

LITTLE LEAGUE SIGN-UP HAS STARTED
SPORTS | PAGE 9

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

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021

FORT BEND COUNTY



FORT BEND COUNTY/SWAGGIT

Fort Bend County Judge KP George speaks with commissioners court members during Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court. County staff and some commissioners are concerned that about 40% of the county's residents that are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine have not yet gotten their shots.

Commissioners Court approves vaccine outreach negotiations

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Fort Bend County Commissioners Court has authorized county staff to move forward with contract negotiations with Next Wave Strategies, LLC, to help bolster the county's vaccination rate. While many people are vaccinated throughout Fort Bend County, staff said they are concerned about the vaccination rate leveling out.

"(Fort Bend County Health Authority Dr. Jacqueline Minter) gave a glowing report about our vaccination rate," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Grady Prestage. "But our vaccination rate in the east side for the county is dragging down the whole and what we've been doing is not working."

County Judge KP George said Minter's report indicated about 60% of the county's population age 12 and up has been vaccinated, but he expressed concern about the 40% that have not yet been inoculated against COVID-19. Pockets of unvaccinated folks are scattered throughout the county, especially in rural and low-income areas, court members said.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers expressed doubt about whether a public information campaign was necessary.

"I guess I'm at a little bit of a loss," Meyers said. "It's not as if people aren't aware that we have vaccines available. If you go to any drugstore or any food store that has a (pharmacy) in it, there's a sign on the front door, you know, 'Walk-ins for vaccines are available.'"

According to the request for proposals issued by the county, the project would include research to verify why county residents had not gotten the vaccine yet, market-

See **OUTREACH**, page 3

KATY ISD



COURTESY KATY ISD

Members of Cinco Ranch High School's Team 624 CRYPTONITE stop for a photo with their three medals from the 2021 UIL Robotics State Championship. While the team was unable to compete last year due to the pandemic, their hard work allowed them to persevere at the annual competition which was held in San Antonio this year.

Cinco Ranch robotics team takes home honors in state championship

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch High School's robotics team, 624 CRYPTONITE, celebrated a victorious week at the San Antonio Alamodome, taking home three coveted awards in the University Interscholastic League's 2021 UIL Robotics State Championship. The Katy ISD students, who all dyed their hair kryptonite green, took

home the Second Place UIL State Winner, Lone Star Division Winner and Overall State Finalist.

"The students arrived energized and ready to compete. They were extremely proud to showcase the robot they designed and constructed this year," said Mike Outlaw, long-time team mentor for CRYPTONITE.

A total of 73 For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology - or FIRST - robotics teams par-

ticipated in the competition that was divided into two divisions - Lone Star and Bluebonnet, according to a press release from KISD. After competing in a dozen preliminary matches in two days, the UIL placed Team 624 CRYPTONITE in second place for the UIL State Robotics FIRST Division FRC 2021 competition, earning them a silver UIL trophy and corresponding

See **ROBOTICS**, page 3

PATTISON

Council continues growth planning at July meeting

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Pattison City Council authorized Mayor Joe Garcia to enter an agreement with Burditt Consultants to help the city plan for parks during its July 6 meeting. Council members also discussed an upcoming meeting to review the city's comprehensive plan and took steps toward joining the Waller County Economic Development Partnership.

"I think we need to have a seat at the table of developing ideas and exposure and so on, because that's the only way we're going to control - or help control - the growth that's already on top of us," Council Member Seth Stokes said.

Garcia said Pattison is one of the few cities in Waller County that is not a member of the WEDP. He said he is hopeful joining the WEDP will help the city bring economic devel-



R. HANS MILLER

The city of Pattison is working on an agreement with Royal ISD that may see broken-down playground equipment such as this stagecoach playscape at the RISD Administration Building repaired or replaced. Pattison City Council has been working on a variety of planning elements such as a parks plan, comprehensive plan and economic development to brace for upcoming growth in southern Waller County.

opment to the city.

The partnership was established in 2002 as a nonprofit corporation and its goal is to facilitate positive growth within Waller County, according to the WCEDP website.

(www.wallercounty.org) It is overseen by an appointed board of directors with members representing county commissioners, the county

See **PATTISON**, page 3

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July 8, 2021
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HCSO seeks help identifying shooting suspect

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Authorities are seeking the public's help in identifying a suspect involved in a shooting at the Lazy Frog Bar located at 4329 N. State Highway 6. Harris County Sheriff's Office investigators are seeking the suspect after two men were injured during the shooting that occurred at about 2:45 a.m. on July 3 that resulted in two men being shot.

"Both victims are still in critical condition at Memorial Herman Hospital," an HCSO statement read.

Witnesses told investigators that the suspect had gotten into a physical altercation with a 34-year-old man. The suspect was escorted out of the bar at around 2:40 a.m. and returned a few minutes later with a pistol which he then aimed at the 34-year-old. The 34-year-old then pulled a firearm and fired twice at the suspect, missing him.

The suspect then returned fire and struck the 34-year-old as well as a 36-year-old employee of

See **SHOOTING**, page 3



SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS

Investigators say the Lazy Frog Bar in the northeastern portion of the Katy area was the scene of a shootout in which two men were hurt in the early morning hours of July 3.



HCSO

Investigators are seeking the public's assistance in tracking down the man shown above after witnesses say he re-entered the Lazy Frog Bar after being escorted out a few minutes prior and injured an employee and a patron of the bar.

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HERITAGE SOCIETY CELEBRATES JULY 4TH



COURTESY KATY HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Katy Heritage Society held a July 4 celebration at Katy Heritage Park at 5990 George Bush Drive in downtown Katy. The festivities included a walking and riding parade with decorated bikes, strollers and other vehicles decked out in patriotic colors. The event also featured a petting zoo, face painting, snow cones and crafts. The Katy Heritage Society is responsible for the maintenance of Katy Heritage Park and its five historic structures. The site includes three historic, century-old homes, an old post office and a band stand among other attractions and is situated next to the Johnny Nelson Katy Heritage Museum which features farming equipment and other displays of Katy's past.



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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.

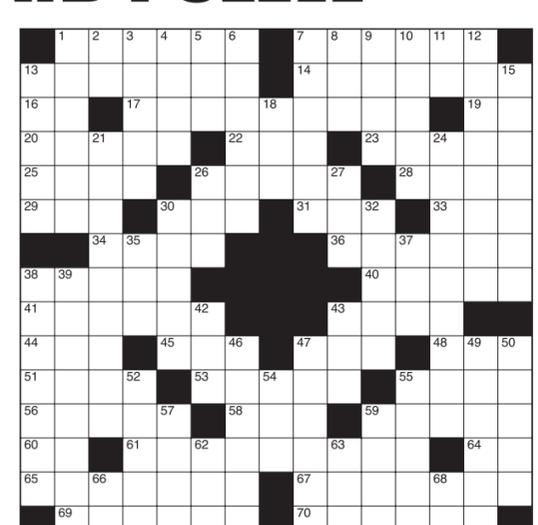
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Plant of the mint family
7. Hand tool
13. Made of the color of gold
14. A volume of several novels
16. Type of degree
17. Good job!
19. Seventh tone in major scale
20. Fevers
22. One's mother
23. Fertile desert spots
25. Large integers
26. Plate for Eucharist
28. Tennis matches have them
29. Peyton's little brother
30. Monetary unit of N. Korea
31. Head movement
33. Twelve
34. Renaissance musical instrument
36. Behavior showing high moral standards
38. Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
40. Notes to be sung
41. Women's garment
43. Coarsely ground corn
44. One point south of due east
45. A way to deplete
47. Rough, prickly covering of a seed
48. LA hoopster, but not a Laker
51. Hindquarters
53. Franz van __, German diplomat

CLUES DOWN

1. Short stick used as a weapon
2. An alternative
3. Laws
4. Sense organs
5. One from Utah
6. Mariner
7. People in charge of cattle
8. Health insurance organization
9. Ornamental box
10. Forest-dwelling deer
11. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
12. Atomic #71
13. Become less intense
15. Cowards
18. Body ornament (slang)
21. Applicable to all cases
24. Multiplied by 6
26. Afghanistan monetary unit
27. Calendar month
30. Cena and Lennon are two



55. Liquid body substances
56. Rhythmic patterns
58. A beaver might build one
59. Police officer's tool
60. Indicates who you are
61. Pinwheel
64. Exist
65. Ornamental molding
67. Closes again
69. Verses
70. Come into view

32. Monetary unit of Serbia
35. First time on the market
37. Georgia rockers
38. Free from contamination
39. Coastal region of Canada
42. Clothing retailer
43. It rises and sets
46. Fathers
47. Stain with mud
49. Suitable for crops
50. Feels concern for
52. Orange-brown
54. Buddy
55. Late sportscaster Craig
57. Used to align parts
59. Wake up
62. Solid water
63. Semiprecious stone
66. Atomic #45
68. Top lawyer

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

ROBOTICS

from page 1

medals.

In the Lone Star Division, the team came in third place and was defeated by the number one ranked team FRC 2714 - BBQ from Dallas. The team went on to compete in the playoffs and after six play-off games they swept through as finalists for the division, earning them a second silver trophy and medal set.

As winners of the Lone Star Division, the team

moved on to compete against the top team of the Bluebonnet Division. At the end of the competition, the team pulled in their third set of silver trophies and medals for a trifecta.

The Cinco Ranch team was joined at the competition by the Seven Lakes RoboSpartans and the Tompkins Steel Talons who both made the playoff portion of the Texas Cup Tournament.



COURTESY KATY ISD

Members of the Seven Lakes RoboSpartans (left), the Tompkins Steel Talons (center) and the Cinco Ranch Team 624 CRYPTONITE teams pose with their projects they competed with at the 2021 UIL Robotics State Championship in late June. All three teams did well, but Team 624 CRYPTONITE pulled the most awards, placing in three categories.

PATTISON

from page 1

judge, each chamber of commerce, local economic development groups and Prairie View A&M University.

Garcia also received authorization from council to enter into an agreement with Burditt Consultants, a Conroe-based consulting firm that helped Waller County develop its recently-adopted Parks and Trails Master Plan. The agreement has a spending cap of \$7,500 and Burditt representatives have agreed to help represent the city's interests at the upcoming Royal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on July 19 at no cost, Garcia said. During that meeting, trustees will consider whether to formalize an agreement with the city to maintain and upgrade some school property as parks usable by city residents.

Council members also approved the hiring of Andrea Govea to serve as deputy city secretary under City Secretary Lorene Hartfiel. Garcia said he is working to have Govea's position paid for via a work-based training program; however if the position does not qualify for the training program, Govea's part-time position will be paid with city funds. Hartfiel previously filled that position before the resignation of her predecessor and the part-time deputy city secretary position is unprecedented, Garcia said.

Garcia also explained that several planning meetings will be coming up that council members will need to attend. He asked that they consider attending the RISD meeting on July 19 to support the parks agreement and said he would

be meeting with the Pattison Parks Board soon after to move forward with developing a parks plan. A workshop will also be set up during the last few weeks of the month to discuss the city's comprehensive plan which has been in development for several months now and will serve as a guiding document to maintain the city's path as it navigates development.

"I'd like to try and avoid having a comprehensive plan sent to (council) without having a chance to sit down and visit over the draft and also afford some time to make any adjustments and changes that (council members) may want to have," Garcia said. "We've been working this thing up for a while and it's getting ready to hopefully come to some conclusion."

HARRIS COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

Phone: 713-222-8477
Web: <https://crime-stoppers.org/>

SHOOTING

from page 1

the bar. He then fled the bar to what is believed to be a 2015-2020 Nissan Juke that was a mustard yellow or gold color.

The suspect is described between 5-feet 8-inches and 5-feet 10-inches tall with a military haircut and a stocky build. Witnesses described him as Hispanic and between the ages of 35 and 40 with several tattoos on his arm, neck and chest.

HCSO is asking anyone with information on the suspect to contact the HCSO Violent Crime Unit at 713-247-9100.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crime-stoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls directly to Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.

OUTREACH

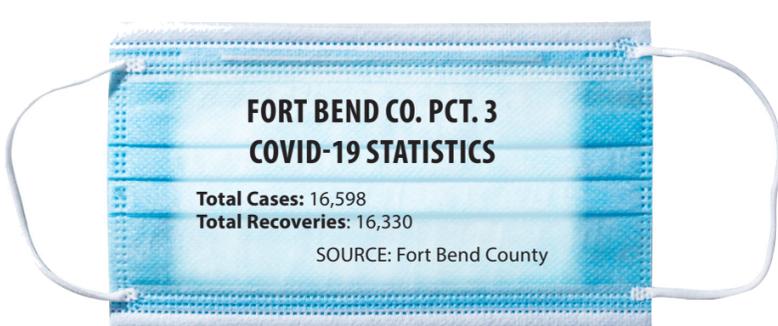
from page 1

ing to ensure people are aware of vaccine programs available throughout the county, and other steps to improve vaccination rates.

County staff said vaccination rates may be affected by income, transportation and language barriers.

County staff said that data provided by Minter in a report indicated that Prestage's precinct was behind on vaccinations. Staff also said that during the negotiation of the contract, the strategy for outreach and determining where and whom to target a public education campaign toward would be important in the negotiation process. Once a contract was prepared, it would not be finalized until reviewed and approved by the commissioners court.

Meyers said he would like to see that information prior to approving the expenditure of American



Rescue Plan funds toward any sort of campaign.

"Anecdotally - and I don't have a lot of statistics other than anecdotally - you know, people who are not vaccinated generally are people who, like some people in my office, had the virus and don't need a shot or they don't want to take an experimental vaccine. They don't know what the impli-

cations or long-term impact is going to be."

Commissioners also approved a change order for the construction of the Fort Bend County Public Safety Annex which is under construction near the intersection of FM 1463 and FM 1093 in Fulshear. The change to the construction contract adds about \$135,000 to the contract making the total

project cost a bit less than \$4.7 million. The location for the site was identified in a joint effort between the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office and Meyers.

About \$94,000 was also allotted to a contract with Ryan Construction Services, LLC for fencing at the county jail, bringing the cost of that project up to about \$480,000.

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CORRECTION

Katy Times, July 1, 2021 — "Council approves new development near Clay Road, OKs drainage work." Katy Court will be situated in the southwest corner of the intersection of Clay and Katy Hockley Cut Off roads.

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Remembering a Yankees star and American hero

Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Coleman was a New York Yankees second baseman who won the 1949 Rookie of the Year award, and in 1950, the World Series Most Valuable Player award.

After his playing career ended in 1957, Coleman broadcast New York Yankees, California Angels and then, for 40 years, San Diego Padres games. Coleman also had a brief, unsuccessful stint as the Padres manager.

Although Ted Williams and Coleman served in World War II and Korea, only Coleman saw active duty in both conflicts. In World War II, Williams was a stateside flying instructor, while Coleman flew Douglas SBD Dauntless bombers over the Pacific.

Williams and Coleman were flying buddies in Korea. During Williams' 39 Korean combat missions, often as Colonel John Glenn's wingman, enemy fire hit the plane of "Teddy Ballgame" and forced a crash landing. But as harrowing as Williams' experience was, during one flight deep into North Korea, Coleman watched his tentmate Max Harper, flying just ahead of him, get shot down and perish.

Despite the emotional burden of seeing his good friend killed in battle, Coleman carried on.

In his autobiography "An American Journey: My Life on the Field, In the Air and On the Air," Coleman wrote about his early, challenging youth in San Francisco. Coleman's father, Gerald, a former Pacific Coast League catcher with the San Francisco Seals and the Seattle Rainiers, drank heavily. One evening, suspecting that his wife Pearl was two-timing him, Gerald followed her to a local nightclub, and shot her several times, a crime for which he was never prosecuted.

Young Coleman went to live with his grandmother, and excelled at sandlot baseball and high school basketball. In 1944, he enrolled in the Navy's V-5 flight training program at age 18, the minimum age for the training. Coleman eagerly enlisted; he feared that World War II might end before he saw action.

With the war over, the Yankees activated Coleman just in time for the thrilling 1949 pennant race that the Bronx Bombers won on the season's last day by beating the Boston

JOE GUZZARDI

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



Red Sox.

Coleman had a career year in 1950, but the Marines recalled him at the end of the 1951 season. By 1953, he had learned to fly Corsair attack planes, and was sent to Korea. By the end of the 1953 season, the 29-year-old Coleman, now physically and emotionally exhausted, returned to the Yankees where he struggled in his few token appearances.

Coleman's on-the-field slump continued in 1954 and 1955. By 1957, the playing days of the 33-year-old Coleman were over, and he embarked on his broadcasting career which eventually landed him in the Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame, where he received the Ford C. Frick Award for excellence in baseball broadcasting.

Coleman's only baseball regret was when he piloted the Padres in the 1980s. San Diego finished last in their division, and Coleman happily returned to the broadcast booth where he spent more than four decades in total calling the Padres games.

When Coleman died at age 89 in La Jolla, Calif., he was a San Diego icon, most often known around town by his nickname, "The Colonel." C. Paul Rogers III in his Society for Baseball Research Coleman biography wrote that the bona fide war hero was buried with full military honors, including a 21-gun salute and an F-18 flyover in the missing-man formation.

Looking back at his long and memorable life, Coleman said that he was most proud of his U.S. Marine Corp dive-bomber, fighter pilot days during his 57 World War II missions, and 63 Korean War missions. Coleman won 13 Air Metals, two Distinguished Flying Cross citations, the World War II Victory Metal, and eight other awards.

Coleman once said that America "is bigger than baseball."

Joe Guzzardi is a Society for American Baseball Research and Internet Baseball Writers' Association member. Contact him at guzzjoe@yahoo.com.



Kayaking for couples, a tragicomedy

In recent years, kayaking has become a true craze, ranking right up there with TikTok dances, government stimulus checks, and those glorified Lunchables on plywood I can't pronounce called charcuterie boards. And speaking of unusual pronunciations, before my teenage daughters got involved with the pastime, I mainly associated the word "kayak" with a noise our cat makes right before she barfs on the throw rug.

I honestly don't understand the point of kayaking, other than to get some rigorous exercise in a contraption guaranteed to give you soggy shorts. To me, paddling a boat is something you do in an emergency situation when the motor quits running. And if the lack of a propeller isn't a warning sign, the life jacket and swimwear requirements should be.

Just a few weeks ago, we spent a Saturday with family at Lake Cherokee in East Texas, and my two older daughters effortlessly kayaked on their own across the lake, probably for the sake of some sweet action selfies—and to avoid answering embarrassing questions from relatives about their boyfriends' hair styles.

Not to be outdone, and trying to prove that we're still young, hip and semi-mobile, my wife and I decided to embark on a guided sunset kayaking excursion with our eldest and most expensive daughter the following week while vacationing in Orange Beach, Alabama. Since my wife and I are both novice kayakers, the guide suggested that we use a tandem

JASE GRAVES

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



kayak he called "the divorce maker."

Although we were amused by the joke, I was immediately concerned about the narrow dimensions of the kayak. Since I tend to eat shameful quantities of seafood and key lime pie when I'm on a beach vacation, I thought I might require a more full-figured watercraft. Nevertheless, I took my seat in the rear with my wife in the front so that she could more efficiently sling sea water off her paddles and directly into my nostrils.

Because I was immediately distracted by the beauty of nature, including a great blue heron flying directly overhead that was possibly looking for the men's room, I missed some of the instructions from the guide about how to steer the kayak properly. As a result, my wife and I became instant experts at paddling our kayak without actually moving it.

After a well-deserved "wife splaining," I eventually got my bearings, and we frantically paddled out into Perdido Pass to catch up with our daughter, who was shaking her head and pretending that we were unknown life forms.

The rest of the excursion was

exhilarating as our guide identified the diverse wildlife and dramatic landscapes around us. At one point, he drew our attention to a school of small pompano jumping out of the water right in front of our daughter's kayak, although from our vantage point at the far rear of the group, he could have told us they were a herd of amphibious armadillos, and we would've been none the wiser.

I was so taken by the splendor of God's creation that I almost didn't notice the crippling pain radiating from every muscle below my eyebrows as I paddled. Luckily, my wife is in great shape, or I couldn't have taken my frequent fake-paddle breaks with such discreet confidence.

As we glided toward the shore at the end of the day, our silhouettes tinted auburn by the sun reclining along the horizon, I reflected on our adventure and felt a deep contentment from the memories we made as a family. I was also hopeful that I would someday regain the ability to lift my arms high enough to scratch.

Although I'm glad I had the kayaking experience, I'll probably leave it to the youngsters for now. But who knows? Maybe someday I'll get one of those fancy kayaks with a motor—and a storage area for key lime pie.

Jase Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in a variety of Texas publications, including the Katy Times. He may be reached at: susanjase@sbcglobal.net.

Katy Times

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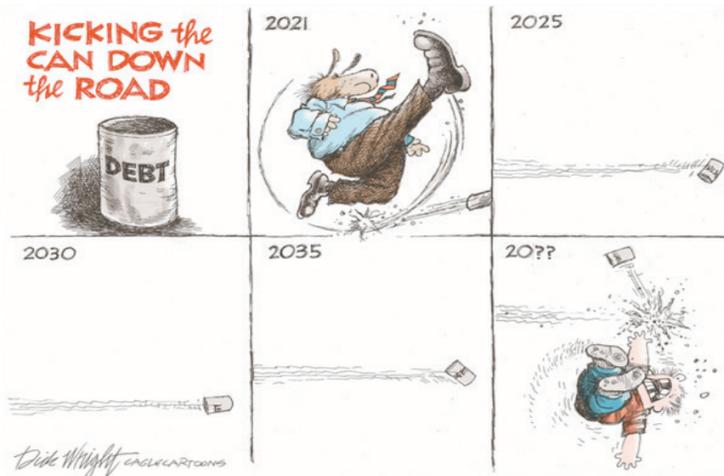
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The Katy Times is a member of the Texas Press Association. The weekly newspaper is published every Thursday. Visit our Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.katytimes.com for more news and information.



CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY



R. HANS MILLER

Members of the joint honor guard for Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 and American Legion Post 164 perform a 50-gun salute at the VFW post's Independence Day celebration on Monday July 5. During the ceremony, a shot was fired for each of the 50 states as their names were read in chronological order by year of statehood.



R. HANS MILLER

VFW Post 9182 member Stephen Brady reads from the Declaration of Independence during Katy VFW Post 9182's Independence Day Celebration. According to USHistory.org, the Declaration was written by Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston. They drafted the document from June 12-27, 1776 and it was first read before the Continental Congress on June 28 in draft form. It was then revised over a 4-day period before being adopted July 4, 1776.



She Flies Over Us

BY HUBERT E. CORMIER II

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She always leads the way into the fight,
Through the darkest of times, to victories light.

Her majestic beauty shines brightly
when unfurled,
For she flies over the greatest Country
in the world.

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R. HANS MILLER

Local performer Angelique performs the National Anthem at Fulshear Freedom Fest on Saturday, July 3. The St. Mary's University graduate is working on the release of her first full album and can be found on Instagram (@AngeliqueOfficial99), Facebook (Angelique.fanpage.official) and Snapchat (AngeliqueMusic). In the background, Fulshear Mayor Aaron Groff holds his hat over his heart and faces the flag which is to the left of this scene.



R. HANS MILLER

VFW Post 9182 Post Commander Don Byrne speaks at the post's Independence Day ceremony. During his comments, Byrne emphasized the importance of teaching history to younger generations and ensuring they know the sacrifices that American veterans have made to protect the nation's values. A poem by Ernie Cormier was also read by the author at the event and is published on this page with his permission for those who were unable to attend.



R. HANS MILLER

Katy American Legion Post 164 opened a fireworks stand to raise money to place a sign at the post, named in honor of local combat veteran Jonathan D. Rozier. The post is located at 22125 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, and offers a variety of programs including scholarships, flag retirement ceremonies, veterans assistance and community activities.



R. HANS MILLER

The Spazmatics perform at Fulshear Freedom Fest which was held this year in front of Fulshear High School on Charger Way. The Spazmatics have performed multiple times for the annual festival which Katy area residents show up for in large numbers. The event is hosted by the city of Fulshear in cooperation with the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. Attendees were able to enjoy the live music as well as tasty items from several food trucks nearby.



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KISD names new principals

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

When Memorial Parkway Elementary (MPE) and Mayde Creek High School (MCHS) students and staff return to their campuses this fall they will each be kicking off their school year with a new principal. Superintendent of Schools Ken Gregorski appointed Norma Veguilla-Martinez as the new leader of MPE and Gina Cobb as the new principal of MCHS on July 1.

Both administrators will begin their roles this summer, just in time for the new school year.

Martinez began her educational career as an elementary teacher in 2008 in Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District. In 2013, she joined the Katy ISD family as a third-grade teacher at Exley Elementary. Three years later, in 2016, she became an interventionist at Morton Ranch Elementary. Looking to expand her educational career, in 2017, she transitioned into administration as an assistant principal at Fielder Elementary and most recently she held the same

role at Beckendorff Junior High.

Martinez holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Texas A&M University and a Master of Educational Management and Instructional Technology from the University of Houston in Clear Lake. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Houston in Clear Lake.

"I am honored to lead a school rich in family, community and education," Martinez said. "I cannot wait to meet my new Panther family at Memorial Parkway Elementary, and I look forward to learning together."

Cobb has been a part of the Katy ISD family since 1999 when she began her career in education. From 1999 to 2006, she taught and coached at Katy Junior High, Cinco Ranch High, Morton Ranch Junior High and Morton Ranch High. In 2006, she began her administrative career in the district. She has held several administrative titles from 2006 to 2012 at Morton Ranch High that includes a grade level assistant principal, administrative assistant



GINA COBB
Mayde Creek High School Principal



NORMA VEGUILLA-MARTINEZ
Memorial Parkway Elementary Principal

principal, student support assistant principal and associate principal. From 2013 until recently, she served as the principal for West Memorial Junior High.

Cobb holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Learning and Development from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Prairie View A&M.

"I'm excited to join the MCHS Rams family to continue the academic excellence and culture they have passionately established, as well as the rich traditions which have made this high school what it is today," Cobb said.

KISD's financial reporting recognized

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD has been recognized with a certificate of excellence in financial reporting by the Association of School Business Officials International. ASBO has issued such awards for more than 45 years in recognition of districts that adhere to the highest standards for their comprehensive annual financial reports – often referred to as CAFR.

"Achieving this recognition takes an extreme amount of hard work among our financial services employees and those individuals at each one of our campuses and facilities," said KISD Chief Financial Officer Chris Smith.

In order to be recognized, a school district must have its financial affairs in order and apply for the recognition. The current award, announced July 2, is for the 2020 fiscal year. The district was also recognized for the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years.

KISD also provides informa-

KISD BY THE NUMBERS

- Student body: 85,000+
- KISD Fund Balance as of Aug. 31, 2020: \$295.4 million
- Maintenance and Operation Tax Rate: \$0.9988 per \$100 value
- Interest & Sinking/Debt Service Tax Rate: \$0.3900 per \$100 value
- Debt as of Aug. 31, 2020: \$1.889 billion

SOURCE: Katy ISD

tion regarding its financial data to the public through its Financial Services webpage at <https://www.katysd.org/dept/bf/Pages/default.aspx>. The information includes the KISD Financial Services Division's mission statement, tax rate information, expenditures per student and other financial information that affects district residents and those who own property in the district.

"Our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending in August 2020 is an important tool for building trust with our taxpayers and the school community," Smith said.

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(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.

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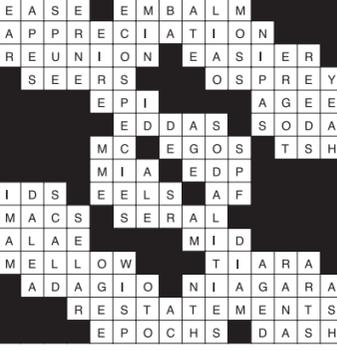
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DIVISION OF NEW YORK

TARASMATTI NAGESAR v. NORTHWEST ALLIANCE MORTGAGE BANKING CORP.

Case No. 1:18-CV-06709-KAM-RER

To: Northwest Alliance Mortgage Banking Corp.
565 Mason Rd.
Katy, TX 77459

An [Amended] Petition for Quiet Title has been filed against you on 9/16/2020. You and you have 30 days to respond. The [Amended] Petition sets forth that:

1. That Defendant NORTHWEST ALLIANCE MORTGAGE BANKING CORP. ("NAMBC") has clouded Plaintiff's title and encumbered the property without any right to do so.
2. That Defendant NAMBC has recorded fraudulent documents against the title of Plaintiff's property in Kings County (NY) Recorder's Office thereby making the Plaintiff's title unmarketable

Plaintiff has asked the Court for an order/judgment: 1) quieting title against Defendant and in favor of Plaintiff decreeing and declaring that the Property is owned and possessed by Plaintiff TARASMATTI NAGESAR; and 2) Issue and order/judgment declaring that any and all documentation recorded by Defendant NORTHWEST ALLIANCE MORTGAGE in Kings County Recorder's Office against the Subject Property, be deemed fraudulent, invalid and vacated.

Respectfully submitted,
Dated: 9/5, 2020
By: *Tarasmatti Nagassar*
Tarasmatti Nagassar



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CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Gas prices at highest level since 2014

and 5 other Texas topics Katy area readers should know about

BY GARY BORDERS
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

As Texans hit the roads this summer with pandemic restrictions eased and vaccinations widespread, the national average price of gas is expected to top \$3 per gallon, though the average in Texas for regular is \$2.799, according to AAA. Drivers should expect prices to keep rising as demand rises, according to the Consumer Energy Alliance.

"With oil's continued push higher, fueled by continued strong demand globally and production only slowly answering, gasoline prices have had no choice but following oil's rise last week setting a new 2021 high," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "...It appears the only way forward is for gas prices to continue to rise as Americans' insatiable demand for gasoline continues to act as a catalyst. And with hurricane season soon coming into its prime, we have plenty more catalysts for a rise in price, and few that could restrain the situation. Motorists should prepare to dig deeper for the second half of the summer, unfortunately."

1 TEA test results: widespread decrease in performance

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) results for spring 2021 show that outcomes for in-person learners were appreciably higher than those who attended classes online during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of students not meeting grade level increased from 2019 across all subject areas and grade levels, with the exception of English, according to the Texas Education Agency.

"Thankfully, from early on, Texas prioritized the availability of in-person instruction during this tremendously difficult year," TEA Commissioner Mike Morath said. "When students come into Texas public schools, they are well-served by Texas educators — a fact that these scores confirm. But it is also painfully clear that the pandemic had a very negative impact on learning. I shudder to consider the long-term impact on children in states that restricted in-person instruction."

School districts that had a higher percentage of students learning

virtually had higher declines in STAAR results in all grades and subjects, TEA reported.

2 Higher ed gets \$94.6 million in relief

Federal pandemic funding continues to trickle down to Texas colleges and universities, with the latest round bringing nearly \$100 million in emergency relief. Last year the state allocated \$175 million in federal funds to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to support higher education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

About half the funding will go to expand capacity for high-demand and high-value educational opportunities, including work-based learning and apprenticeships. Other programs to be funded include financial aid; establishing a one-stop advising resource to help students connect with higher education opportunities; and expanding outreach to adult learners to meet workforce demands.

3 Vaccinations slowly increase in state

The number of Texans

who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 reached 11.937 million this week, or about 41% of the state's total population, according to Texas Health and Human Services. Hospitalizations in the past week of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases rose slightly to 1,502. New cases in Texas increased to 10,493 compared to the previous week, with 193 deaths recorded, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

4 Putting manufacturing sector in perspective

A report from the state comptroller's office notes that Texas' manufacturing sector contributed \$241 billion to the state's gross domestic product in 2019, about 13% of its total economic output. That is larger than the manufacturing output in both Russia and Mexico. Before the pandemic, manufacturing employed about 909,000 Texans. As of February 2021, seasonally adjusted total manufacturing jobs were below pre-pandemic levels by 53,000, or nearly 6%.



GUSTAVO FRING/PEXELS

Fuel prices have leapt up recently across the state and nation as more vaccinations have occurred and pandemic restrictions have eased up concurrently with schools letting out for summer. AAA says fuel prices are likely to continue increasing as hurricane season approaches and demand continues to increase.

5 Most funding ever for transit operations

The Texas Transportation Commission approved \$89 million last week for transit operations across the state, the most ever allocated at one time. About 60% of the funding comes from federal pandemic funds, with the rest provided by the state. The funding includes more than \$10 million to help transit agencies manage the impact of COVID-19. Nearly 20 million transit rides were recorded statewide, even during the pandemic.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The Rio Grande winds through Big Bend National Park. Texas submitted a plan to comply with the Clean Air Act's requirement to reduce haze at Big Bend National Park and other federally protected areas, but the plan does not include any new controls on pollution.

Plan to reduce haze in national parks wouldn't require new pollution limits

BY ERIN DOUGLAS
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas regulators on Wednesday advanced a plan for reducing pollution at its national parks that lacks any new limits on air pollutants that cause haze and disregards concerns voiced by federal agencies and environmentalists alike.

Texas' proposed plan — which is required by the federal government to improve visibility at national parks and other federally protected areas — would not require coal plants in Texas to do anything differently to reduce haze on the federally-managed lands. Environmentalists had hoped Texas would require the power plants, one of the largest contributors to haze, to install pollution-reducing technology, such as scrubbers, that most other states have required for several years.

Texas has long fought the federal government over just how far its pollution regulations need to go to comply with the Clean Air Act's requirement to reduce

haze and increase visibility at Big Bend National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park and other federally protected areas impacted by Texas pollution.

The first phase of Texas' haze plan, which is reviewed each decade, is tangled up in court after environmental groups sued over a plan that they said was too weak. The second phase — which was approved for submission by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Wednesday ahead of a July 31 federal deadline — lacks new regulations for pollution.

Public documents show that some federal agencies don't think the Texas plan approved by commissioners on Wednesday is adequate.

"The [National Park Service] has welcomed the various briefings and discussions held with the State of Texas since March 2020," wrote Michael Reynolds, a regional director of the National Park Service, in a November letter to TCEQ. "However, after reviewing the draft [state implementation plan], the [Park

Service] continues to have many of the same concerns."

The National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service wrote that Texas overestimated the cost of new pollution controls on power plants and ignored their concerns that some federally protected sites were left out of the TCEQ's analysis.

In a statement, a TCEQ spokesperson said the agency reviewed the costs of new pollution controls in response to those criticisms by federal agencies and found Texas' analysis complied with federal regulations.

The TCEQ argues that it's unreasonable to impose regulations that would improve visibility "to a degree that is imperceptible to the human eye at the costs described." State regulators on Wednesday said that previous measures to reduce haze at national parks have already put Texas on track to improve visibility, and no new regulations on the more than a dozen pollution sources identified by TCEQ as causing haze on the federal lands is necessary.

GOP chair West to challenge Abbott in Republican primary

BY PATRICK SVITEK
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas GOP Chairman Allen West announced Sunday he is running for governor, challenging fellow Republican Greg Abbott.

The announcement was made during an appearance by West at Sojourn Church in Carrollton, where the former Florida congressman played a video launching his campaign.

"I've not been in elected political office for about a decade, but I can no longer sit on the sidelines and see what has happened in these United States of America and ... the place that I call home," West said in the video, which was preceded by West reading aloud the Declaration of Independence to the churchgoers gathering on July Fourth.

West's campaign launch comes about a month after he announced his resignation as state party chairman. The resignation is effective July 11, when the State Republican Executive Committee is set to meet to pick West's successor as chair.

West quickly hinted that he was considering a run for statewide office after he announced his resignation, though speculation had run rampant for months that he was eyeing a bigger job. As state party chairman, he did not shy away from conflict with state leaders, most notably Abbott.

Since his election as Texas GOP chair in July of last year when he soundly beat then-incumbent James Dickey, West has criticized Abbott's coronavirus response and sought to push the governor's legislative agenda further to the right.

Abbott has mostly ignored West's attacks. But the governor has increasingly catered to his right flank in recent months as he has appeared to try to tamp down potential vulnerabilities ahead of his reelection campaign.

West did not directly mention Abbott in his remarks Sunday in the church or in the video. West used the video to sketch out a platform focused on shielding the state's energy resources against the Green New Deal — the sweeping climate change proposal pushed by some Democrats in Washington, D.C. — securing the state's border "to



JORDAN VONDERHAAR FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

State GOP Chairman Allen West speaks at a Texas Republican Party rally on the east side of the Capitol grounds on Jan. 9. West, who formerly served Florida in Congress, has announced that he intends to run for governor in the Republican primary.

ensure that Texas is for Texans" and combatting sex trafficking.

Abbott's campaign did not immediately respond to request for a comment on West's announcement.

Abbott received his first credible primary challenger in May, when former state Sen. Don Huffines of Dallas launched a bid against Abbott. Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller weighed running against Abbott as well but announced last month he would instead seek reelection to his current job.

Facing the intraparty angst, Abbott also has embraced former President Donald Trump more than ever. In June, he secured Trump's endorsement for reelection, announced Texas would build its own border wall to finish the job started under Trump and invited Trump to the state for a border tour.

West is also a vocal Trump ally, though he has brushed off the impact of Trump's endorsement on his future political plans.

"You know, I don't serve President Trump," West said in June. "I serve God, country and Texas. So that does not affect me whatsoever."

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/07/04/allen-west-greg-abbott-texas-governor-election/>. The Texas Tribune is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at [texastribune.org](https://www.texastribune.org).

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Katy Times



FILE PHOTO

Taylor High School graduate Bryce Foster made a dominant impression at the District 19-6A track and field meet in April. Foster's performance in football and track and field earned him top honors in the district alongside Seven Lakes High School's Ally Batenhorst as Katy ISD's student-athletes of the year.

KATY ISD ANNOUNCES 2020-21 STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

BY MEGAN BIASIOLLI
EDITORIAL INTERN

Every school year Katy high school campuses nominate a male and female student-athlete to be considered for the Katy ISD Student-Athlete of the Year award. This year the Katy ISD Athletic Department announced that Bryce Foster from Taylor High School and Ally Batenhorst from Seven Lakes High School took home the awards.

"We have many outstanding athletes in Katy ISD, making this a very difficult process to narrow down to just one male and one female athlete," said Debbie Decker, executive director of athletics.

According to a district report, after one male and one female student are chosen they receive a \$2,500 scholarship, donated to Katy ISD by BSN Sports, a uniform distribution company, which they can use to attend the university or college of their choice.

The release said Foster is known for being a hard worker and honest young man. He is an excellent athlete in football and track and field. His many awards and recognitions reflect that.

Foster's awards and recognitions include:

- 1st Place District/Area/Regional/State Shot Put
- 1st Place District/Area Discus
- 2nd Place Regional Discus
- 3rd Place State Discus
- Texas Track and Field Coaches Association - 2021 Male Field Athlete of the Year
- Finished season as the #1 throw in both Shot Put and Discus
- Texas A & M signee in both Football and Track & Field
- 1st Team All-State Football - 2020, 2021
- Honorable Mention Academic All-State Football - 2020, 2021
- Unanimous All-District Football 2019, 2020
- Dave Campbell 1st Team All-State
- Max Preps 1st Team All-State
- Texas Sports Writers Association 1st team All-State
- Whataburger Super Team
- Adidas All-American



BRYCE FOSTER
Taylor High School/
Football and Track &
Field

Batenhorst is not only an outstanding volleyball athlete, but also an amazing student, according to the press release. She remains humble despite her numerous awards. Her stats include "some of her school records include having the most career kills,

See **ATHLETES**, page 10

Fall Little League registration underway

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

As life in Katy continues its return to a pre-pandemic normal, registration has begun for the Katy American Little League Fall 2021 baseball season.

League president Bryan Sills said about 800 players are expected to register, which is consistent with past years. Registration began June 14 and runs through August 13. The season begins September 13 and runs through December 16.

For 2021, the league will have no masking or social distancing requirements. However, players and fans are welcome to wear masks and social distance as they wish. Fans have in the past brought their lawn chairs to games and sat in the outfield area, away from the main bleachers.

"We go by what the government says," Sills said, adding that the league has followed Katy Independent School District policy. The district on June 1 lifted its masking and social distancing requirements.

While many area leagues cancelled their 2020 seasons in response to the pandemic, the Katy American Little League still played its games. But the pandemic did take a toll, however. For one thing, the spring season had about 1,000 players, which Sills said is about 100 fewer than usual. Many of the players who participated came from leagues whose seasons were cancelled. The spring season schedule was also pushed to June and ran through August.

When the games were played, an entire team could not be in the dugout at any time because of social distancing conventions. The catcher's equipment had to be disinfected after every inning and sanitized if another catcher was going to play in a game. Players were urged not to share their equipment.

Team drinks and snacks, such as Gatorade or store-bought snacks, had to be



COURTESY KATY AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Baseball team huddle scenes such as this can be expected in the Katy American Little League Fall 2021 baseball season. Around 800 players are expected to register for the fall season this year and fans of America's game are excited to see young players enjoying themselves, league officials said.

"We never know how many kids will show up. Some nights, it's real big, and some nights it's not. We usually have three fields going, but sometimes we've had up to six fields."

— KATY AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE PRESIDENT BRYAN SILLS

pre-packaged. Homemade or handmade snacks were not allowed.

Sills said that the 2020 season was perhaps the most memorable because the games were played during the pandemic.

"We completed our season," Sills said. "I think (the players) were just so happy to get out."

Registration is open for players ages 4-18, and is divided into 10 divisions,

ranging from T-ball (ages 4-5) to juniors (ages 14-18). Players must live within the league boundaries, which are generally north of FM 1093, south of FM 529, east of Brookshire, and west of Mason Road.

All but the T-ball division have tournaments towards the end of their seasons.

The league will also have a sandlot league, set for July but not yet officially

announced, in which the kids will pick the teams they will play on and the positions they will play. The games will have real umpires and coaches available, Sills said.

"It's crazy," Sills said. "We never know how many kids will show up. Some nights, it's real big, and some night it's not. We usually have three fields going,

See **LITTLE LEAGUE**, page 10

2021 FALL FOOTBALL PREVIEW SECTION PUBLISHING 8/26!



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ATHLETES
from page 9

the most career digs and the most kills in a match," the release said.

Batenhorst's awards, honors and recognitions include:

- 2020-21 Gatorade Athlete of the Year
- 2020 AVCA/Under Armour All American First Team
- 2020 VolleyballMag.com HS All American First Team
- 2020 All VYPE Public School First Team
- 2020 Texas Sports Writers Association Player of the Year and All State 1st Team
- 2020 TGCA Academic All State
- 2020 TGCA Legacy All Star Team



ALLY BATENHORST
Seven Lakes High School/Volleyball

"This past year, (Foster) and (Batenhorst) capped off outstanding careers and we can't wait to see what the future holds for them."

— DEBBIE DECKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

- 2020 UIL 6A State Championship Most Valuable Player
 - 2020 UIL 6A State Championship All Tournament
 - 2020 6A State Tournament Record Holder - Most Kills in a Match, 35 (State Semifinals vs. Reagan)
 - 2020 19-6A Most Valuable Player
 - 2020 19-6A First Team All-District
 - 2020 19-6A Academic All District
 - 2020 THSCA Academic All State
 - 2020 Fox 26 "Making the Grade" Student of the Week
 - 2020 USA Women's Junior National Training Team
 - 2020 Listed as #3 in 2021 Recruiting Class according to PrepVolleyball
 - 2020 MaxPreps National Player of the Year Watch List
 - 2020 MaxPreps National Player of the Week 9/21/20
 - 2020 VolleyballMag.com Top 25 Underclassmen to Watch
 - 2020 All-VYPE Houston 1st Team Member
 - 2020 MaxPreps Preseason HS VB All American
 - 2020 Varsity Captain
 - 2019-20 Gatorade Athlete of the Year Candidate
- "This past year, (Foster) and (Batenhorst) capped off outstanding careers and we can't wait to see what the future holds for them," Decker said.

LITTLE LEAGUE
from page 9

but sometimes we've had up to six fields in use."

That the kids get to choose their teams and positions in the sandlot league is significant because it's about the players, Sills said. Overzealous parents can put undue pressure on a young player. The sandlot league helps alleviate that worry.

"It's less stress for the kids," Sills said.

The registration fee is \$170 for one child, and \$160 for each additional child. Registration can be done either by walk-up or online. Sills said walk-up registration is cheaper be-

cause there are no online processing costs. Walk-up registration dates have not been announced. He said online registration is faster and saves time needed for volunteers to process the applications.

The league is also looking for sponsors. Sponsorship levels range from \$500 to \$5,000 and up. In addition, Sills said the league expects to hold a silent auction to raise money as it has in past years.

For more information and to register online, visit the website <http://www.katyamerican.org>.

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