S TIME FOR THE TIMES.

Katy Times

SUBSCRIBE TODAY FOR JUST \$35.00 per YEAR!

Senior and Veteran Discount: \$22 per year

- Convenient delivery via US Postal Service each Thursday and unlimited access to the katytimes.com website which is updated daily throughout the day
- Choose your subscription method
- Mail this form with your payment to Katy Times, PO Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678
- Call 281-391-3141
- Go online at katytimes.com and look for the "subscribe" button

Date: _____ Phone#: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Cash _____ Check _____ # _____

Card # _____ Exp. _____ CVV _____

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

TUNE IN NEAREST YOU

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

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Little's big play sparks Falcons to playoff series sweep

BY DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Jack Little's steal of home plate with two outs in the third inning of Game 2 of Tompkins' bi-district playoff series against Elkins not only represented a thrilling play, but also substantial growth for the Falcons. Yes, it only gifted Tompkins a three-run lead at the time, and, yes, there was still a lot of baseball left to be played.

But the junior infielder's second stolen base of the inning seemed to change the game's spirit and was indicative of improved execution these days by Tompkins, which routed Elkins, 12-2, in five innings to sweep the Knights at Tompkins High and advance to this week's area playoffs against Stratford.

"We started working on it in practice," Little said. "We called it and it worked. Once (the pitcher) came set, I just went."

Execution such as that on Little's play was critical for Tompkins in its series win.

The Falcons are doing the little things better, like sacrificing hits to score runs, taking the extra base when the opportunity presents itself, and communicating on defense. As devastating as Tompkins' hitting prowess can



DENNIS SILVA II

Tompkins junior Jack Little, left, and senior Graiden West were pivotal in the Falcons sweeping Elkins in their Class 6A bi-district playoff series Saturday, May 8, at Tompkins High. West went 4-for-7 in the series with six RBIs and four runs scored. Little went 4-for-6 with five RBIs and three runs scored.

be—indeed, it was senior shortstop Graiden West's three-run crush of a curveball to left field in the fifth inning that wrapped up the run-rule win—"small ball" can be just as effective.

Case in point: Little's steal, which was one of seven for the Falcons in the series.

"It's huge," West said. "You see the other team get down on them-

elves, and when that happens, we had to take advantage of it and pick things up and get going. It was a big play. Brought a lot of energy. I love the energy in the dugout right now."

In the short history of Tompkins' baseball program, coach Kyle Humphreys said he may have called that play seven times and it has maybe worked five times.

"That was the first time we've

done it all year, to be honest," Humphreys said. "It's not like you can do it all the time. It's a good one off a lefty pitcher. We've worked on it just in case the scenario rises, and it did."

Offensively, the Falcons are playing impressive baseball. After pounding Knights pitching for 10 hits in a 14-3 Game 1 win the previous evening, Tompkins had seven hits in Game 2. Falcons hitters walked 14 times in the series.

"We're doing a good job not swinging at bad pitches and hitting the ball hard, making things happen," Little said.

Defensively, Humphreys is concerned that he may not have a true ace pitcher.

In the past, the Falcons have always managed to have a No. 1 arm, sometimes two in the same season. But while they lacked depth in the past, that is not the case this season.

Humphreys started sophomore left-hander Ty Dagley in Game 1, and he allowed one earned run on three hits while striking out three and walking two in four innings. Junior Trevor Esparza came on for two scoreless innings of relief, striking out two and walking one.

In Game 2, junior left-hander Solomon Rotberg got the start and went 4 1/2 innings, allowing no

earned runs on one hit, striking out two and walking four. Junior right-hander Michael DeBattista appeared briefly in relief, throwing just three pitches and getting a strikeout in his one-third inning of work.

"The guys we have on the mound are doing a great job," Humphreys said. "We've just got to pitch and get ahead of batters. As we keep going through the playoffs, if we don't get ahead of guys in the count, they'll do some damage."

The Falcons know they can hit with anyone. Offense has been the backbone of their 28-5-1 record so far. But they understand that if they want to get to state, let alone win it, it will be their ability to prevent runs that will make the difference.

"Our pitching was on point this series, and that's what we need to win games," West said. "Our defense, too. We've cleaned our pitching up, cleaned our defense up. We know we're going to swing the bats. The key to going to state is defense and pitching. We struggled early on with our defense, and we worked that a lot. We've stayed later after practice and really got working, doing our jobs. Becoming better teammates and better players. Just really getting after it."

KATY ISD SOFTBALL AREA PLAYOFF RESULTS

FRIDAY, MAY 7

GAME 1: KATY 10, HOUSTON HEIGHTS 0 (5)
GAME 2: KATY 19, HOUSTON HEIGHTS 3 (5)

KATY ISD BASEBALL BI-DISTRICT PLAYOFF RESULTS

FRIDAY, MAY 7

CINCO RANCH 7, RIDGE POINT 6
GAME 1: FORT BEND TRAVIS 8, TAYLOR 2
GAME 1: KATY 5, CLEMENTS 2
GAME 1: TOMPKINS 14, ELKINS 3 (6)

SATURDAY, MAY 8

GAME 2: FORT BEND TRAVIS 5, TAYLOR 3
GAME 2: KATY 13, CLEMENTS 1 (6)
GAME 2: TOMPKINS 12, ELKINS 2 (5)

KATY ISD SOFTBALL & BASEBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

CLASS 6A BASEBALL AREA PLAYOFFS

GAME 1: ELKINS AT TOMPKINS, 7 P.M.

THURSDAY, MAY 13

CLASS 6A SOFTBALL REGIONAL QUARTERFINAL PLAYOFFS

GAME 1: FORT BEND TRAVIS AT KATY, 6 P.M.

CLASS 6A BASEBALL AREA PLAYOFFS

GAME 2: TOMPKINS AT STRATFORD, 7 P.M.
GAME 1: KATY AT CY-RIDGE, 7 P.M.

FRIDAY, MAY 14

CLASS 6A SOFTBALL REGIONAL QUARTERFINAL PLAYOFFS

GAME 2: KATY AT FORT BEND TRAVIS, 6 P.M.

CLASS 6A BASEBALL AREA PLAYOFFS

CINCO RANCH AT CY-FAIR, 7 P.M.
GAME 3 (IF NECESSARY): TOMPKINS AT STRATFORD, 7 P.M.
GAME 2: CY-RIDGE AT KATY, 7 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

CLASS 6A SOFTBALL REGIONAL QUARTERFINAL PLAYOFFS

GAME 3 (IF NECESSARY): KATY AT FORT BEND TRAVIS, NOON

CLASS 6A BASEBALL AREA PLAYOFFS

GAME 3 (IF NECESSARY): KATY VS. CY-RIDGE, AT MORTON RANCH HIGH, NOON



PHOTOS BY SHEA DONALDSON | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy High junior Kailey Wyckoff (left) awaits the pitch during Game 2 of the team's area playoff series against Houston Heights on Friday, May 7, at Katy High. Katy High sophomore shortstop Peyton Watson (above) relays a throw during Game 1 of the team's area playoff series against Houston Heights on Friday, May 7, at Katy High.

KATY

from page B1

But Harrison was flat-out torturous at the plate. She went 2-for-2, both homers, and a walk in Game 1. In Game 2, she led off the second inning with another home run before she was intentionally walked in each of her final three plate appearances.

"I was seeing that ball like it was a beach ball," Harrison said. "It was super big coming in. Really putting in that extra work after practice, really trying to hit that peak for the playoffs, drives me to want to be able to produce for my team. That extra work helps a lot."

In four playoff games, Harrison is hitting 4-for-9 (.444) with seven RBIs. All of those hits have been home runs, including a grand slam.

"Coach Haack has been giving us more opportunities to build our confidence during BP (batting practice) and really letting us discover what we can do as a hitter," Harrison said. "That's helped build our bats."

Against Heights, Harrison and Wyckoff each hit three homers. Freshman

Ashtyn Reichardt, sophomore Peyton Watson, junior Emily Parks and senior Olivia McFadden also homered.

"It definitely keeps our intensity up," Harrison said of the home runs. "I feel like sometimes as a team we lack in intensity, because we're playing teams that we crush. By us coming out and hitting the ball like that, we really needed that because we'd been struggling."

The Tigers have outscored their competition, 46-4, in the playoffs. Still, Haack said there are "things we did really, really well, and then there's things that I can't believe we still do."

That comes with a young team, but it also comes with the high standard established within Haack's program culture. After all, the last time the UIL crowned a Class 6A state champion, in 2019, Katy was holding the trophy in Austin.

"We're still a work in progress and we'll get better and better as we go," Haack said. "As long as we make sure that we're improving our practice and making the things in practice a little

more important than what we're doing right now."

Haack saw a lot to agonize over against Heights, no matter how many balls landed beyond the outfield fence. He saw players bunt at outside pitches; one even bunted at a pitch-out. Two-strike hitting remains an issue. The timing on stolen base attempts is off.

"Whether we run-rule them or not, I don't care," Haack said. "I expect us to play at a certain level and execute at a certain level. Because when we're playing against a pitcher that's throwing the ball in the mid-60s and moving it, we're not going to hit this many home runs. In order for us to be successful, we're going to have to move runners into scoring position. We're not going to be able to just sit there and bang away."

His players are aware there is a lot of ground to still cover.

"Our confidence is high, but we're staying humble," Harrison said. "There's always room to improve, so I'm excited to see where we end up."

Jim Baker's Unified Theory Of Everything --- With God's Help

(JBUTOE-WGH) A new book about Science and God. Revised publish date: late 2020

BAKER'S BOOKS, Katy, TX

22237 Katy FRWY (close to Landry's)

(ad revised: 11/22/2019; previous ads are null and void)



This new book will contain a credible "unified theory of everything" that can explain the very basics of science. Albert Einstein predicted that someone "off the street" was going to do this someday. After 53 years (at approx. year 2000), I decided to include God at every step of the process of trying to come up with a scientific "Theory of Everything". Prior to this, it was about the "only thing" I felt I had not been successful at inventing or figuring out. --- You see, God had already given me the gift of inventing at age 9-10, in His response to my Second Major Prayer. --- By the year 2014, God had allowed me to assemble sufficient knowledge that I felt 95%, of what I needed to figure out, had been accomplished.

One thing I had always wished for, especially as I was approaching the age of 40, is for God to speak to me. Well, when God did speak to me, I liked my first message from God about as much, I suppose, as Abraham liked his message from God, when he was told to sacrifice his son. But God was testing both of us! God was also making us stronger.

There are still two major topics in life to be addressed, prior to publishing the new book. One is a major release of scientific information of the new theory across the U.S.A. The second is starting an evangelical ministry.

Author of new book is a Chemistry graduate (B.S. 1971/M.S. 1978) of Texas A&M (A&I) in Kingsville, TX. He also attended S.A.C. in San Antonio. He has additional hours at SWTSU, Texas Tech U., Boston College, Westinghouse PWR. He has worked at Texas Uranium Operations as Chief Chemist, at South Texas Nuclear Project as Nuclear Chemist during pre-startup, and retired from City of Houston where he was in charge of Technical Services Section of Bureau of Air Quality Control. Owner of BAKER'S BOOKS is also the author of God's Amazing Answer To Prayer, in 2012.

SECURE ~ SAFE ~ CLEAN
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED.
WHERE WE TREAT YOU LIKE FAMILY.

Sunny's
GRAND PARKWAY
SELF STORAGE

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/only. 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/only. Not valid with any other offer. Subject to availability. Restrictions apply. Call for details.

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		

050 GARAGE SALES
FORD 8N TRACTOR WITH 6 IMPLEMENTS, \$1000 OBO 5/15/21. STORAGE UNIT H702-5335 E 5TH ST. KATY

440 FURNITURE
52" INCH ROUND table \$200, ethan allen cherry china cabinet \$1300. call 505-850-7176 or email aberadi-no@comcast.net

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.

770 RVs, CAMPERS
WANT TO BUY travel trailer or pop-up camper, or rv. call for john 832-773-2657.

850 HELP WANTED
RECEPTIONIST NEEDED for veterinarian. Monday-Friday 1:30-5:30 pm. \$12/hr. Send resume to vet.frontdesk2015@gmail.com

850 HELP WANTED
ASSISTANT PASTOR: F/T; Nonprofit Christian Church; conduct pastoral activities; Master of Divinity or Related; Resume: Korean Central Presbyterian Church of Houston, Inc. @14311 Park Row, Houston, TX 77084.

RECEPTIONIST/OPTOMETRIC ASSISTANT for Optometrist office. We will train please send resume to Katy_Family_Eye_Care1@hushmail.com or fill out application at 1313 Fry Rd. Katy 77449, 281-579-6939.

APEX EXECUTIVE SUITES Full Time Receptionist/Community Assistant Hiring Locations: Katy, TX - Immediate opening. Sugarland, TX - June opening. Conroe, TX - Summer opening. Qualifications: Microsoft Office, Customer Service, Receptionist/Hostess, Excel Proficient. Full Job Description: Candidate must have the ability to multitask and handle difficult situations in a tactful, but firm manner. Candidate will conduct tours, craft proposals for prospective tenants and handle budgets. Email resume to: Angela@Marcelgroup.com

IGLOO® HIRING SEASONAL OPERATORS!
Make a \$1,000 a week working 60 hours!
Available May 1st - September 25th (start & end dates are flexible)
Pay rate \$15.00/hour
Shifts 6am - 6pm or 6pm - 6am
Refer your friends and get a \$500 bonus after 30 days!
Apply online at www.igloocoolers.com/careers
Email recruiting@igloocorp.com
Contact Monica @ (281) 394-6208 or Andreina @ (281) 394-6304
Must be 18 or older.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS SECURITY OFFICERS
KATY AREA DAY SHIFTS STUDENTS, RETIREES WELCOME
CONTACT: SANJAC SECURITY INC. 281-446-7500

Stephen F. Austin State Park
Customer Service Representative I
Posting number 0014341
Salary (\$13.41 hr.)
Regular position - 40 Hrs. week, rotating schedule/weekends
Duties: Responsible for daily office operations, camper registration; revenue collection and accounting; administrative and clerical tasks; answers telephones; prepares daily, weekly, monthly, and annual reports; and provides high quality customer service.
For more information call (979) 885-3613. For complete position description, requirements and to apply, visit our web site: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/jobs/>
EOE.

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE
Stephen F. Austin State Park
State Park
Stephen F. Austin State Park
TPWD - Seasonal Custodian III
Posting number 00014343
Salary (12.16 Hr.)
Seasonal position - 32 Hrs. week, rotating schedule/weekends
Duties: Performing highly complex (senior-level) custodial work. Work involves the cleaning and sanitation of public restrooms, and other State facilities. Performs general custodial functions such as sweeping, mopping, dusting, cleaning windows, floors, walls, light fixtures, kitchen appliances, furniture, and empties trash. Performs landscaping and grounds maintenance as needed.
For more information call (979) 885-3613. For complete position description, requirements and to apply, visit our web site: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/jobs/>
EOE.

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.

CITY OF KATY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICES
The City of Katy, Texas Is Accepting Proposals For Debris Removal Services In The City Of Katy. Proposals Will Be Received By The City Secretary At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, 77493, Until 2:00 O'Clock P.M. June 08, 2021. The Envelopes Containing The Proposals Must Be Sealed, Addressed To The City Secretary Of The City Of Katy, And Plainly Marked "Proposal For Debris Removal Services". The Proposals Will Be Opened At 2:00 O'Clock P.M. June 08, 2021, At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, 77493. Request For Proposal Packets May Be Obtained By Contacting elutringer@cityofkaty.com. City Council Reserves The Right To Reject Any and All Proposals.
City Of Katy

CITY OF KATY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MONITORING OF DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICES
The City of Katy, Texas Is Accepting Proposals For Monitoring Of Debris Removal Services In The City Of Katy. Proposals Will Be Received By The City Secretary At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, 77493, Until 2:00 O'Clock P.M. June 08, 2021. The Envelopes Containing The Proposals Must Be Sealed, Addressed To The City Secretary Of The City Of Katy, And Plainly Marked "Proposal For Monitoring Of Debris Removal Services". The Proposals Will Be Opened At 2:00 O'Clock P.M. June 08, 2021, At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, 77493. Request For Proposal Packets May Be Obtained By Contacting elutringer@cityofkaty.com. City Council Reserves The Right To Reject Any and All Proposals.
City Of Katy

INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be received in the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, until **2:30 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, June 10th, 2021**, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read via ZOOM for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of "Elyson Basin B Phase 2 Trail", Harris County, Texas.
Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of concrete trail, site furnishings, and concrete pads.
A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, May 27th, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/99797749566> or join the call via telephone number +1 346 248 7799 and use access code 997 9774 9566.
A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.
Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. **Documents will be available for download on Wednesday, May 26th, 2021.**
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be received in the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, until **2 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, June 10th, 2021**, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read via ZOOM for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of "Elyson Basin B Phase 2 Landscape", Harris County, Texas.
Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.
A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, May 27th, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/94545784340> or join the call via telephone number +1 346 248 7799 and use access code 945 4578 4340.
A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.
Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. **Documents will be available for download on Wednesday, May 26th, 2021.**
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be received in the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, until **2 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, June 3rd, 2021**, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read via ZOOM for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of "Elyson Basin B Phase 1 Landscape", Harris County, Texas.
Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.
A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, May 20th, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/91344582972> or join the call via telephone number +1 346 248 7799 and use access code 913 4458 2972.
A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.
Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. **Documents will be available for download on Monday, May 19th, 2021.**
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

May 6 Puzzle Answers

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

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

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
281-391-3141

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be received in the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, until **2 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, June 10th, 2021**, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read via ZOOM for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of "Elyson Basin B Phase 2 Landscape", Harris County, Texas.
Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.
A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, May 27th, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/94545784340> or join the call via telephone number +1 346 248 7799 and use access code 945 4578 4340.
A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.
Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. **Documents will be available for download on Wednesday, May 26th, 2021.**
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

MUELLER, INC.
METAL BUILDINGS, ROOFING & COMPONENTS

Mueller, Inc. is a manufacturer of pre-engineered steel building systems, metal roofing & components. We now seek a:

Sales Representative / Project Manager at our Rosenberg, TX Branch Location

- Generate sales of metal building systems, residential metal roofing, and components.
- Educate customer, interpret project requirements, and develop project specifications.
- Coordinate customer support activities from quote to delivery.
- 100% office based.

Requirements:

- Working experience with metal buildings and components.
- Knowledge of agricultural related environment preferred but not required.
- Bilingual preferred (English/Spanish)
- Bachelor's Degree strongly preferred.
- Starting base hourly rate of \$21.63/hr. plus graduated commission.
- Employer paid benefits valued at \$5 - \$10/hr.
- Guaranteed weekly pay.
- Drug screen & background check required.

We offer competitive pay/benefits, market-leading and comprehensive medical/prescription drug plan benefits, generous paid time off benefits, long-term disability, 401(k), life insurance, employee assistance program, etc.

Apply Online at
www.muellerinc.com/careers
Equal Opportunity Employer/Veterans/Disabled

STATE

from page B1

assistant coach Alonzo Adams, and jumps coach LeVar Brown.

More than anything, Onaleye determined she wanted to leave Paetow a champion. At all costs. And she did, making program history in the process.

Onaleye is the first girls' state track and field champion at Paetow after winning gold in the triple jump at the Class 5A state track and field meet Friday, May 7, at Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas at Austin. Onaleye, who will continue her track and field career at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, posted a mark of 40-feet, 1.25-inches.

"It was one of my biggest goals. I wanted to leave here a champ," Onaleye said. "This is how I wanted to end my year. This is how I expected it. It was overdue. This means a lot, more to me than probably a lot of things I accomplished this year."

Onaleye effusively praised her coaches, all of whom she said helped her build character and more committed about taking track to the next level.

Paetow's coaches all share the same philosophy of making the athlete as great as they can be; not only in winning and losing, but in an athlete competing against themselves and improving every week.

"Don't let good be the enemy of great" is a popular saying of Decuir's.

"Paetow is one of the best things to ever happen to me," Onaleye said. "They know how to help kids in their certain events, and they help us get to college, things like that. I really respect that because they believed in me."

In 2019, Onaleye started her track and field career doing the long jump and hurdles. But as he watched her hurdle, Brown noticed how well she pushed over the hurdles. He suggested she try the triple jump, which is more about speed and pushing off the board and going forward, whereas the long jump requires high hops. Onaleye did not get high off the ground.

"When she did the triple jump for the first time, she was already doing some of the hardest things naturally that are so hard to teach," Brown said. "Her form was terrible, but she was natural at carrying her speed through the jump and extending, which came from hurdling. She would extend over her second phase kind of like she was going over a hurdle."

Onaleye's form eventually developed to rival that of some

professionals that Brown showed her. Brown said Onaleye perfecting her technique has been her biggest growth as an athlete over the last three years. She drastically improved use of her arms, phases, toe points and landings.

"I made her a video of her first triple jump and each meet all the way up until the (regional) meet; I'll add this (state) meet to it," Brown said. "So, she can see her progression and can see that she worked so hard to get where she got."

Onaleye's senior season is one for the books.

She won the 100-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles at the District 19-5A meet and won the long jump and triple jump at the 19-20-5A area meet. At regionals, Onaleye booked her trip to state by winning the long jump and finishing second in the 300 hurdles (she finished ninth in the 300 hurdles at state).

"My mindset was to just get out there and be big and do what I can," Onaleye said. "I was going to trust my training, trust myself and trust God. I left it all out there."

SEVEN LAKES GIRLS DOUBLE UP IN GOLD

Seven Lakes girls track and field coach David Pollack knew this year could be 'magical.' With the returners from last season, along with some new additions, his Spartans could be special.

They were. Seven Lakes won the 4x100 and 4x400 relays at the Class 6A state track and field meet Saturday, May 8. The Spartans' 4x1 relay of senior Sydney Kim, senior Ibisio-David West, sophomore Alyssa Tate and junior Haley Tate won with a time of 44.89 seconds, a school record. The 4x4 relay of junior Avary Catchings, Alyssa Tate, David-West and Haley Tate won with a mark of 3:44.23.

Pollack's goal was simply to get to the podium and medal in the events possible. His Spartans did precisely that with a pair of gold medal wins, enough to help Seven Lakes to an overall third-place finish in the 6A team standings. David-West and Kim were the leaders of the team, which Pollack said was bonded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Anytime people go through hardship together, it brings them closer," Pollack said. "The team chemistry we have had this year is probably the best I've seen in 30 years of coaching. They had a phenomenal work ethic to begin with. That entire time we were in



SCOTT W. COLEMAN | FENICE COMMUNITY MEDIA

Paetow senior Tumi Onaleye competes in the Class 5A triple jump event at the UIL state track and field meet on Saturday, May 8, at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN | FENICE COMMUNITY MEDIA

From left to right, Seven Lakes' 4x100 relay team members senior Ibisio David-West, senior Sydney Kim, junior Haley Tate and sophomore Alyssa Tate react after finishing first at the UIL Class 6A state track and field meet on Saturday, May 8, at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin.

COVID and we couldn't work with them, they were still working, and working together. Going through that and all the hardships of the past year brought the entire group together."

The Spartans relay teams are the first girls track and field state champions at Seven Lakes.

FOSTER CLOSES TAYLOR CAREER WITH GOLD

Taylor senior thrower Bryce Foster, who has dreams of one day competing in the Olympics

and getting drafted into the NFL four years from now, closed his illustrious high school career with a gold medal in the shot put at the Class 6A state track and field meet Saturday, May 8.

Foster won with a throw of 71-1.00, a school record. He also won bronze in the discus with a throw of 191-1.

Foster, who is signed to Texas A&M to compete in football and track and field, finishes his Taylor career with personal records of 71-1.00 in the shot put and 210-10

in the discus. Both marks were achieved this year, and he capitalized on it by bringing home gold to Taylor.

SEVEN LAKES, CINCO RANCH GIRLS FINISH 3RD, 4TH

Buoyed by the two state champion relay teams, Seven Lakes' girls finished third in the Class 6A team standings at state with 49 points, one point behind second-place San Antonio Reagan. DeSoto won with 72 points.

Cinco Ranch was just a point behind the Spartans with 48 in fourth place. The Cougars were led by senior Amelia Flynt's state championships in the discus and shot put (20 total points) and senior Sophie Atkinson's silver-medal finishes and senior Heidi Nielson's bronze medal finishes in the 1600-meter run and 3200-meter run (28 total points).

The Tompkins boys finished seventh in the team standings with 22 points, two points behind sixth-place Alief Taylor and four-points behind fourth-place Lake Travis. Summer Creek won the 6A boys team championship with 54 points.

The Falcons were paced by their second-place 4x100 relay team (16 points) and freshman bronze medalist Jayden Keys in the long jump (six points).

BATENHORST

from page B1

celebrate and have that closure for the season."

Batenhorst, the No. 3 recruit in the nation for the Class of 2021, graduated from Seven Lakes in December to enroll early at Nebraska in January. She is expected to compete for playing time in the fall.

Because the pandemic delayed Nebraska's 2020 season in the fall, Batenhorst was able to experience a regular season as the Huskers played 19 games this spring, going 16-3.

Batenhorst participated in everything as a Husker, except for

the games.

"Usually early graduates go into the spring and it's off-season," Batenhorst said. "I actually was able to graduate early and go right into their season and experience a real season without actually being eligible. It was special to have that under my belt before I go into the real season for me (in August)."

"I learned about just being willing to work every moment you're there. You have to take every opportunity to get better. It's longer, harder and it's a lot.

Once you accept that and work hard, you develop the mindset that you want to play and will do everything you can to play. It becomes fun and something you enjoy. Having that training this spring and knowing the drills and practices, it will definitely help me going into the fall."

Batenhorst is back home in Katy for a while, visiting family and training, but will return to Nebraska at the end of May for summer school as she continues workouts up until the start of the 2021 season.



FILE PHOTO BY COLE MCNANNA | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Seven Lakes senior outside hitter Ally Batenhorst was named the 2020-21 Gatorade Texas Player of the Year on Wednesday, May 5. The 6-foot-4 powerful outside hitter recorded 574 kills, 371 digs, 33 blocks and 32 aces in 87 sets in 2020.

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

REALTOR

Spot the **HUGBUG** Contest!
Details at:
www.facebook.com/groups/hugbug/

AMBROSI REALTY
REAL ESTATE WARRIOR
A SERVANT'S HEART

713-730-8763
1603 S. Fry Rd.
Katy, TX 77450
Referrals are the ♥ of our business!

\$500 PRIZE!

BEST of KATY 2020

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

WINDOW CLEANING

KTX Window Cleaning, LLC

BEST of KATY 2020

SCHEDULE A FREE ESTIMATE
www.ktxwindowcleaning.com

YOUR AD HERE

YOUR MESSAGE HERE FOR JUST \$40.00 per week

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

Katy Times

Katy ISD athletes shine at state meet



Cinco Ranch senior Sophie Atkinson competes in the Class 6A girls 3200 meter run at the UIL state track and field meet on Saturday, May 8, at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin. Atkinson earned a silver medal in the event.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN | FENICE COMMUNITY MEDIA

Katy ISD athletes brought home plenty of medals as a strong local presence flooded Austin last weekend at the UIL state track and field meets at Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas.

Listed are the Katy ISD athletes who qualified for the Class 5A and Class 6A meets and how they fared. Athletes are listed with their respective events, where they placed and what mark they had. Athletes who medaled are in bold type.

CLASS 6A

GIRLS 4X100 RELAY: 1. SEVEN LAKES, 44.89 (SYDNEY KIM, SR.; IBISO DAVID-WEST, SR.; ALYSSA TATE, SO.; HALEY TATE, JR.)

GIRLS 4X400M RELAY: 1. SEVEN LAKES, 3:44.23 (AVARY CATCHINGS, JR.; ALYSSA TATE, SO.; IBISO DAVID-WEST, SR.; HALEY TATE, JR.)

GIRLS DISCUS: 1. AMELIA FLYNT, CINCO RANCH SR., 173-7.

GIRLS SHOT PUT: 1. AMELIA FLYNT, CINCO RANCH SR., 46-5.00.

BOYS SHOT PUT: 1. BRYCE FOSTER, TAYLOR SR., 71-1.00.; 3. MATTHEW RUEFF, SEVEN LAKES JR., 61-2.00.

BOYS 4X100 RELAY: 2. TOMPKINS, 40.490 (BLAKE HARRIS, JR.; MARK NGEI, SR.; MARQUIS SHOULDERS, SR.; JOSHUA McMILLAN II, JR.)

GIRLS 3200M RUN: 2. SOPHIE ATKINSON, CINCO RANCH SR., 10:09.02; 3. HEIDI NIELSON, CINCO RANCH SR., 10:23.14.

GIRLS 400M DASH: 2. HALEY TATE, SEVEN LAKES JR., 52.97.

GIRLS 1600M RUN: 2. SOPHIE ATKINSON, CINCO RANCH SR., 4:42.84; 3. HEIDI NIELSON, CINCO RANCH SR., 4:51.23.

BOYS LONG JUMP: 3. JAYDEN KEYS, TOMPKINS FR., 23-11.25.

BOYS DISCUS: 3. BRYCE FOSTER, TAYLOR SR., 191-1.

BOYS POLE VAULT: 4. WILLIAM SAXMAN, CINCO RANCH SR., 15-6.00

BOYS 800M RUN: 5. RUBEN ROJAS-BETANZOS, SEVEN LAKES JR., 1:54.29.

GIRLS 100M DASH: 6. JADA CAMPOS, KATY JR., 11.52.

GIRLS 200M DASH: 6. JADA CAMPOS, KATY JR., 23.80.

GIRLS LONG JUMP: 6. PAIGE BOUCHER, SEVEN LAKES SR., 18-6.00.

BOYS 3200M RUN: 7. RUBEN ROJAS BETANZOS, SEVEN LAKES JR., 9:18.86.

CLASS 5A

GIRLS TRIPLE JUMP: 1. TUMI ONALEYE, PAETOW SR., 40-1.25.

BOYS SHOT PUT: 2. SULTAN BAKARE, PAETOW JR., 58-6.00.

GIRLS 800M RUN: 6. TIYAN OGBEIDE, JORDAN SO., 2:13.02.

GIRLS 300M HURDLES: 9. TUMI ONALEYE, PAETOW SR., 57.51.

BOYS DISCUS: 8. CHARLES CHUKWU, PAETOW JR., 153-11.

—COMPILED BY DENNIS SILVA II

SCOTT W. COLEMAN | FENICE COMMUNITY MEDIA

Cinco Ranch senior Heidi Nielson competes in the Class 6A girls 3200 meter run at the UIL state track and field meet on Saturday, May 8, at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin. Nielson earned a bronze medal in the event.



Tompkins freshman Jayden Keys (above left) competes in the Class 6A boys long jump event at the UIL state track and field meet on Saturday, May 8, at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin. Keys finished third in the event with a jump of 23-11.25.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN | FENICE COMMUNITY MEDIA



Tompkins junior Joshua McMillan II (above right) runs as the Falcons compete in the Class 6A 4x100 meter relay at the UIL state track and field meet on Saturday, May 8, at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin. Tompkins finished second in the event.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN | FENICE COMMUNITY MEDIA



Paetow High junior Sultan Bakare competes in the Class 5A boys shot put event at the UIL state track and field meet on Saturday, May 8, at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin. Bakare finished second in the event with a throw of 58-6.00.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN | FENICE COMMUNITY MEDIA



Cinco Ranch senior William Saxman competes in the Class 6A boys pole vault event at the UIL state track and field meet on Saturday, May 8, at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin. Saxman finished fourth in the event with a vault of 15-6.00.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN | FENICE COMMUNITY MEDIA



Katy Times

will be closed on
Monday, May 31, 2021
in observance of
Memorial Day

Deadline for display advertising and editorial copy for June 3, 2021 publication is Thursday, May 27, 5 p.m.
Deadline for classified line ads is Friday, May 28, Noon.

Honoring Their Sacrifice.

Remembering Their Lives. Celebrating Their Memory.

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 - June 6, 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.

