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# Katy Times

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VOLUME 109, ISSUE 52

THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ [katytimes.com](http://katytimes.com)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2021

## Mayor Bill Hastings won't seek re-election

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Mayor Bill Hastings said Monday he will not seek a second term and will retire when his term expires in May.

"It was my intention to run for re-election, and up until recently that was still my plan," Hastings said in a statement. "However, several things have changed my personal life, all of which brought to my attention the value of slowing down, spending more time with my wife, our children, and our grandchildren."

Hastings was elected mayor in May 2019, defeating incumbent Chuck Brawner. Hastings is the first mayor to serve a three-year term thanks to changes in the city charter adopted by voters.

Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said while he was happy that Hastings chose to spend more time with his family, he was also sad because it has been a pleasure working with Hastings.

"Bill Hastings, Mayor Brawner and previous Katy mayors have accomplished much, and we have more work ahead with flood control and improving city services," Harris said.

Ward B Council Member Gina Hicks said she

See **MAYOR**, page A3

**"It was my intention to run for re-election, and up until recently that was still my plan.**



**However, several things have changed in my personal life, all of which brought to my attention the value of slowing down, spending more time with my wife, our children, and our grandchildren."**

—Mayor Bill Hastings



PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS HARRIS

The Katy Police Department this month took possession of two 2021 Chevrolet Tahoes. The Tahoes bring the number of marked cars in the department to 33.

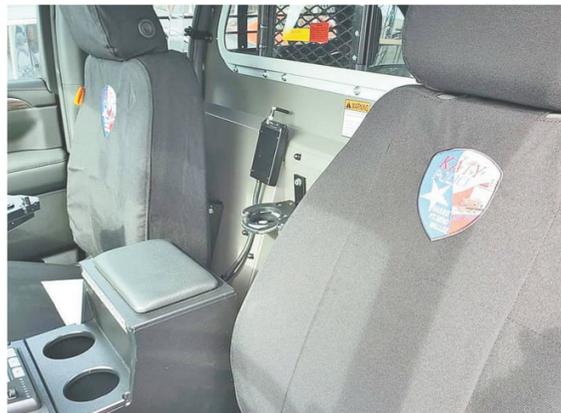
## Katy Police adds two vehicles to its fleet

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR



Above, a look inside one of the new Katy Police Department patrol cars. Right, the Katy Police Department patch can be seen in the seats of the new patrol cars.

PHOTOS COURTESY CHRIS HARRIS



The Katy Police Department this month took delivery of two 2021 Chevrolet Tahoes to help officers serve the public.

The Tahoes bring the number of marked vehicles — that is, vehicles with police markings — to 33, Sgt. Travis Wilke said. Most of the fleet is comprised of Tahoes, though Wilke said it had four Ford Tauruses and two Ford Explorers.

The new Tahoes are additions to the police fleet, though some older police cars will eventually be retired.

"With a growing department, more boots on the ground, we need more tires on the ground as well," Wilke said.

New and improved police vehicles come with their share of features. The Tahoes have a 10-speed transmission and the brakes have been upgraded. The charging system has been improved and expanded to handle the vehicle's electronics.

But perhaps the biggest feature is the extra space. Wilke said officers can bring extra equipment.

"We haul around so much equipment all the time that it just makes more sense," Wilke said, adding that larger suspects fit better in an SUV.

"You sit higher, see more," Wilke said. "You have a better vantage point. I feel safer with more metal around me. They feel great, especially with

See **VEHICLES**, page A3

### HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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## Waller County plans for Japanese compressor plant

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Waller County Economic Development Partnership officials are working with a Japanese company to open a manufacturing plant in Waller County.

Vince Yokom, Waller County Economic Development Partnership executive director, told Waller County commissioners that the economic incentives between local officials and Mayekawa, a Japanese-owned compressor manufacturing company, were still being finalized.

While Yokom said he could announce that the company would have a presence in Waller County, there was no immediate word on where such a plant would be located, or how many jobs it would bring to the area.

Yokom said Mayekawa is respected in its industry.



**"What we like about this company is that it operates in multiple industries — oil and gas, medical, and food."**

—Vince Yokom, Waller County Economic Development Partnership executive director

"What we like about this company is that it operates in multiple industries—oil and gas, medical, and food," Yokom said.

According to its website, Mayekawa began in 1924 in Tokyo, focusing on ice manufacturing and cold storage. By 1934, Yokom said Mayekawa is respected in its industry.

reciprocating compressors. The website said the company's compressors, sold under the MYCOM brand name, are used in various industries today.

In 1967, the company established its U.S. subsidiary, Mayekawa USA, in Los Angeles. The company has a Houston office that focuses on the oil and

gas and chemical industries.

Yokom said landing Mayekawa is part of the partnership's foreign direct investment program. Three other companies have come to Waller County through the program. They are MAN Energy Solutions, a German engine and turbine manufacturer; Grundfos, a Danish water pump manufacturer; and Burckhardt, a Swiss compressor manufacturer.

Yokom said the partnership has been in talks with Tex-Tube, a Mexican steel manufacturing company, about the company's establishing a presence in the county.

The partnership has also been active in the creation of the G-Tech Innovation Center in Brookshire. According to the center's website,

See **PLANT**, page A3



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# Community Calendar

# January



**JAN. 1**

**SERENE BEANS: HOLISTIC FAIR**

Local vendors, intuitive readers, and classes, among other attractions to start the new year. The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 1 at Serene Beans, 5609 3rd St. No cost.

**JAN. 2**

**ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE: "WHEN HARRY MET SALLY"**

In one of the best romantic screenplays of all time, Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan take viewers through friendship, heartbreak and the pitfalls of relationships. Rob Reiner directed the film. The event is at 11 a.m. Jan. 2 at Alamo Draffthouse Cinema, 2707 Commercial Center Blvd., Suite K-100. For tickets, visit [draffthouse.com/Houston/event/when-harry-met-sally-brunch](http://draffthouse.com/Houston/event/when-harry-met-sally-brunch).

**JAN. 3**

**SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE TIP-OFF EVENT**

The Southland Conference holds its Tip-Off Event, featuring both women's and men's college basketball, in Katy. The games begin at 11 a.m. Jan. 3 with the matchup between the New Orleans and Northwestern (La.) State women's teams and ends Jan. 8 with a matchup between the top two men's teams. The games will be played at the Leonard E. Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane. Tickets are \$20 for an all-day admission.

**JAN. 5**

**LOW-COST PET SHOT CENTER**

Special Pals offers low-cost shots for family pets. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 5 at Special Pals, 3830 Greenhouse Road. Vaccines start at \$10. Walk-ins only. No appointment needed. Pets must be on a leash or a carrier. For more information, visit [specialpalshelter.org/clinic/prices](http://specialpalshelter.org/clinic/prices).



**JAN. 5**

**BOUTIQUE FAMILY FARM TOUR**

Enjoy life on the farm at this family-friendly event. The one-hour tour is from 1-2 p.m. Jan. 5 at Rose Therapeutic Farm & Goat Yoga, 1324 Peach Ridge Road, in Brookshire. Cost is \$85 for a family of up to four people; \$10 for each additional person. Private tours for up to 10 people is \$150. No more than two families per tour. For tickets and more information, call 281-789-6577 or visit [goatyoga-katy.com](http://goatyoga-katy.com).

**JAN. 6**

**KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING: TXDOT: U.S. 90 UPDATE**

James Koch, director of transportation, planning and development for the Texas Department of Transportation, will be the speaker. The meeting is from 7:30-9 a.m. Jan. 6 at the Katy Area Chamber's Shell FCU Community Room, 814 East Ave., Suite H, in Katy. No cost but an RSVP is required. For more information go to <https://tinyurl.com/2p89puUW>.

**JAN. 6**

**ROCK PAINTING AT BATTLEHOPS BREWING**

Battlehops brings the beer, rocks, and paint pens. Just bring your creativity and drop in. The event is from 3-10 p.m. Jan. 6 at Battlehops Brewing, 6801 Highway Blvd. No cost.

**JAN. 9**

**CAR CULTURE SHOW**

Over 50+ exotic and muscle cars on display, along with a DJ spinning tunes and other exciting amenities, at the car culture show. The show is from 8-11 a.m. Jan 9 at the Alamo Draffthouse Theatre parking lot at La Centerra, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. For more information, visit [thecarculture.org](http://thecarculture.org). No cost.

**JAN. 9**

**LA CENTERRA FARMERS MARKET**

Local vendors and artisans sell their goods at the Heritage Square. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. No cost. To become a vendor, email [customer@yourneighborhoodfarmersmarket.com](mailto:customer@yourneighborhoodfarmersmarket.com).

**JAN. 10**

**KATY CITY COUNCIL**

The Katy City Council will hold its first meeting of 2022. The meeting takes place at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the council chamber at Katy City Hall, 910 Avenue C. For more information, visit [cityofkaty.com](http://cityofkaty.com).

**JAN. 12**

**FULSHEAR-KATY AREA CHAMBER MEETING: KEN PAXTON**

Attorney General Ken Paxton will be the speaker. The meeting is set for 8 a.m. Jan. 12 at Parkway Fellowship, 27043 FM 1093 in Richmond. No cost. For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2s42nrWV>.

**JAN. 13**

**KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: STATE OF THE CITY**

Mayor Bill Hastings and City Administrator Byron Hebert review the city's accomplishments and provide insights on what to expect in Katy. The meeting is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 13 at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy. Cost varies on sponsorship or membership level. For more information, visit [katychamber.com](http://katychamber.com).



**JAN. 14-15**

**FORT BEND HOME & GARDEN SHOW**

Gardening experts, wine and food sampling, and demonstrations are among the attractions at this year's Fort Bend Home & Garden Show. The show is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 15 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 16 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 TX 36 South, Rosenberg. Cost is \$7 for adults. For more information, visit [fbendhomeandgardenshow.com](http://fbendhomeandgardenshow.com).

**JAN. 15**

**LITTLE WOODROW'S KATY: JASON BESSENT BENEFIT**

Friends of Jason Bessent, a stage four melanoma cancer patient, organized a BBQ & Brews event to help offset costs of his treatment. BBQ pulled pork sandwich, potato salad, baked beans and dinner roll are \$12. Karbach beers

are \$4. The event includes an auction and music by Louis Adams from 2 - 6 p.m. Financial donations are also being accepted. The event is from 2 to 6 p.m. at Little Woodrow's, 22225 Katy Fwy.

**JAN. 20-30**

**CIRQUE ITALIA**

Cirque Italia features performers from Argentina, Brazil, Romania, and many other countries. Master jugglers, low wire fanatics, dazzling contortion, wild trampoline antics, and even a wheel of death. The shows run from Jan. 20-30 at 5000 Katy Mills Circle, in the Katy Mills parking lot. Tickets range from \$10-\$50, with one free child admission with every full priced adult ticket in levels 2-3. For more information, call 941-704-8572 or visit [cirqueitalia.com/tickets](http://cirqueitalia.com/tickets).

**JAN. 23**

**LA CENTERRA FARMERS MARKET**

The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 23 at 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. No cost. To become a vendor, email [customer@yourneighborhoodfarmersmarket.com](mailto:customer@yourneighborhoodfarmersmarket.com).

**JAN. 24**

**KATY CITY COUNCIL**

The meeting takes place at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 24 in the council chamber at Katy City Hall, 910 Avenue C. For more information, visit [cityofkaty.com](http://cityofkaty.com).

**SATURDAYS IN JANUARY FARMERS MARKET GRAND PARKWAY**

Come out and find the finest local purveyors and producers of local foods and artisan handcrafts. The events take place from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Farmers Market, 1225 Grand Parkway. For more information, visit [farmersmarketongrandparkway.com/](http://farmersmarketongrandparkway.com/).

**VARIOUS DATES IN JANUARY CPR CLASSES**

American Heart Association-approved classes in CPR are available to the public on Fridays and Saturdays in January. Classes are held at 5:30 p.m. on Fridays, and at 9 a.m. on Saturdays, at Carebuilders at Home of Katy, 2308 Provincial Blvd. Tuition is \$65. For more information, call 832-219-1238.



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Windstream participates in a government benefit program called Lifeline to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commission. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may also qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain federal eligibility programs. The program offers a monthly discount limited to one discount per household and can either be applied to wireline or wireless. If applied to wireline the discount can be applied to either your voice or broadband service. The monthly discount is up to \$5.25 per month for voice only service or up to \$9.25 per month for broadband service.

Windstream's basic local service rates for residential voice lines range from \$16 to \$26 per month depending on your service location. Specific rates will be provided upon request. For the broadband Lifeline discount to apply, a customer must subscribe to a Windstream service that meets the minimum standard requirements as defined by the FCC.

For the purposes of the Lifeline program a household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program. If you live in a Windstream service area, please call 1-800-347-1991 or visit [www.windstream.com/Lifeline](http://www.windstream.com/Lifeline) with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



Windstream participa en un programa de beneficios del gobierno llamado Lifeline para hacer que el servicio residencial de telefonía o banda ancha sea más asequible para las personas y familias elegibles de bajos ingresos. Los clientes elegibles son aquellos que cumplen con los estándares de elegibilidad según lo definido por la FCC y la comisión estatal. Los residentes que viven en tierras tribales reconocidas por el gobierno federal también pueden calificar para beneficios tribales adicionales si participan en ciertos programas federales de elegibilidad. El programa ofrece un descuento mensual limitado a un descuento por hogar y se puede aplicar a la línea fija o inalámbrica. Si se aplica a la línea fija, el descuento se puede aplicar a su servicio de voz o banda ancha. El descuento mensual es de hasta \$ 5.25 por mes para el servicio de solo voz o hasta \$ 9.25 por mes para el servicio de banda ancha.

Las tarifas básicas de servicio local de Windstream para líneas de voz residenciales oscilan entre \$16 y \$26 por mes, dependiendo de su ubicación de servicio. Se proporcionarán tarifas específicas bajo petición. Para que se aplique el descuento Lifeline de banda ancha, un cliente debe suscribirse a un servicio de Windstream que cumple con los requisitos estándar mínimos definidos por la FCC.

A los efectos del programa Lifeline, un hogar se define como cualquier individuo o grupo de individuos que viven juntos en la misma dirección y comparten ingresos y gastos. El servicio Lifeline no es transferible, y solo los consumidores elegibles pueden inscribirse en el programa. Los consumidores que deliberadamente hacen declaraciones falsas para obtener el servicio telefónico o de banda ancha Lifeline pueden ser castigados con multa o prisión y pueden ser excluidos del programa. Si vive en un área de servicio de Windstream, llame al 1-800-347-1991 o visite [www.windstream.com/Lifeline](http://www.windstream.com/Lifeline) con preguntas o para solicitar una solicitud para el programa Lifeline.



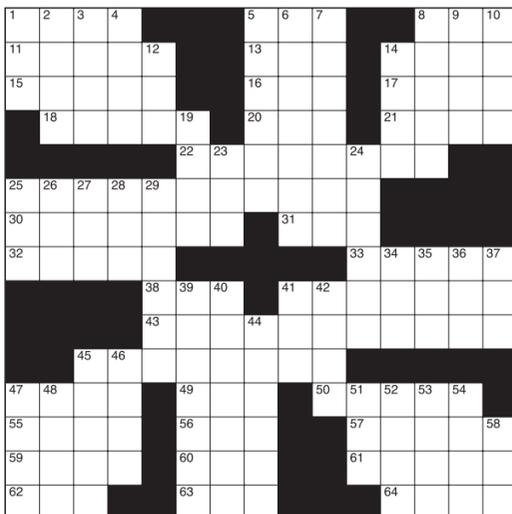
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Loud cheer
5. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
8. Type of cell
11. Oblong pulpits
13. Pitching statistic
14. Uncommon
15. Liabilities
16. Thin, straight bar
17. Oh goodness!
18. Competitions
20. \_\_\_ Jima, WW II battlefield
21. Professional assn. (abbr.)
22. Italian mountain range
25. Taking possession of
30. Used in cooking and medicine
31. Water (French)
32. Parent a child
33. Sun-dried brick
38. One point south of due east
41. Female fashion accessory
43. A way of making a copy of
45. A way to debilitate
47. Wings
49. Social insect
50. Dull brown fabrics
55. Indian musical pattern
56. N. England university
57. Portable stands for coffins
59. Iranian district
60. Envision

**CLUES DOWN**

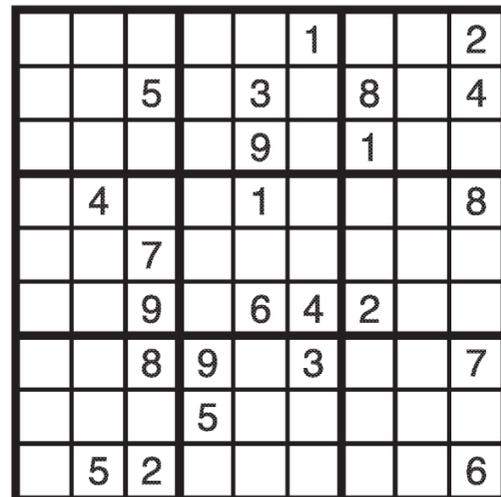
61. Passerine bird genus
62. Container
63. Falter
64. Tunisian city
1. Cool!
2. Passover offering
3. Swedish rock group
4. Collegiate military organization
5. Large nests
6. Beloved baked good
7. 1980s pop legend
8. Finger millet
9. Hillside
10. Surrender
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Long, narrow strap
19. Discount
23. A type of cast
24. Large, tropical lizard
25. Half of "Milli Vanilli"
26. Single
27. Big truck
28. Midway between east and southeast
29. Et \_\_\_: indicates further
34. Insecticide
35. Luke Skywalker's mentor \_\_\_-Wan
36. Cast out



37. Breakfast food
39. By reason of
40. One who makes thread
41. Baseball stat
42. Breezed through
44. Frothy mass of bubbles
45. Tony-winning actress Daisy
46. Made of fermented honey and water
47. Member of a Semitic people
48. Monetary unit of the Maldives
51. Run batted in
52. Makes publicly known
53. Disagreement
54. Soluble ribonucleic acid
58. Single-reed instrument

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

## SUDOKU



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.



COURTESY ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS

Academy Sports + Outdoors' "Traveling Santa" initiative surprised shoppers at each of its 259 stores.

## Academy Sports donates over \$400,000 to local communities

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy-based Academy Sports + Outdoors has donated over \$400,000 to local communities this holiday season through its "Traveling Santa" initiative.

The initiative involved over 75 local events and surprised shoppers at each of its 259 stores throughout December. The company identified individuals and families doing their holiday

shopping in-store at their local Academy Sports + Outdoors and surprised them by helping pay for their gifts.

"The Christmas season is a unique opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to local communities in need," Lawrence Lobpry, senior vice president of marketing, said. "We hope these events and donations remind people within our communities to have fun out there and enjoy the presence of their loved ones during

the holidays."

The grassroots events included in-store shopping sprees, bike donations and other giveback initiatives in 50 cities across Academy Sports + Outdoors's footprint. The events focused on giving back to first responders and children by donating to local chapters of the National Police Athletic League, Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters and additional nonprofits which aid community members.

## KISD COVID testing center open

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Due to an increased demand for COVID testing, the Katy Independent School District announced that the district's COVID testing center would remain open through New Year's Day.

Patrons must register at the district's website at [bit.ly/3qAp2Z3](http://bit.ly/3qAp2Z3). However, as of press time, all slots were full and the district had no

plans to extend testing hours.

The district set the testing hours for 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 27-31, and 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Jan. 1, at the Gerald D. Young Agriculture Sciences Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road.

The district said in a news release that only students and staff with a valid district identification were eligible for testing. It said that employee dependents, such as spouses and children who are covered by the district's

health plan are eligible for a test. In those cases, a district health insurance card that lists the enrolled dependents is required.

The district encourages patrons visiting the COVID testing center to wear facial coverings and social distance when standing in line outside. Once patrons enter the testing center, facial coverings are required.

The district said in a news release that permission slips were available on-site.

## PLANT

from page A1

G-Tech offers options for offices, equipped workshops and training and conference rooms. G-Tech established a similar center in 2014 in Katy.

Yokom's presentation came as the partnership celebrates its 20th anniversary in February.

The economic development efforts have increased tax revenue for Waller County. Yokom said in 2015, the county received about \$1.9 million in tax revenues. By 2021, that figure increased to \$5.5

million—a 186% increase.

Taxable value from economic development projects in the county have gone up. Yokom said in 2015, taxable value was \$273 million. In 2021, that value had increased to approximately \$839 million—a 207% increase.

Yokom said another measure of the growing corporate interest in Waller County comes from the number of RFIs—requests for information—that the partnership receives.

In past years, Yokom

said, the partnership had 32 RFIs to process, at most. But this year, he said, the partnership has processed 69 RFIs. Yokom said it takes staff an average of 2-3 days to process a typical RFI request. He said the partnership has increased staff to meet the growing demand for information.

Yokom said the partnership won economic development awards in 2013, 2015, and 2018.

"Winning one was a big deal, but three is exceptional," Yokom said.

## MAYOR

from page A1

was thankful for Hastings' years of service.

"He has always operated in the best interest of others, and I hope as he goes into this next season he has the opportunity to focus on himself and his family," Hicks said. "He will be greatly missed, but I know he will be 100% devoted to finishing strong."

Ward A Council Member Dan Smith reflected on Hastings' decades of service to Katy.

"I appreciate everything he has done and will continue to do through the rest of his term as mayor," Smith said. "It has been an honor to work with him, and I am wishing him the best for the future."

### Possible successors

The mayoral race is the only one on the city ballot this year. The filing deadline is Feb. 18.

The 2022 mayor's race will be the first since 2017 in which the incumbent will not be seeking re-election. In 2017, then-incumbent Fabol Hughes retired after serving two 2-year terms. Hughes' retirement set the stage for then-Ward A Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Brawner to seek the mayoralty. Brawner defeated former Ward A Council Member Hill Adams to win the job.

Of the five sitting council members, two — Harris and Ward A Council Member Janet Corte — are in their second terms in office. Both were re-elected last November.

The other Ward A council member,

Smith, and the two Ward B council members, Hicks and Rory Robertson, are in their first terms.

Should any of them decide to seek the mayoralty, city law requires that they would resign their council positions when they file to run for mayor. Brawner did so when he sought the mayoralty in 2017.

Should a council member resign to seek the mayoralty, a special election would be called, likely to coincide with the mayoral election. The winner of such an election would serve the remainder of that particular council member's term.

### Trading a badge for a gavel

Hastings will retire after several decades in public service. His Katy career began in 1986 when Pat Adams, the first Katy police chief, hired Hastings for the force.

Hastings worked his way up through the ranks, and in 2009, then-mayor Don Elder, Jr., appointed him as the city's third police chief.

Hastings succeeded R.L. "Buddy" Frazier, who held the job from 1996-2009. Frazier died in 2018. As chief, Hastings served under mayors Elder, Hughes, and Brawner.

After Hastings retired from the police department in January 2019, but before he was elected mayor four months later, the city appointed Noe Diaz as police chief. Diaz continues to serve in that role today.

Hastings' wife, Susan, is the crisis center director for Katy Christian Ministries.

## VEHICLES

from page A1

the new transmission. They are taller than the older units, but they are stable, if not more stable, than the other units. It's an upgrade all the way around."

The vehicle features top-of-the-line electronics, which includes the lights and sirens. Yet the police haven't yet put the Tahoes into the regular rotation. Wilke said the department is still waiting on the laptops that the Tahoes will use.

"We can't put them on streets without GPS and other equipment for officer safety reasons," Wilke said.

The city spent \$210,000 for the two vehicles as part of the 2021-22 city budget adopted earlier this year.

## CORRECTION

In its Nov. 18 page one story, "Katy Cares: Organization aims to support single parents," the Times misidentified Kristin Dean, Katy Cares social services director. The Times regrets the error.



## Meet Tim Davis, RICP®, CLU, Safe Money Expert.

Tim is a Houston-based expert on how to de-risk your retirement portfolio and avoid stock market losses.

### Your Credit Score Still Matters in Retirement

Older adults who have paid off their mortgage, without plans to apply for car loans or credit cards may assume they can relax about their credit score, but credit scores can affect retirees in the following ways:

- Existing lines of credit can be reduced or closed, and interest rates can be increased if credit scores decrease dramatically.
- Insurance expenses such as premiums can be set based in part on your credit score.
- Security deposits from rental equipment to vacation homes can be higher for those with lower credit scores.

Maintaining a good credit score can ensure quality of life.

Tim Davis is a member of *Syndicated Columnists*, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to safe money strategies for retirement.

[daviscapitalcorp.com](http://daviscapitalcorp.com) [tdavis@daviscapitalcorp.com](mailto:tdavis@daviscapitalcorp.com) (281) 665-3133

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## THE GREAT BEAR CHASE

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Run, walk or ride or however you like to participate, create a team, or chase alone.

**JANUARY 1-16, 2022**

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[www.joejoebear.org/event](http://www.joejoebear.org/event)

Joe Joe Bear Foundation  
1846 Snake River Rd. Ste B  
Katy, TX 77449  
281-398-4522  
[info@joejoebear.org](mailto:info@joejoebear.org)

All registered participants receive a medal and can purchase a commemorative T-Shirt. Visit [www.joejoebear.org](http://www.joejoebear.org) to register online.

Happy New Year

Our thanks and best wishes to all of you!

# Katy Times

will be closed on Friday, December 31.  
Deadline for January 6 publication is December 30, Noon

# Making a new year's resolution? Include safe, active driving

BY LETICIA HARDY  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

It is almost time to make those New Year's Resolutions. This year might be a good time to focus on one that could save your life. While all notions of self-improvement have their value, driving is one area where our actions can affect not only ourselves, but other drivers and passengers on the road. Motor vehicle crashes and fatalities are higher than they have been for many years. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, from 2019 to 2020 there has been a nearly 19% increase in fatalities on our roads. Sadly, nearly 47% of those killed were not wearing their seat belts.

"Making a resolution to drive safely in 2022 can very well mean saving a life!" said Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Community Health Educator Leticia Hardy in Fort Bend County. Some of the leading causes of traffic deaths are distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding and people not wearing seat belts. Resolve to be an 'Active Driver' in 2022. What is an Active Driver? Read below to see what an Active Driver does to protect themselves and others on the roads.

The Network for Employers Traffic Safety urges drivers to follow these active driving safety tips:

- Minimize distractions in the vehicle. Resist activities that take your mind and eyes off the road and your hands off the wheel. Cell phones are a major distraction, but there are other distractions as well.
- Always make sure that you are alert and clear-headed. Do not drive while impaired by alcohol, over-the-counter or prescription drugs.
- Frequently scan your mirrors to be sure you know where other vehicles are and that vehicles behind you are not getting too close. It is recommended that you perform a "full mirror sweep" every 5-6 seconds.
- Maintain a proper following distance. On clear, dry roads, your following distance should

**ACCORDING TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FROM 2019-20 THERE HAS BEEN A NEARLY 19% INCREASE IN FATALITIES ON OUR ROADS. SADLY, NEARLY 47% OF THOSE KILLED WERE NOT WEARING THEIR SEAT BELTS.**

be 3-4 seconds— double or triple if roads are wet or slippery, keeping in mind that in some cases it is best to stay off roads until conditions improve.

- Scan the road ahead for any possible dangers. Looking down the road ahead of you for a distance of 10 seconds. That's about one block in the city and a third of a mile.

- Watch your speed. The faster you are driving, the less time you have to react to sudden moves by other drivers and the less time other drivers have to react to you.

- Take time to recharge. If driving a long distance, it is recommended you take a break every two hours or 100 miles, even if you don't feel you need one.

- Remember to always buckle up. Seat belts will save your life.

November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for 21 years straight, at least one person has died every single day. Help end this streak! Make 2022 the year you become an Active Driver and help save lives on our roads!

*Leticia Hardy is Fort Bend County Extension Agent for Family & Community Health with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.*



# The imaginary, destructive influence of social media

BY CHRISTINE FLOWERS  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

It's very easy these days to say that social media is toxic. People act in ways they'd never do in real life, because it isn't real life. They act like feral wolves, because they can. The Twitter police don't carry guns, and their badges are imaginary.

In fact, social media is one big imaginary world, and we're all way too wrapped up in things that don't matter—the opinions expressed by strangers in public.

In October, Jon Gruden's life exploded because of some private email exchanges that he had between 2011 and 2018 with a colleague. The emails included comments that were objectively racist, sexist and homophobic, and it's hard to figure out how to defend them. You really can't. Gruden doesn't.

But they were private conversations between two men, and they became public because of a wholly separate investigation into another individual suspected of wrongdoing. Gruden, who was not the target of that investigation, became the victim of what we've all seen over the past few years, something I call the Twitch Hunt. When the private comments became public, Gruden was essentially turned into a non-person. Matt Taibbi had a great column where he described Gruden as becoming increasingly invisible, like a ghost evaporating

into the fetid air. Gone, done, cancelled. He wrote:

"Throwing the door open, I could still see him for a second in outline, like Wonder Woman's Superfriends plane, crouching in my shirt-rack. Then, in a flash, he was gone. The shirts fell back into place. All that was left was a voice. "Is this forever?"

"I'd put your over-under at nine years."

"Jesus."

I have friends who were canceled because someone believed that they'd overstepped some social boundaries, boundaries that are now delineated by the tech gods and their acolytes. It's not that Twitter and Facebook make all of the rules, but they empower those with animus and hostility toward "this" or "that" to crush the inconvenient and non-conforming. Social media creates, and it destroys, because it has such immense power to influence the way we see the world. In doing so, it effectively changes that world.

You can no longer use certain words, because the Twitter armies will hunt you down and take your soul hostage if you do. You can't express certain dissonant views about vaccines and masks, or the Facebook Stasi will sniff you out and tag your posts with disclaimers, the social media equivalent of being placed in the public stocks.

And if you dared to use racist,

sexist or homophobic language with a friend in the privacy of your email (which of course was never private) you will be sentenced by the Star Chamber years after you transgressed. The sentence will be social oblivion.

I was canceled by a newspaper because the Twitter mobs forced the powers that be to silence me. So be it, I found another place, another bully pulpit, another microphone where more than one voice is permitted to speak. But others are not so fortunate. And many, many others who don't have the money and the resources of a guy like Jon Gruden have not only been disappeared like a victim of some South American junta. They have been destroyed.

It's all so ephemeral, and yet deadly. A person who we will never meet, and who made some bad comments to someone else we will never meet, is neutralized. None of it touches us, but we're supposed to care.

Meanwhile, real life is happening, and we're too busy looking at our phones to notice. But at least we can mark ourselves "Safe from Jon Gruden."

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## Senior center reopens with holiday celebration

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Following a pandemic-compelled shutdown, the Katy Fussell Senior Center reopened with a Dec. 17 open house and lunch.

It has a new director helping to lead the way. Amanda Di Dio joined the city as director of social services last month. She comes to Katy after spending the previous five years working in the Texas Medical Center. She's also worked as a clinical director and therapist. Her experience includes working with veterans and adults who have suffered brain injuries. She's also worked in assisted living facilities.

Her education is in neurological musical therapy. She said her goal as director is to find new ways to do things that seniors love to do.

The Dec. 17 reopening drew about 200 people, Di Dio said, and featured a barbecue lunch.

Di Dio said Katy's small-town feel was a big attraction for her.

"I love the small-town feel of some of these older communities, but with proximity to the big city," Di Dio said. "I love old town Katy because I love its small-town feel."

The senior citizens who come by the center also captured Di Dio's heart.

"They're friends, but really, they're family," Di Dio said. "It's amazing."

The Fussell Senior Citizen Center was built in 2012, according to the city website. It offers a variety of activities for active seniors. These include crafts, day trips and movies, exercise



AMANDA DI DIO  
Amanda Di Dio is Katy's new director of social services.

and health-related activities, and holiday celebrations, among other things.

"My goals are to bring more programs, more activities, and really, provide more for our community," Di Dio said. "If there's anything our seniors would like to do, come visit us, and we'll see about putting it on the schedule."



SUSAN ROVEGNO  
The Katy Fussell Senior Center welcomed approximately 200 people to its Dec. 17 reopening, which included a barbecue lunch.



SUSAN ROVEGNO  
A Christmas tree was among the attractions at the reopening of the Katy Fussell Senior Center.

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Recipients of Fort Bend County grants announced

Fort Bend County Judge KP George has announced the recipients of the Fort Bend County American Rescue Plan Act Nonprofit Grant Program funds.

This allocation, the first of its kind, will result in over \$11 million in grant funds being dispersed to nonprofit organizations that were impacted by the pandemic and those that address critical needs within the community.

Fundraising activities came to a halt during the pandemic due to public health precautions, making efforts to raise funds difficult. The grant monies will support nonprofits, enabling them to provide critical services to residents, especially where needs are increasing in the county.

"Our nonprofits are one of our greatest resources," George said. "They play a fundamental role here in Fort Bend County and this is an excellent opportunity for us to help them serve our residents. Nonprofits continue to be on the frontline, especially those who focus on health, education, and financial assistance. We have a shared responsibility to help the community."

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided financial assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to be used for economic relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

This first round of the Fort Bend County allocations will award nonprofit organizations with grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$500,000. George said the second round of ARPA nonprofit grant funds will be available in January. He encouraged organizations that did not apply for funding to submit their applications online through the county's website.

George was joined for the announcement by Fort Bend County Pct. 2 Commissioner Grady Prestage and Pct. 4 Commissioner Ken DeMerchant. Also attending were over 30 representatives from area nonprofits including Attack Poverty CEO Brandon Boca, Family Life and Community Resource Center Executive Director Dr. Eileen Harper and Eternal Gandhi Museum's Trustee Atul Kothari.

### Katy ISD, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center host blood drive challenge

The Katy Independent School District has partnered with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to host a blood drive challenge.



FORT BEND COUNTY PHOTO

Fort Bend County Judge KP George, fourth from left, meets with county American Rescue Plan Act Non-Profit Grand Program fund recipients.

The challenge is a two-day event, set for 1-7 p.m. Jan. 3-4 at Legacy Stadium, 5175 Franz Road. All students, parents, staff and community members are invited to come out and give blood.

Donors are asked to credit their campus, or any Katy ISD school, when giving blood. Outcomes for campuses that choose to participate in the challenge will be shared at the close of the event.

Appointments are recommended and can be made by visiting [bit.ly/3Ha9y4q](https://bit.ly/3Ha9y4q).

### Katy ISD Partners in Education extends its fundraising drive

The Katy ISD Partners in Education has extended its online fundraising drive to provide meals for needy students and their families in the district.

Under the program, district campuses identify students for the program and Partners in Education collects individual

and corporate donations. Grocery gift cards valued at \$50, along with a note of support from the Katy ISD community, are then delivered to each student by a campus staff member.

The program said it has donated over \$312,000 to more than 6,500 families in the past 18 years.

To donate, visit the website at [bit.ly/32m2m6N](https://bit.ly/32m2m6N).

### Maud Marks Library to open Innovation Lab

The Maud Marks Library invites the public to the opening of its Innovation Lab and Imagineering Gallery.

The lab is a free community Makerspace intended to be a place for people of all ages to learn, share resources, work on projects and network with other creative minds.

The event is set for 3:30 p.m. Jan. 7. at the library, 1815 Westgreen.

### Fort Bend County Fair scholarships available

The Fort Bend County Fair is accepting applications for its scholarship program.

The fair will provide \$4,000 scholarships for up to 50 Fort Bend County students. Since 1979, the Fort Bend County Fair has been giving back to the county's youth through its scholarship program. Past recipients have represented kids who have been livestock exhibitors, parade participants, art students, and yet for some, they had never been to the fair.

Deadline for applications is Jan. 27. "We encourage students to apply and grasp this opportunity," Cindy Schmidt, fair manager, said. "No matter what your involvement with the fair may be, this is a great way to help fund your education."

For more information, visit [fortbend-countyfair.com](https://fortbend-countyfair.com) or call the fair office at 281-342-6171.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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## 5 Tigers sign to power five programs

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Both Malick Sylla and Bobby Taylor knew that Texas A&M was where they belonged very early in their recruitment.

The Katy defensive lineman and defensive back both were offered by the Aggies as sophomores and it didn't take long for them to land on the school as the place they wanted to come home.

Sylla and Taylor finally put pen to paper and signed to play football in College Station on Wednesday at the Katy High School Field House.

"It's like a second home," Sylla said. "It's the environment I wanted to be in. I just want to go in there and work and hopefully we can win a national championship."

Sylla had a dominant senior year. The defensive end helped lead Katy to a District 19-6A championship and the Class 6A-Division II state semifinal. Taylor suffered an injury in the Tigers' first game

See **SIGNINGS**, page B3



PRENTICE C. JAMES | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES  
Texas A&M signee Bobby Taylor

## SCORES & SCHEDULES

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Friday

- Mayde Creek at North Brook, 5:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Fort Bend Travis, 1 p.m.
- Taylor at Cy-Fair, 1 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Brazosport, 1 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Friday

- Jordan vs. A&M Consolidated, 1:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Fort Bend Bush, 10:30 a.m.
- Paetow at Waller, 1 p.m.

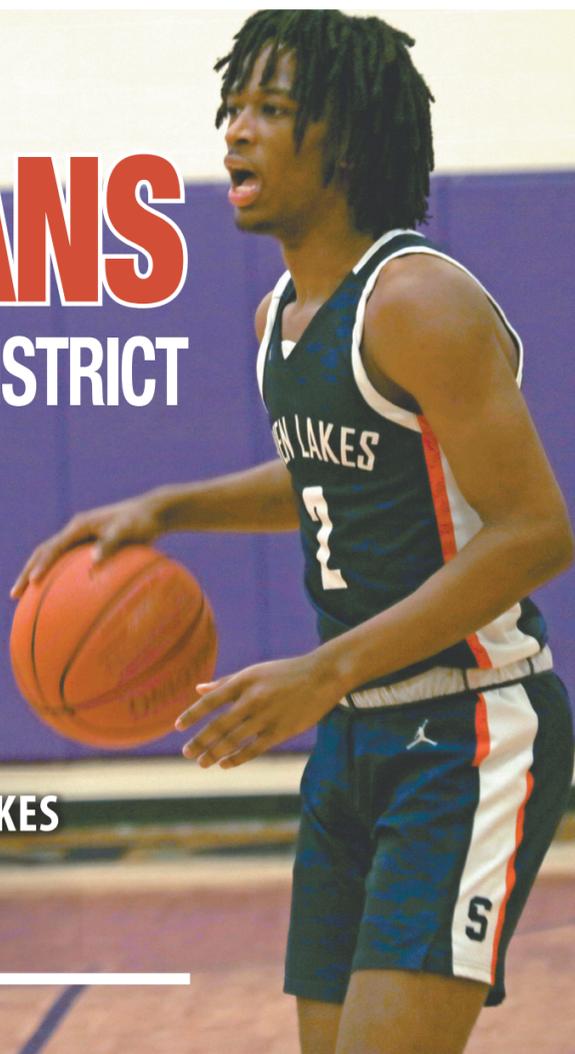
#### Saturday

- Seven lakes at Klein Collins, 1 p.m.



## SPARTANS PREPARED FOR DISTRICT

### SENIOR-HEAVY SEVEN LAKES READY TO MAKE A RUN AT DISTRICT TITLE



BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes knew that they would have a chance to do something special this season before it even started.

But the team learned even more about themselves during tournament season, and it has made them even more confident heading into district play.

"We realized that we're a hell of a team throughout tournament season," said senior guard Tahaad Davis. "We can really hoop; even when we have a bad game here or there, we can find a way to get the job done. We try not to have bad games, but we can compete even when we're off."

Seven Lakes has earned that confidence — so far the Spartans have gone 18-2 and started district off with a win over Morton Ranch. The Spartans' only losses have come to Westfield, the No. 8 ranked team in the state, and Pearland Dawson, the No. 17 ranked team in the state.

Both of those games were within ten points and were in positions where they

See **DISTRICT**, page B3

TYLER TYRE

Above: Seven Lakes' Tahaad Davis calls out a play during Tuesday's District 19-6A game against Morton Ranch. Right, Seven Lakes' Josh Akpovwa dunks the ball during the game against Morton Ranch.



## Seven Lakes tops Morton Ranch in district opener

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes is taking things one day at a time.

The Spartans have big goals this season, but know they can't look too far ahead, no matter the circumstances or the opponent.

"We know that we have to get better every day," said senior guard Tahaad Davis, "whether that's with practice or a game. We're working countless hours whether that's at school or not at school. Everyone puts in their individual work and we all see that in each other. It motivates us. Everyday we're in the gym working on that."

Seven Lakes opened District 19-6A play on Tuesday, and although they expected to win their opener, they came out hot and ready to go.

The Spartans opened up a double-digit lead in the first quarter against Morton Ranch and never looked back, topping the Mavericks 79-64.

The Spartans were glad to open district with a win and head into their Christmas break on a good note.

"It was huge to come out here and take care of business," said senior point guard Grant Van Hoozer. "We had a good record going into district but getting that first district win in our first game was import-

ant for us. Especially going into Christmas break, that was huge and sets us up well."

Morton Ranch led by 10 after the first quarter and broke things open in the second, behind multiple three pointers and a strong defense.

"Day to day we know we can't take anyone light; we have to come out here and treat every opponent like they're the best we'll face all season. It doesn't matter what our record is, and it doesn't matter what their record is," Van Hoozer said. "We have to come in and win each game and keep the momentum going."

See **SPARTANS**, page B6



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# Paetow lands 4 on superlatives list for all-district

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Three players and the Paetow coaching staff were selected as superlatives on the District 10-5A, Division I team.

CJ Dumas was selected as Co-Offensive MVP after throwing for 2197 yards and 28 touchdowns to nine interceptions during Paetow's state title run. Daymion Sanford was selected as Co-Defensive MVP after helping Paetow's defense hold opponents under 12 points per game this season. Sanford finished the season with 91 tackles, 26 tackles for loss, 13 sacks, two fumble recoveries and an interception as a junior.

Paetow's coaching staff was named coaching staff of the year in the district after Paetow was crowned co-district champs for the first time.

Bryan Del Cid, Kole Wilson, Josh Prieto, James Bailey, Isaiah Villanueva, Jeremiah Richard and Anthony Dorantes were named first team all-district on offense, while Sultan Bakare, Jacob Johnson, Luke Fitch, Tyler Silves, Kentrell Webb and K.J. Truehill were named first team all-district on defense.

Anthony Fuentes was named the kicker for the first team.

Following are the full District 10-5A, Division I picks as selected by the coaches.

## Superlatives

**District MVP:** #7 De'Monte Seymore (RB), Manvel High School, Senior

**Co-Offensive MVP:** #15 C.J. Dumas (QB), Paetow High School; Senior Co-Offensive MVP: #4 Caleb Douglas (WR), Hightower High School, Senior

**Co-Defensive MVP:** #27 Daymion Sanford (LB), Paetow High School, Junior; Co-Defensive MVP: #50 Xavier Potts (DT), Manvel High School, Senior

**Special Teams Player of the Year:** #10 Jesus Hernandez (K,P), Angleton High School, Senior\* Newcomer of the Year: #10 Logan Thomas (DL), Paetow High School, Sophomore

**Utility Player of the Year:** #9 Kariyen Boniaby Goins, Angleton High School, Junior

**Coaching Staff of the Year:** Paetow High School

## 1st Team All-District Offense

**Quarterback:** #10 Kendron Penson, Hightower High School, Sophomore **Running Backs:** #22 Damyrión Phillips, Paetow High School, Junior; #5 Michael Odom, Terry High School, Senior; #26 Jeremy Payne, Hightower High School, Sophomore **Full Back:** #32 Bryan Del Cid, Paetow High School, Senior **Wide Receivers:** #11 Kole Wilson, Paetow High School, Senior; #2 A.J. Rice, Angleton High School, Senior; #5 Isaiah King, Manvel High School, Senior; #1 Kaleb Johnson, Hightower High School, Senior **Tight End:** #43 Josh Prieto, Paetow High School, Senior **Offensive Line:** #77 James Bailey, Paetow High School, Senior\*; #75 Isaiah Villanueva, Paetow High School, Senior\*; #53 Jeremiah Richard, Paetow High School, Senior; #72 Anthony Dorantes, Paetow High School, Senior; #50 Coy Cook, Angleton

## 1st Team All-District Defense

**Defensive Tackles:** #49 Sultan Bakare, Paetow High School, Senior; #46 J.P. Deeter, Manvel High School, Senior; #55 Dailon Ellis, Hightower High School, Sophomore **Defensive Ends:** #94 Jacob Johnson, Paetow High School, Senior\*; #40 Jaric Woodley, Manvel High School, Senior; #11 Elijah Sims, Terry High School, Junior **Inside Linebackers:** #38 Luke Fitch, Paetow High School, Senior; #6 Justin Medlock, Manvel High School, Senior; #7 Cameron Bradford, Hightower High School, Senior **Outside Linebackers:** #34 Tyler Silves, Paetow High School, Senior\*; #11 Jaqai Neal, Manvel High School, Senior; #10 Cody Pham, Kempner High School, Junior; #6 Julian Payne, Hightower High School, Senior **Safeties:** #16 Kentrell Webb, Paetow High School, Senior; #1 Collin Wright, Manvel High School, Senior; #2 Malachi McLean, Manvel High School, Senior

**Cornerbacks:** #4 K.J. Truehill, Paetow High School, Senior; #15 Jordan Pickett, Angleton High School, Senior; #15 Jalen O'Neal, Manvel High School, Junior\*

## 1st Team All-District Special Teams

**Kicker:** #44 Anthony Fuentes, Paetow High School, Senior **Punter:** #19 Nicholas Arellano, Foster High School, Senior **Deep Snapper:** #77 Jesse Lopez, Angleton High School, Senior **Returner:** #1 Collin Wright, Manvel High School, Senior

## 2nd Team All-District Offense

**Quarterbacks:** #12 JT Fayard, Foster High School, Junior; #11 Kaden Brooks, Angleton High School, Junior **Running Backs:** #17 De-seahn Thomas, Angleton High School, Junior; #23 Ty Harris, Manvel High School, Senior; #13 Andreas Missick-Duncombe, Hightower High School, Senior **Full Back:** #32 Dylan Sublette, Hightower High School, Junior **Wide Receivers:** #9 Kariyen Boniaby Goins, Angleton High School, Junior; #15 Jordan Pickett, Angleton

High School, Senior; #8 Kelby Williams, Manvel High School, Senior; #6 Trumaine Mitchell, Terry High School, Junior **Tight Ends:** #43 Dillon Guebarra, Terry High School, Senior **Offensive Line:** #62 Nicolas Lira, Paetow High School, Junior; #55 Jake Ethridge, Angleton High School, Junior; #58 Raiveon Smith, Angleton High School, Junior; #75 Devin Davis, Manvel High School, Junior; #70 John Fletcher, Manvel High School, Senior; #56 Derrick Phillip, Hightower High School, Junior

## 2nd Team All-District Defense

**Defensive Tackles:** #13 Jaden Allison, Angleton High School, Junior\*; #44 Blyane Ciancone, Foster High School, Senior; #42 Robert Staten Jr., Hightower High School, Sophomore **Defensive Ends:** #3 Kivon Wright, Manvel High School, Senior; #91 Treyton Beloney, Hightower High School, Junior; #11 Kyshun Smith, Hightower High School, Senior; #44 Khai McGhee, Angleton High School, Junior; #38 Ahmad Alchikhali, Foster High School, Junior **Linebackers:** #21 Auzstan Steen, Angleton High School, Senior; #9 Tyree Scranton, Manvel High School, Senior; #30 Braylen Kizzee, Hightower High School, Sophomore; #44 Juan Rodriguez, Terry High School, Junior; #34 Christopher Gore, Foster High School, Junior; #46 Alex Kilgore, Paetow High School, Junior **Defensive Backs:** #6 Christian Hurd, Paetow High School, Junior; #12 Elijah Walker, Angleton High School, Senior; #25 Myalek Woods, Angleton High School, Junior; #24 Ephram Dotson, Hightower High School, Sophomore; #12 Michael Jordan, Paetow High School, Senior

## 2nd Team All-District Special Teams

**Kicker:** #19 Nicholas Arellano, Foster High School, Senior **Punter:** #16 Brook Honore, Manvel High School, Senior **Deep Snapper:** #32 Derrin Moreno, Milby High School, Senior; #43 Josh Prieto, Paetow High School, Senior **Returner:** #5 Michael Odon, Terry High School, Senior

## Honorable Mention

### 10-5A Div. 1 All-District

#25 Jacob Brown (RB), Paetow High School, Senior #2 D.J. Johnson (Kick Return), Paetow High School, Junior



Paetow Panthers quarterback C.J. Dumas Jr. (15) reacts after scoring a touchdown in the fourth quarter of the Class 5A Division I state football championship game between Paetow and College Station on December 17, 2021 in Arlington, Texas.

High School, Senior; #77 Tevin Shaw, Manvel High School, Senior\*; #54 Jaden Edmonson, Manvel High School, Senior; #51 Austin Yeager, Foster High School, Senior



The ball comes loose as Paetow Panthers linebacker Tyler Silves (34) sacks College Station Cougars quarterback Jett Huff (3) during the Class 5A Division I state football championship game between Paetow and College Station on December 17, 2021 in Arlington, Texas.



Paetow Panthers head coach BJ Gotte congratulates senior wide receiver Kole Wilson (11) after a touchdown reception during a high school football playoff game between Cedar Park and Paetow on November 26, 2021 in Waller, Texas.

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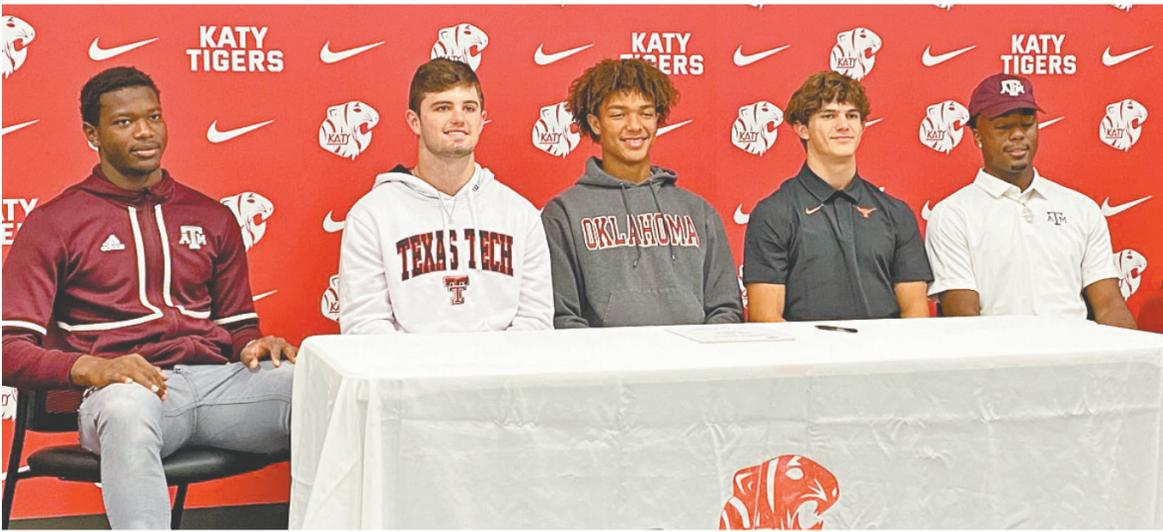
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**Katy Times**



Malick Sylla, Ty Kana, Nic Anderson, Hamilton McMartin and Bobby Taylor wait to sign their national letters of intent.

TYLER TYRE

## SIGNINGS

from page B1

and missed every game after until he came back to play in the state semifinal game last week.

"Coming from a winning program like Katy I wanted to go to a program that was winning like that in college. I wanted to be a part of something like this. I feel like A&M was the perfect spot for me, it's not too far from home but it's a good distance and this recruiting class that we are bringing in is something special and I want to build on that."

The two will join an Aggie class that is ranked No. 2 in the nation, only behind Georgia.

"One thing that I benefitted from was going to summer school last year," Taylor said. "That is going to allow me to enroll early and I'll be able to play spring ball and build up my body with their program. I really want to be able to play early and I'm going to have to make some sacrifices by forfeiting a semester here at Katy to get an extra semester there, but that was something I'm willing to do. I'm just ready to get to work."

### Kana signs with Texas Tech

Ty Kana reopened his recruitment late after originally committing to USC.

The senior linebacker was open to offers, but when new Texas Tech head coach Joey McGuire called and offered him a scholarship, it was an easy decision for Kana.

"McGuire's brand of football, and it goes back to his days as a high school coach at Cedar Hill, is to play physical, hard nosed football and put your head down and work," Kana said. "That's the kind of football I love and that's the kind of football at Katy that we pride ourselves on. He liked seeing that and I really like that that is the type of program he's building at Texas Tech. That's one of the things that stood out for me."

Kana will enroll in Texas Tech this spring, forfeiting the back half of his senior year like Taylor so he will have extra time with the Red Raider program and can participate in spring practice.

"There is nothing in the world that I would trade my time as a Katy Tiger for," Kana said. "Lots of teammates have come and gone and its been a great four years. Lots of memories, great memories and I wouldn't trade it for the world."

### McMartin signs with The University of Texas

Hamilton McMartin's recruitment heated up late. The senior defensive back was offered by the University of Texas on Dec. 2 and 13 days later was putting pen to paper, signing to be a Longhorn.

"It's been nothing but love since the first day they contacted me," McMartin said. "It's Austin, that's really hard to pass up. The education, the atmosphere, the the fans. It's just nothing but love up there."

A huge part of McMartin's decision was the energy that Texas head coach Steve Sarkesian has brought to the program.

"His big saying is 'all gas, no breaks, and he really meant that,'" McMartin said. "He hasn't let off the gas pedal yet. "We're on the come up and it's exciting to be a part of"

### Anderson signs with The University of Oklahoma

Even after Lincoln Riley left for USC, Nic Anderson knew there was only one college he



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Katy Tigers wide receiver Nic Anderson (4) runs past Westlake Chaparrals defensive back Will Courtney (16) on a catch-and-run touchdown during the Class 6A Division II state semifinal game between Katy and Westlake on December 11, 2021 in Waco, Texas.



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy's #24 Hamilton McMartin makes the stop on King Panthers' Malachi Boles #2 during the UIL regional playoff game between Katy Tigers and King Panthers at Legacy Stadium in Katy.



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy's #2 Malik Sylla gets the sack on King Panthers' QB Nehemiah Brouard #11 during the UIL regional playoff game between Katy Tigers and King Panthers at Legacy Stadium in Katy.

wanted to call home.

The senior wide receiver is excited about new Oklahoma head coach Brent Venables and the staff he has put together, and he is excited to get to Norman.

"It's a great program, that program is going to be there no matter who the coach is," Anderson said. "It's not about the coach it's about the program and that's the type of place I want to be. And then they also have a great coach coming in, so I was never really worried about if OU was going to rise or fall. I knew it was going to stay the same."

Nic's older brother, Rodney Anderson, starred at OU as a running back and Anderson

has always wanted to be the second member of his family to join the Sooners.

"My brother was going to support me regardless," Anderson said. "But he's definitely excited that I'm going to play at his alma mater. It's just great, I already know the ropes out there because I've been up a couple times to visit him so he's excited and I'm excited."

Katy head coach Gary Joseph was proud of what the group brought to the Tigers' program.

"They weren't just good football players, they're good people and that's what you want to have in your program," Joseph said. "You want people that optimize the character you are looking for and all of those kids did that."

## DISTRICT

from page B1

could have swung the Spartans' direction.

"It was huge for us to get those games in and play such tough teams," said senior point guard Grant Van Hoozer. "Having the chance to start the season by playing two or three games a day and six games in a weekend, it got us completely ready for district. Now when you have a game it's easy. Endurance-wise and chemistry-wise it's gotten us ready for the challenge of district."

The team's early season performances have earned them a top 20 ranking in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches rankings and have brought focus to the program. The Spartans know they will get everyone's best game and that they can't take anyone lightly.

"We have a target on our back because of how we've played so far and that's a good thing," Davis said. "We're a state ranked team and everyone knows Seven Lakes is a team to beat. They're all coming after us, and it just makes us have to prepare even better."

The Spartans have a senior-heavy team, and every member of the team is either a returning varsity player or a senior. Having that luxury has given head coach Shannon Heston a wealth of options in the way he can manage the team.

"I mean, all 13 of them are returners or seniors," Heston said. "It's a team I can coach many different ways and I can get on them without them taking it the wrong way. I let them decide things and ask them what they see and what's going on. They're just really good. Even with this group we've really tried to simplify. We learned last year with missing so many games because of COVID that there's some things we need, but there's also some fluff. Learning what we needed allowed us to learn what we could eliminate. We're really focusing on specific things this year and it's really paid off. The things we do, we do very well."

The Spartans have one final tournament after Christmas break to sharpen up before entering the grind of District 19-6A play. The team is excited to get to the games that mean something, but also know they need to stay focused and not get ahead of themselves.

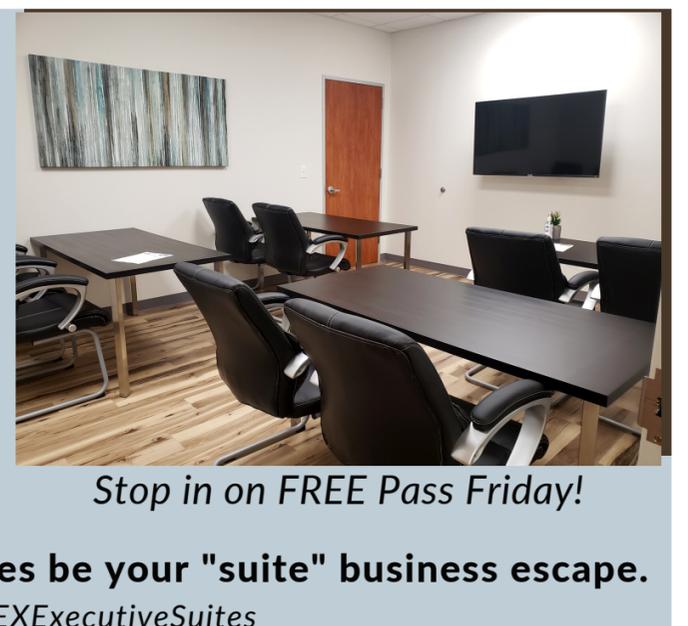
"We're excited, having a team like this with so many seniors. We're experienced, we're stronger, tougher and we have a different mindset because there are so many seniors," Davis said. "This team is just great because everyone has their responsibilities, everyone has their roles and they take care of those responsibilities and you don't have to worry about anyone. And then those younger guys are learning and they definitely help out and make a difference too."





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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed electronic bids, addressed to Water Control and Improvement District No. 3 will be received electronically received on the CivcastUSA website until **2:30 p.m. local time, Thursday, January 13, 2022**, and then an Apparent Low Bidders will be automatically generated and posted online for **Construction of Mass Grading and Detention Improvements for Lakeview** for Water Control and Improvement District No. 3 (CI Job No. 2020046-DET-DS-109). The Site of the work is Northeast of the intersection of FM 362 and Hebert Rd, in Waller County, Texas. A voluntary pre-bid conference call will be held at **2:30 p.m. local time, Thursday, January 6, 2022**. All prospective bidders are invited to attend by calling 346-235-0346 and use the Conference ID: 959 330 341#. Bidding documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at the CivCastUSA Website ([www.CivCastUSA.com](http://www.CivCastUSA.com)). Reproduction charges will apply according to CivCastUSA rates.

**NOTICE**

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, January 19, 2022, At 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2022-01, The Application Of **Micah McMeans**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **1626 Avenue B**, In The "C-1" Commercial District. Property Description: North 85 Feet Of East 125 Feet Of West 315 Feet, Lot 6, Tract 11F, Katy Outlots, Harris County, Texas.

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance To The Platted Side Yard Building Setback Of Seven And A Half (7.5) Feet For The Placement Of A Pool And Covered Patio.

David Minze, Chairman  
Zoning Board of Adjustment

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**Katy Times**

**December 23 Puzzle Answers**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Vertical Bridge Development, LLC is proposing to construct a 260-foot self-support telecommunications tower at 3500 Porter Road, Katy, Harris County, Texas 77493 (29 49 32.9 N / 95 47 6.7 W). The tower is anticipated to have dual medium intensity obstruction lighting. Interested persons may review the application for this project at [www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) and entering Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) Form 854 File Number "A1205715" and may raise environmental concerns about the project by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at [www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest). Parties wishing to submit the request by mail may do so by addressing the request to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554. Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: EBI Consulting, c/o Project #6121010449, MB, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (717) 472-3070.

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES	900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES	900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
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**Bob's BASEBALL Tours**

**Field of Dreams Tour** ▶ Home games for Chicago (Cubs/White Sox), Brewers and Twins. Also a visit to the Field of Dreams movie site. Tour begins/ends in Minnesota.  
Aug. 15-21, 2022

**New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour** ▶ Home games for New York (Yankees/Mets) and Red Sox. Guided Tour of NYC, free time in Boston, Trolley Tour in Maine, travel through White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire & scenic train ride in Vermont. Tour begins/ends in Newark, NJ.  
Sept. 26-Oct. 2, 2022

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

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**EVENTS**

**Bob's Baseball Tours** – Field of Dreams Tour Aug. 15-21, 2022: Home games for Chicago (Cubs/White Sox), Brewers and Twins. Also a visit to the Field of Dreams movie site. Tour begins/ends in Minnesota. New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour Sept. 26-Oct. 2, 2022: Home games for New York (Yankees/Mets) and Red Sox. Guided Tour of NYC, free time in Boston, Trolley Tour in Maine, travel through White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire & scenic train ride in Vermont. Tour begins/ends in Newark, NJ. Tours include deluxe motor coach transportation, additional sightseeing opportunities and quality game tickets/hotels. FREE brochure: 507-217-1326.

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**WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF  
NEW COUNTY ELECTION PRECINCTS**

On December 8, 2021, the Commissioners Court of Waller County adopted new county election precincts to comply with Texas Election Code chapter 42. A brief description of the changes to election precincts, as required by Texas Election Code section 42.035, is provided below.

A copy of the order adopting new election precincts and a map depicting the new election precincts and the location of all polling places are available for public inspection during normal business hours Monday to Friday at the County Election Administrator's Office located at 816 Wilkins St, Hempstead, TX 77445. Call 979-826-7643 if you have questions.

*Para informacion en Española, llame 979-826-7643.*

**Waller County Election Precincts – Description of Changes**

- Commissioner Precinct 1**
- 101 – No Change from Benchmark
  - 102 – Benchmark Precincts 102 and 103 were combined
  - 103 – Consists of parts of Benchmark Precinct 311 west of FM 359 (excluding Monaville) that were moved into Commissioner Precinct 1
  - 104 – No Change from Benchmark
  - 105 – No Change from Benchmark
  - 106 – Consists of Benchmark Precinct 414 and parts of Benchmark Precincts 415 and 416 west of FM 359 (excluding Pattison) that were moved into Commissioner Precinct 1
- Commissioner Precinct 2**
- 207 – No Change from Benchmark
  - 208 – Consists of Benchmark Precinct 208 and parts of Benchmark Precinct 310 east of Blinka Road that were moved into Commissioner Precinct 2
  - 209 – Renumbered from Benchmark Precinct 206
  - 210 – Consists of parts of Benchmark Precinct 312 south of the City of Waller that were moved into Commissioner Precinct 2
- Commissioner Precinct 3**
- 311 – Renumbered from Benchmark Precinct 309
  - 312 – Consists of parts of Benchmark Precinct 310 west of Blinka Road that remained in Commissioner Precinct 3
  - 313 – Consists of Benchmark Precincts 311 and 312 (excluding the parts that were moved into Commissioner Precinct 1 and Commissioner Precinct 3)
  - 314 – Consists of Benchmark Precinct 313 and parts of Benchmark Precinct 418 north of Stockdick and Clay Road that were moved into Commissioner Precinct 3
  - 315 – Consists of parts of Benchmark Precincts 415 and 417 north of the City of Pattison and Morton Road that were moved into Commissioner Precinct 3
- Commissioner Precinct 4**
- 416 – Consists of parts of Benchmark Precincts 415 and 416 that remained in Commissioner Precinct 4 (follows boundaries of the City of Pattison)
  - 417 – New precinct created encompassing Waller County Precinct 4 Courthouse Annex building
  - 418 – Consists of parts of Benchmark Precinct 418 south of Stockdick and Clay Road that remained in Commissioner Precinct 4 (see Additional Minor Changes)
  - 419 – Consists of Benchmark Precincts 416 and 417 that remained in Commissioner Precinct 4 (excluding parts that were moved into Commissioner Precinct 3 and Commissioner Precinct 1)
  - 420 – Consists of Benchmark Precincts 419 and 420 combined (see Additional Minor Changes)
- **Additional Minor Changes:** Parts of Benchmark Precinct 418 west of Pederson Road and south of US 90 near Commerce Pkwy were moved into Precinct 420. No population affected.

# Katy ISD students sign to collegiate programs

## STAFF REPORT

Fourteen Katy ISD student athletes signed national letters of intent to play at collegiate programs during the December Signing Day period before heading off to Christmas break.

The signees included two heading to Southeastern Conference programs and three heading to the Big 12. Signees include the following:

### Katy High School 2021 Signees

- Malik Sylla – Football – Texas A&M University
- Ty Kana – Football – Texas Tech University
- Nic Anderson – Football – The University of Oklahoma
- Hamilton McMartin – Football – University of Texas
- Bobby Taylor – Football – Texas A&M University

### Mayde Creek High School 2021 Signees

- David Livingston – Cross Country/Track – Texas Southern University (TSU)
- Isabel Macias – Softball – Sul Ross State University
- Jordan Kelly – Football – Central Michigan University
- Ty Ferguson – Wrestling – Lyons College

### Morton Ranch High School 2021 Signees

- Victoria "Tori" Ruvalcaba – Soccer – Northwestern Oklahoma State University

### Paetow High School 2021 Signees

- Kerrym Jamal "K.J." Truehill – Football – The United States Air Force Academy

### Taylor High School 2021 Signees

- Nolan Hay – Football – Houston Baptist University

### Tompkins High School 2021 Signees

- Josh McMillan – Football – Houston Baptist University
- Matthew Kumar – Pole Vault – Rice University



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Mayde Creek's Ty Ferguson signed to wrestle at Lyons College.



Tompkins' Josh McMillan signed to play at Houston Baptist University.



Taylor's Nolan Hay signed to play football at Houston Baptist University.



Mayde Creek's Jordan Kelly signed to play football at Central Michigan University.



Morton Ranch's Victoria Ruvalcaba signed to play soccer at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.



Paetow's KJ Truehill signed to play at the United States Air Force Academy.



Mayde Creek's Isabela Macias signed to play softball at Sul Ross State University.



Mayde Creek's David Livingston signed to run cross country and track and field at Texas Southern University.

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**Katy Times**

## SPARTANS

from page B1

The Spartans kept expanding the lead in the second half, giving an opportunity for valuable playing time for the team's younger players.

"We've had a lot of those opportunities to give them time out on the court, and it's been great to see," said Seven Lakes head coach Shannon Heston. "We trust those guys, and their teammates really get excited when they have the opportunity to let those younger guys shine. Just the fact that we're able to come out, play our game and set the tone early gives confidence to those guys coming off the bench, and it lets us play at a higher level."

Seven Lakes has goals of a district title but knows that they'll have to focus on the day-to-day to make that happen.

"Our biggest thing is not letting any selfishness creep in," Heston said. "We really try to have a growth mindset and get better each day and focus on the process. Those things

are popular terms but we really try to hold our boys accountable to that. Every day we ask ourselves, 'Did we get better today?' Whether that's an athletic period or a practice or in the weight room, that's what we focus on. If we stay accountable in the small things, then it's going to help us in the long run."

### DISTRICT 19-6A

#### Seven Lakes 79, Morton Ranch 64

Points: (SL) Akpovwa 17, Davis 16, Bates 12, Van Horn 8, Simiskey 6, Bluiett 6, Van Hoozer 5, Priem 3, Clewett 2, Miller 2, Farias, 2 (MR) Jones 22, Johnson 20, Martin 9, Graham 4, Massey 2, Scott 2, Harwell 2, Fernandez 1

Halftime: Seven Lakes 42-27 3-pointers: (SL) Davis 2, Simskey 2, Bluiett 2, Bates 2, Van Hoozer, Priem,; (MR) Jones 4, Johnson 4, Martin, Records: Seven Lakes 17-2, 1-0; Morton Ranch 2-15, 0-1



TYLER TYRE

Morton Ranch's Corey Johnson drives towards the basket during a game against Seven Lakes on Tuesday.



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