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VOLUME 110, ISSUE 1

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022

County expanding part of Katy Flewellen Road

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County is expanding a section of Katy Flewellen Road from two lanes to four lanes to

accommodate more traffic.

The expansion begins on Willow Lane and extends north of Gaston Road. The project began construction last January, but paused in November.

"The Katy Flewellen project construction is scheduled to be complete in June 2022," Ike Akinwande, Fort Bend County assistant county engineer, said. "The funding can be generally

stated as coming from 'mobility bonds' rather than a specific bond year."

The estimated cost is \$3.4 million. Akinwande said this project captured what the county had for

the Katy area at this time.

Katy Flewellen Road runs southwest from Pin Oak Road to Spring Green Road. Other than the area under construction, the road has four lanes.

Fort Bend County reports increase in demand for COVID-19 testing

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County officials are urging residents seeking free COVID-19 testing to be patient as the demand for testing has increased due in part to the Omicron variant.

Fort Bend County Judge KP George said county leaders have been adamant about testing.

"From day one, we have been adamant about testing and proving Fort Bend County residents access to testing and vaccines," George said. "Under the advisement of our health authority and medical partners, we have changed our testing structure and capacity based on need, and that's the reason we are in the top percentage of testing and vaccinations in the state, so the increase in demand is no different. We're taking the necessary steps to accommodate the surge."

See **TESTING**, page 3



Fort Bend County Judge KP George



R. HANS MILLER PHOTO

Memorial Hermann updates visitor policy as number of COVID-19 cases increases

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Memorial Hermann has updated its visitor policy in response to the Omicron variant and the growing number of COVID-19 cases in the Greater Houston area.

The hospital said in a statement that all approved visitors must clear a health screening before entering the facility and wear a Memorial Hermann-provided mask.

Acute Care Hospitals (adult)

- 1 visitor (age 18 and older) per patient per day.
- No overnight visitors.
- One adult visitor for day surgery patients will be allowed to remain on-

- site until the patient is discharged.
- Visiting hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

TIRR Memorial Hermann Hospital (adult and pediatric) and Memorial Hermann Rehabilitation Hospital-Katy

- 1 visitor (age 18 and older) per patient per day. This same visitor may stay overnight.
- Visiting hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Pediatric/Labor & Delivery/Antepartum/Postpartum at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital and all other Memorial Hermann Acute Care Hospitals
- For pediatric patients:
 - 2 visitors per patient per day—the visitors must be either a parent/guard-

ian or sibling age 12 and over. Sibling visitors 12-17 years of age must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

- 2 parent/guardian visitors may stay overnight.
- For laboring, antepartum and postpartum patients:
 - 2 visitors (age 12 and over) per patient per day. Visitors 12-17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 and over) visitor.
 - 1 of the adult visitors may stay overnight.

Emergency Center

Age restrictions do not apply to visitors who present in the Emergency

See **VISITORS**, page 3

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Katy-area 'sports bistreaux' hopes to redefine sports bar concept

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

For sports fans, it's easy enough to stereotype what a sports bistro should look and be like. Fast food, usually fried, made in a scratch kitchen, with televisions everywhere around the place and team pennants everywhere else. A place where serious fans gather when they want to watch their team and, perhaps, get out of the house for a bit.

A relatively new Katy-area bistro, Walk-On's, is working to change that stereotype, aiming for a family-friendly place for sports fans and non-fans alike, with a more upscale menu.

See **WALK-ON'S**, page 3



Walk-On's general manager Steve Canedo, left, poses with staffers Jorge Ruiz and Rachel Bennett.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office unveils new uniforms

The new year has brought new dark blue uniforms to the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. The new look replaces the trademark brown and tan uniforms that deputies have worn for over five decades, according to the sheriff's office.

The new uniforms feature a dark blue shoulder patch and an embroidered seven-point star badge. The sheriff's office said the uniforms meet with industry standards for comfort, durability and heat resistance.

The uniforms are also tear-resistant, which could save the sheriff's office save money for replacing uniforms. The uniforms were paid with enforcement funds.

"Sometimes our deputies have to bolt out of their cars and chase suspects," Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan said. "These new tactical uniforms are much more suited for that kind of work. Plus, the dark blue color adds a layer of camouflage during nighttime operations."

Fagan said the uniform change represents the department moving forward in a positive direction. He added that deputies in blue gear are generally more recognizable as peace officers and can be better identified by the public when responding to calls.

"The uniforms bring us into the current paramilitary milieu and provide a modern uniform appearance," Fagan said. "They are versatile to allow wearing the new body-worn cameras and outer vest to carry medical and tactical equipment."

Fagan said he is excited to witness the enthusiasm of his deputies who have embraced the new look. He hopes the Fort Bend community will welcome the change.

"The women and men of this office work tirelessly every day for the people of Fort Bend County and deserve a uniform that gives them an even greater sense of pride," Fagan said. "Although the uniform is different, our pledge to serve with service, honor, and dignity won't change."

Cinco Ranch High School musicians to compete for a chair in All-State bands

Twenty-eight Cinco Ranch High School students have advanced to the Region 23 area audition Saturday. There, they will compete for a chair in the All-State Bands against students from the Greater Houston area.

Advancing to 6A Area Competition are:

- Leor Arbel (Region 23 Wind Ensemble

- & Region 23 Symphony Orchestra)
 - Tanishq Gadiyar (Region 23 Wind Ensemble)
 - Benjamin Hoover (Region 23 Wind Ensemble)
 - YuXiang Lu (Region 23 Symphonic Band & Region 23 Symphony Orchestra)
 - Noah Machart (Region 23 Wind Ensemble & Region 23 Philharmonic Orchestra)
 - Madison Mascorro (Region 23 Wind Ensemble & Region 23 Philharmonic Orchestra)
 - Taylor Mechura (Region 23 Wind Ensemble)
 - Sarthak Nath (Region 23 Wind Ensemble)
 - Noah Salaman (Region 23 Wind Ensemble)
 - Colin Whisenant (Region 23 Wind Ensemble & Region 23 Philharmonic Orchestra)
 - Julia Wright (Region 23 Wind Ensemble & Region 23 Philharmonic Orchestra)
 - Evan Zhang (Region 23 Wind Ensemble & Region 23 Symphony Orchestra)
- Rishabh Chowdhury advances to the Region 23 Jazz Ensemble #1 for area jazz.

- Students advancing to the 9th Grade All-Region Band are:
- Victor Boyd
 - Armand Delaguila
 - Lucas Gafford
 - Anthony Ghazarian
 - Micah Marsh
 - Larissa Obregon
 - Ian Pelton
 - Joseph Steber
 - Cameron Van Natter
- Students advancing to the Region 23 Symphonic Band are:
- Julien Ames-Zuniga
 - Zhexi Hu
 - Dylan Roberts
 - Isabella Vargas
- Rachel Austin advanced to the Region 23 District Band & Region 23 Philharmonic Orchestra. Benjamin Hines advanced to the Region 23 District Band.

Harris County sheriff's office temporarily suspends in-person jail visitations

The Harris County Sheriff's Office suspended in-person jail visitations until further notice in an effort to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19 among both the public and those inside the jail.

The suspension went into effect Dec. 28. The sheriff's office said attorney-client interviews and other essential visits will not be affected. Family and friends can continue to



Fort Bend County sheriff's deputies model their new dark blue uniforms. The new uniforms include embroidered seven-point star badges.

communicate with their loved ones through calls and video visitations. To set up an account with Securix, an inmate calling service, visit the HCSO website or call 1-800-844-6591. A free calling program will be temporarily implemented for the jail facilities, offering each inmate two free calls per week.

The sheriff's office said the visitation plan is in coordination with the Houston Health Department and follows the guidance of public health officials.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, sheriff's office employees have worked diligently to maintain a high level of public service and care, implementing necessary public health measures and aggressive testing," Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said. "Although we understand the desire to visit with loved ones in person, the health of staff, those in our custody, and our community is our top priority."

For more information about inmate calls and video visitations, visit the jail inmate visitation page on the sheriff's office website at bit.ly/3pPJA5m.

Fort Bend County Judge names new chief of staff

Fort Bend County Judge KP George announced that Shaneka Smith will serve as his new chief of staff.

Smith has been part of George's staff since 2019. Most recently, she served as administrative and external affairs manager, overseeing the day-to-day management of the judge's office.

As chief of staff, Smith will serve as the senior member of George's team and top advisor. She will work with George's team to streamline procedures and enhance collaboration and communication between the judge's office, county leadership, and the community.

"Shaneka's leadership has been key to our team's accomplishments since almost the very beginning of my administration," George said. "She's no stranger to county government, she has been involved in nearly every issue we have tackled. Whether it's operations, strategy, policy, or crisis management, Shaneka is a person who brings people together, solves problems, and dedicates herself to the work to make Fort Bend County a better place for everyone."

Smith said she was honored to have earned George's confidence to fill the position.

"We have an exceptionally talented and experienced team in the county judge's office, all, who are dedicated to this office and the people of Fort Bend County," Smith said. "There is a lot of work to do, and I can't wait to continue to move Fort Bend forward and work together to make our county more efficient, effective, and engaging for all."

Smith will work with county departments, being the point of contact for local, state, and federal matters, and work with the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, to ensure Fort Bend County is prepared for any disaster.

Smith's appointment is effective immediately.

— CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Struck firmly
- Shirt part
- Nevertheless
- Article
- Adornment
- Educator's helper
- Healthcare pro
- Atomic number 28
- Extinct flightless bird
- Mystic syllable
- College sports decision maker (abbr.)
- Edible mushrooms
- Venerable English monk
- Surrounded by
- Forming fractional numbers from 4 onwards
- Eastern France river
- Short cry or yelp
- Brew
- Ornamental box
- In a way, surfaced
- Attired
- Peculation
- Netted
- It shows you paid (abbr.)
- Payroll firm
- Antidiuretic hormone
- Japanese classical theater
- The first burial
- Ancient chamber
- Type of card
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Hectoliter
- Morning
- NYC subway dweller
- Law enforcement
- Sodium
- Elevated subway
- Facility where wild animals are kept
- Integrated circuit
- Seaman's tool
- Drink to
- Small group

CLUES DOWN

- Poem
- Everest is one (abbr.)
- Olympic legend Jesse
- Portable tent
- When you hope to get there
- Unwavering
- Back muscle
- Within
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Six
- Involved as a necessary part
- 2002 Liotta, Patric film
- Living thing
- Type of gin
- Moved around in pursuit of fun
- Makes light bulbs
- Story of one's life
- Small island in a river
- A type of bliss
- Genus of large herons
- A way to make dry
- One's grandmother
- Vocal style
- Pronunciation mark
- American Indian chief or leader
- Insecticide
- Go bad
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Polish river
- Cast out
- People of India and Sri Lanka
- Cleaning fabrics
- Very skilled
- Pouches
- Restaurant must-have
- Native Americans from Arizona
- Remaining after all deductions
- Fleece
- Dorm official
- It cools your home

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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.

VISITORS

from page 1

Center with a patient. Minors (age 17 and under) who accompany Emergency Center patients must remain with the patient.

Visitors in Memorial Hermann Emergency Centers may be further restricted, as needed, to maintain a safe environment

Patients in isolation

- No visitors are allowed for patients in droplet or airborne isolation, including COVID-19, if the physician determines that visitation may result in transmission of an infectious disease and poses serious risk to community health.

- 1 adult visitor (age 18 and over) per day will be allowed for patients in contact and contact-plus isolation.

- Visitors may be required to wear additional PPE, if needed, and as directed by the unit staff.

Patients in hospice or supportive medicine care

- Family members and religious counselors may visit patients in hospice or supportive medicine care.

- Visiting hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Memorial Hermann Medical Group, Outpatient Imaging, Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation

- Adult patients: No visitors except one primary caregiver, such as a guardian or adult caregiver of a dependent patient or individual accompanying patient with special needs will be allowed.

- Pediatric patients: One parent/guardian will be allowed for any pediatric patient visits. 1 additional parent will be allowed for pediatric patients under 18 months old and for patients needing discussion about developmental concerns. Reasonable accommodations will be made for pediatric visits, provided any sibling visitors are in good health.

- OB patients: No accompanying adult will be allowed for OB visits. One accompanying adult will be allowed for OB ultrasound visits.

TIRR Memorial Hermann Outpatient Rehabilitation, Memorial Hermann Rehabilitation Hospital-Katy Outpatient Rehabilitation, & TIRR Memorial Hermann Outpatient Medical Clinic

- Adult (18 and over) patients: No visitors.

- Pediatric patients: 1 parent/guardian visitor.

- Outpatient Medical Clinic patients that require assistance for care needs only, will be allowed a visitor, which will be coordinated by the clinical team.

University Place

University Place continues to adhere to the state's guidelines for nursing center visitation.

Screening process

Approved visitors will be required to clear a health screening before entering the facility, as well as wear a Memorial Hermann-provided mask at all times. Please visit memorialhermann.org/screening to complete online screening before arrival.

The hospital said all patients with a disability, including cognitive impairment, or other medical condition who may need support or assistance communicating with staff will be evaluated for potential visitor exceptions on a case-by-case basis. If a visitor believes that an exception to the in-person visitation policy is needed, he or she is asked to speak to the hospital's management team. A patient's religious counselor, subject to reasonable restrictions, may visit and will not be counted as part of the visitation limit.

Katy residents urged to winterize homes

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

For many Texans, the below-freezing temperatures of earlier this week bring back unpleasant reminders of last February's severe winter storm and power outages. But as things begin to warm up, local officials and power companies are urging people to prepare for the next round of freezing temperatures.

Those freezing temperatures are not in the immediate forecast. Thursday's forecast calls for sunny skies and a high in the mid-60s, according to the National Weather Service.

Both the City of Katy and CenterPoint Energy have shared tips for winterizing a home.

According to the city, for freezing conditions and loss of power, residents should locate and turn off their personal water shut off valve. The valve is usually located outside the home or somewhere between the house and water meter. If a home does not have a valve, contact a plumber for installation. If a home has a valve, make sure it is operational.

When extended freezing temperatures are forecasted, turn off the shut off valve and open faucets to drain water from the lines that

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The city posts notifications on its website and Facebook advising customers of service outages and warnings. One can also register to receive automated emergency alerts from the City's KT Alert Emergency Management System at <https://bit.ly/3z4knSE>.

CenterPoint urges customers to register for its Power Alert Service for information on individual outages. It also urges customers to follow @cnpalerts and visit Outage Tracker for general outage locations. The company has a website, CenterPointEnergy.com/StormCenter that provides tips and other resources.

are in the wall and ceiling. Turn faucets back off so when the lines defrost, the running water will not flood the house if you are not home.

If the water must be turned off, first fill a bathtub to use for flushing toilets and fill pitchers, jugs, and so on for drinking water.

If the power is still on, open cabinet doors to help heat the pipes in the walls. Do not leave faucets dripping as this can cause

a loss of water pressure throughout the city. Turn off the water and drain the pipes before they freeze.

To protect an irrigation system, turn off the shut off valve on the vacuum breaker and then drain the water.

Remove water hoses, wrap faucets with insulated covers or towels and secure with plastic.

For those using electricity, CenterPoint Energy said high winds and ice could cause downed power lines in isolated areas. Always assume downed lines or wires are energized and potentially dangerous if contacted. The company makes these suggestions:

- Do not go near downed lines or fallen wires.

- Keep your distance from objects touching downed lines (tree limbs, vehicles, fences, and so on).

- If someone is actively being shocked due to contact with a power line, do not try to rescue them. Instead, call 911 immediately.

- Report downed power lines to 713-207-2222 or 800-332-7143.

- Never use an electricity generator inside a home or any other building.

For those using natural gas, make sure your heating system is working properly. Malfunctioning

home heating equipment can cause a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. Check that outside furnace vents aren't blocked by snow or ice. Keep the furnace filter clean for safe, efficient operation.

Use space heaters safely. Use a space heater with an automatic shut-off feature, and keep children, pets and all items at least three feet away. A space heater that uses gas, propane or wood should be vented to the outside. Stoves and ovens should never be used for space heating.

Check the carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke alarms. These devices are essential to warn you of a fire or dangerous condition involving a furnace, water heater, fireplace or stove. Test alarms monthly and change batteries as recommended by the manufacturer.

Immediately report a suspected natural gas leak. If someone smells the "rotten egg" odor of natural gas, immediately leave on foot, go to a safe location and call both 911 and CenterPoint Energy at 713-659-2111 or 800-752-8036. Don't use electric switches/outlets, phones (including cell phones), drive or start a car inside or in close proximity to the location, or do anything that could cause a spark.

WALK-ON'S

from page 1

"We've got a little bit of everything for everyone, especially in the food," Steve Canedo, the restaurant's general manager, said. "Our concept is a family concept. We've got games for kids, and our extended menu has a variety of foods. We have a scratch kitchen where our food is a bit upscale."

And while the restaurant has a sports atmosphere, it's intended to focus on a broader, more general audience. Walk-On's brands itself not as a sports "bistro," but "bistreaux," because it is headquartered in Louisiana and its founders, Brandon Landry and Jack Warner, are former LSU basketball players. The two became friends during their playing days and decided to go into business together. The chain today has locations in nine states, including Texas.

A walk-on, for the non-sports

fan, is a college student athlete who "walks on" to join his team, and does not have a scholarship.

"We have lots of couples who come here, and groups of people who are not sports-focused," Canedo said. "That's where we separate ourselves. It's not just a sports bar for the guys. It's a family-oriented place where everybody feels comfortable, no matter who they're with."

The Katy location, 23213 Grand Circle Blvd., is the second restaurant in the Greater Houston area. It opened last October in smoother circumstances than its counterpart in Spring.

Canedo, who has been with the company for just over three years, was involved with both openings. The Spring location, Canedo said, opened in the heart of the pandemic.

"On the third day of training, our corporate office had to pull

"I'd like to work with all the schools. We definitely want to reach out to them to see if there's something we can do."

—Steve Canedo, Walk-On's general manager

everyone out and stop training," Canedo said. The restaurant did open, though like with many restaurants at the time, it offered curbside service only.

The Katy location strives to have a local ambience. One can see football helmets from all but one of the Katy Independent

School District teams when entering the restaurant. Fans of the newest high school, Jordan, can expect to see a Warrior helmet on display there soon. The restaurant has had spirit events for Paetow High School and one of the elementary schools.

"I'd like to work with all the schools," Canedo said. "We definitely want to reach out to them to see if there's something we can do."

Canedo said Katy has been on the restaurant's list of potential locations for some time, in part because of the school district.

"It's an up-and-coming area, a nice area," Canedo said. "It's great to be here."

Canedo said he's learned that there are many LSU alumni that live in the area.

"I'm assuming that was a good reason they wanted a restaurant here," Canedo said, smiling.

TESTING

from page 1

Fort Bend County offers testing at four sites. The North Katy Annex Clinic, is at 22333 Grand Corner Drive, is the only one in the Katy area.

The other Fort Bend County testing sites are the Rosenberg Annex Clinic in Rosenberg, the Four Corners Community Center in Sugar Land, and the Fifth Street Community Center in Stafford.

To set an appointment, county residents are asked to call 281-633-7795. But residents wanting to set appointment might experience longer hold times, or perhaps a busy signal.

County officials said they have added more staff and appointments to increase testing capacity. They are also in negotiations to launch more COVID-19 test sites.

The County is also partnering with area faith communities that have expressed an

interest in providing testing sites by connecting them with vendors to provide testing. The County has also added a remote site for County employees and first responders, to support the continuity of County business functions. In addition, the County is in negotiations to launch additional COVID-19 test sites.

The number of COVID tests performed at County testing locations has almost tripled. Fort Bend Health & Human Services performed less than 500 tests for the entire month of November. To date, Fort Bend HHS has performed over 1,300 tests in December.

The data collected from Fort Bend HHS shows 897 residents have tested positive since December 20, the highest since April/March of 2020. Additionally, the age group most infected with the virus is under 50.

The majority of the vaccines being admin-

istered in the county are for the COVID-19 booster shot. The CDC recommends everyone ages five years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19. Anyone ages 16 years and older can receive a COVID-19 booster shot six months after their second dose of the vaccine. Anyone five and older who needs a first or second dose can receive them as needed at all four testing locations.

"I strongly recommend to our residents, who are not vaccinated, to get the vaccine, if they are eligible," George said. "The best defense against the variants of COVID-19 is awareness, testing, and the vaccine."

George urged people to follow the CDC's recommendations of wearing face coverings, avoiding large crowds, and social distancing where possible. For more information go to <https://www.fbchealth.org/>

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Hail to our everyday local heroes

A recent Reddit thread discusses the lack of heroes in modern society, but the truth is we have plenty of heroes.

It's true that in the Internet era, historic figures we once considered heroic are being reevaluated as their past misdeeds and personal peccadilloes are revealed.

Celebrities we once admired suffer a fall from grace as their off-camera misbehavior is discovered and publicized.

Religious institutions have devalued their moral capital and fomented heartbreak as their years of scandals and cover ups are made public.

When I was growing up in the '60s, the mantra of parents to their kids was "maybe you'll grow up to be president one day."

But that lofty aspiration began disappearing during the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal, as Americans became more cynical about the motives and actions of politicians.

Today, according to the Pew Research Center, public trust in government is ridiculously low.

A 2021 Pew study finds that only "about one-quarter of Americans say they can trust the government in Washington to do what is right 'just about always' (2 percent) or 'most of the time' (22 percent)."

Compare that to 1958, when 75 percent of Americans trusted the federal government to do the right thing almost always or most of the time.

Placing anyone too high up on a hero's pedestal is a dangerous game. No human—and no institution—is without flaws.

But there are still plenty of heroes.

A hero, according to one definition of the American Heritage dictionary, is a "person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life."

Acts of heroism are practiced daily by our men and women who serve in the military—soldiers placed by political leaders in often very difficult and dangerous situations.

WeAreTheMighty.com features many stories in which our service men and women have



TOM PURCELL

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

been exceptionally selfless and brave, but even in my own social circles I have seen many acts of heroism.

Two of my friends opened their homes and hearts to foster children.

One friend had hoped to adopt two or three of these kids and she and her husband were heartbroken when the children's birth parents took them back to their dysfunctional homes.

But she and her husband prevailed and for more than a decade have been raising an adopted foster son and a daughter—giving both the parental love and support they need to be productive and successful in their lives.

Another friend saves dozens of abandoned and abused dogs from being put down every year.

She and her husband take the dogs into their home, restore their health and their hearts for as long as that process takes, then place them in homes that will love them.

Another friend cooks several meals one night every week and distributes them to her needy and shut-in elderly neighbors.

There are lots of reasons to be cynical these days. The charlatans and politicians who have exploited COVID to inflame our fears and further their ambitions is one of the biggest.

But there are many more reasons to be hopeful.

Our world is overflowing with ordinary people who quietly infuse our lives with goodness, beauty and compassion every day.

They are our true heroes. We just need to get better at acknowledging them.

Better yet, if we're not already doing so, we should work at becoming everyday heroes ourselves.

Tom Purcell is an author and humor columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



2021 was the year of the jab

Yes, it's that time again when I reminisce about the important events that have transpired over the past 12 months, like how in the world I grew so much ear hair in one year.

My elders have often told me how fast time flies, but I never really believed them until I began to feel like I was shaving about every 30 minutes. Now, another year has already come and gone, and I still haven't found time to teach our pets to use the toilet or develop a vaccine for love handles.

And speaking of vaccines, the COVID-19 shot, jab, dose, puncture, skewering, or whatever you want to call it (and still get censored on Facebook), has really been the story of 2021. In fact, thanks to the COVID-19 vaccine, we now have another controversial topic to avoid discussing at our family gatherings—along with politics, religion and the correct pronouns to use for that emu in the Liberty Mutual Insurance commercials.

Actually, though, I've been quite open with friends and loved ones about my willingness to have not one, not two, but three COVID-19 vaccine doses—and I still haven't grown a second head. I'm even willing to take an additional Sonic Route 44-dose of the vaccine if it will help bring this pandemic to an end and get

JASE GRAVES

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



Dr. Fauci off of television so he can spend more time at home arguing with his wife about where to go out to eat.

Along with the ongoing pandemic, this year has brought us a new U.S. president, who, like his predecessors, is loved by some of the American people, while the others refer to him using shocking obscenities—like "Brandon." I guess Brandon will now go the way of other perfectly good baby names like Karen, Thanos and Omicron. So sad.

But let's move on to more fascinating and consequential matters than the presidency and the global pandemic. In 2021, my family life was full of change and personal growth—and not just for my love handles.

Our eldest and most expensive daughter began her freshman year of college, meaning that, along with her challenging academic pursuits, she's learning important independent life skills, mainly how to spend our money at a distance.

Our middle daughter is now

in her senior year of high school. She is currently unsure about her future college major, but based on her teenage years so far, we're thinking she may be leaning toward something in the boyfriend arts, hopefully with a minor in breaking up with doofuses.

Our youngest daughter is now 15 years old and keeps pestering me to give her driving lessons. I've assured her that I'll begin her driver training as soon as Amazon Prime delivers our new body armor and M1 Abrams Tank.

Seriously, though, we're very proud of all three of our daughters, and we can't wait to experience the surprises they have in store for us and our blood pressure in 2022.

Whatever happens in the coming year, I choose to look forward to it with hope for renewal and faith that God is ultimately in charge. My prayer is that in the next 12 months, He will lead us out of this pandemic, bestow His richest blessings upon us, and help us to become better humans—love handles and all.

Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.



Katy Times

SUSAN ROVEGNO | Publisher
GEORGE SLAUGHTER | News Editor
TYLER TYRE | Sports Editor
DEBBIE PREJEAN | Office Manager/Bookkeeper
MARISSA FERREIRA | Page designer

OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678
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TRIBUTES

Winston Clyatt Gay, age 79, entered eternal peaceful rest at home surrounded by family on January 2, 2022, in Katy, Texas.

Winston was born on April 11, 1942, to David and Stella Gay in Norman Park, Georgia.

As a young man, Winston joined the Air Force and served our country proudly. After serving, Winston found his way to Texas where he started his lifelong career with NCR as a mechanical technician.

Winston was a dedicated husband, father, and papa to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Winston loved to stay busy as he dabbled with rental properties and helped his family with any home repairs that were needed. His love for animals was well known among his family. He even had a pet Blue Jay known as "Mr. Blue" who loved to sit on his shoulder and steal his cigarettes. He was also known for keeping the possum families fed, at home, and whenever they found us on vacation. He loved to sit and watch tv with Rosalyn, especially westerns, NASCAR, the Texans, and the Astros.

Winston leaves his loved ones with unforgettable mem-



WINSTON CLYATT GAY
1942-2022

ories and stories. He will be sincerely missed by his loving family, friends, and all the wonderful individuals who knew and loved him.

Winston is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Rosalyn Gay; four sons, Todd Gay, and wife, Teri; Larry Gay and wife, Cheri; Wayne Greer; and Christopher Salonen and wife, Aubrey; six grandchildren, Kayla Gay and fiancée Kevin Stoddard; Justin Salonen and wife, Casey; Wesley Gay and wife, Hailey; Madeline Murphy and husband Chance, Cameron Salonen and wife, Caitlyn and Hunter Greer; as well as twelve

great-grandchildren. He is survived by his brother, Cecil Gay of Arkansas, and sister, Edith Evanikoff of California. He was preceded in death by 9 siblings, Emma Loret East, Eddie Gay, Grady Gay, Chester Gay, Edna Brayden, Dorothy Lee Burchfield, Wendall Gay, Sarah Bronkaw, and Madeline Gay.

Honorary pall bearers are Kevin Stoddard, Wes Gay, Hunter Greer, Justin Salonen, Chance Murphy, and Gabe Coulter.

The family will receive visitors from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 7, 2022, at Schmidt Funeral Home, 1508 East Avenue, Katy, Texas. Winston's funeral will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at Schmidt Funeral Home. Immediately following the funeral, a graveside service will be held at Magnolia Cemetery, in Katy, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the Gay family requests donations be made to Special Pals, 3830 Greenhouse Rd, Houston, TX 77084, (281) 579-7387.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home 1508 East Avenue ~ Katy, Texas 77493 ~ (281) 391-2424

Enrollment underway for community KISD courses

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Spring enrollment is underway for community education classes through the Katy Independent School District.

The courses enable participants the chance to build expertise, learn a different skill or enjoy a new activity. The courses focus on a number of topics, and take place at various district high schools during the evenings.

"For over 30 years, the Katy ISD Community Education Program has grown to include almost 2,000

participants per semester," Karen Lewis, the district's internal & community relations director, said. "We have found that many participants who take a course, return in following semesters to take more classes."

Everyone is invited to register for classes, even if they live outside the district. To see the course catalog, visit bit.ly/3zknPZH.

Registration is available online. Certificates of completion are issued for most classes. For questions, call the Community Education Department at 281-396-6365.

Three killed in New Year's Day accident on Barker Cypress Road

Three people were killed early Saturday morning in an automobile accident in the 3600 block of Barker Cypress Road, Harris County Sheriff's deputies said.

At about 1 a.m. Saturday, deputies said Jennifer Velasquez was driving a Toyota Rav4 northbound on Barker Cypress Road, approaching the Barkers Branch Drive intersection. Meanwhile, a Toyota Sienna was headed southbound on Barker Cypress Road and did not yield the right-of-way while turning left, in front of the Rav4.

The Sienna had a male driver and

five passengers, four male and one female. The male passenger and a female passenger were dead at the scene, deputies said.

Another female passenger was taken to a nearby hospital where she was pronounced dead.

The other two female passengers were taken to a nearby hospital with serious injuries.

Deputies said Velasquez showed signs of intoxication at the scene, and the case remains under investigation.

Names of victims were not released pending notification of next of kin, deputies said.

Cinco Ranch Library cancels in-person events

The Cinco Ranch Branch Library announced that in-person programs in January at the library have been cancelled.

Michele Pettigrew, a communi-

cations specialist at the library, said the cancellations were due to the COVID threat increasing and the Fort Bend County level being raised to orange.



MAMIE "SUE" JONES HAMILTON

Mamie "Sue" Jones Hamilton of Katy, Texas passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on December 22, 2021. She was predeceased by her parents, Hurstle and Annie Judson Jones and sister, Annie Lou Sheffield.

She is survived by her two sons, Judson Keith Fahey (Deanna) of San Antonio, Texas and Hurstle Kent Fahey (Ariann) of Katy, Texas; her precious grandsons Ethan Zachary Fahey and Wyatt Marshall Fahey of Katy, Texas; two God Children, Noah Sanders of Wesley Chapel, Florida and Lily Sanders of Jackson-

ville, Florida; her twin sister Betty J. Edwards of Selma, Alabama; her niece Mimi Sheffield Lynch, along with other numerous nieces and nephews.

Sue graduated from Albert G Parrish High School in 1956. She was most proud of earning her BA degree in 1992 after having attended ten colleges during 36 1/2 years. She worked in the legal field for over twenty years and retired from Conoco Phillips in 1993.

A private graveside service is planned in Selma, Alabama where Sue will be laid to rest alongside her parents.

The Katy Times

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Psalms 94:19

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WEEK OF JAN. 8

SCORES & SCHEDULES

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday

- Cinco Ranch at Taylor, 7 p.m.
- Jordan vs. College Station, 6:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Brenham, 6:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Tompkins, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Taylor, 7 p.m.
- Jordan at College Station, 5 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Paetow at Brenham, 6:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Thursday

- Jordan vs. Ridge Point, 7 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Northshore, 7 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Lamar, 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium
- Seven Lakes vs. O'Connor, 7 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Cy-Woods, 7 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Tompkins vs. Fort Bend Clements, 5 p.m., at Jordan

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Ridge Point, 7 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Victoria East, 5 p.m., Legacy Stadium
- Katy vs. Shadow Creek, 3 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. San Antonio O'Connor, 5 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Morton Ranch vs. Clements, 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium
- Paetow vs. Cy-Woods, 7 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Kingwood 5 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Northshore, 7 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Lamar, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Lamar, 3:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Royal, 3:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Thursday

- Katy at Humble ISD Tournament
- Mayde Creek at Angleton, TBA
- Morton Ranch vs. the Woodlands, 7 p.m. at Whitehouse
- Seven Lakes vs. Memorial, 12:45 p.m., at Grand Oaks
- Taylor at Grand Oaks, 7:15 p.m.
- Katy vs. Cleveland, 11:30 a.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Mayde Creek vs. San Antonio Johnson, 7:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Clements, 7 p.m., Legacy Stadium
- Seven Lakes vs. Fulshear, 9:30 a.m.
- Taylor vs. Shadow Creek, 7:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

Friday

- Tompkins vs. San Antonio Clark, 5 p.m., at the Woodlands
- Katy vs. Porter, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Georgetown, 5 p.m., at Woodlands
- Tompkins at Grand Oaks, 7:15 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Bryan, 12:45 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. New Braunfels, 11 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Victoria East, 1:30 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Saturday

- Katy at Atascocita, 5 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Cy-Woods, 4:15 p.m.
- Taylor vs. MacArthur, 8 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. the Woodlands, 12:30 p.m.



Houston Cougars quarterback Clayton Tune (3) looks to pass during an NCAA football game between Houston and Texas Tech on September 4, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston rallies late to beat Auburn in Birmingham bowl

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Houston's offense struggled through most of their bowl game against Auburn University, but when the Cougars needed it most, the offense stepped up.

"We just kept hammering away and kept trusting the guys," said quarterback Clayton

Tune. "Our offense this whole season, when we needed to make plays, we did. There was no panic or anything. We just trusted each other. I trusted my offensive line and my running backs and everyone on the field. We knew we were going to make a play when we needed to and we did."

Behind 283 yards and two touchdowns from Tune, 150 yards receiving on 10 receptions from Nathaniel Dell and a terrific

defensive performance from the Cougars, Houston came out 17-13 victors over Auburn in the Birmingham bowl, topping the Tigers in SEC country.

It took a late fourth quarter comeback after a subpar second half from the Cougar offense, but a late drive and a Cougars defensive stand handed Houston the victory.

See **BOWL**, page 9



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Texans quarterback Davis Mills (10) passes the ball during an NFL game between Houston and the Los Angeles Rams on October 31, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

COVID-ravaged Texans fight for victory over the Chargers

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The culture David Culley has preached all season was on full display Sunday.

With over a dozen players on the COVID-19 list and missing the game, the

Texans battled and showed grit on Sunday in a game that they were a touchdown underdogs heading into.

"We have a next man up mentality," said Texans head coach David Culley. "All

See **TEXANS**, page 9

KISD's Decker to be inducted into THSADA Hall of Honor

STAFF REPORT

Katy Independent School District's Executive Director for Athletics, Debbie Decker, will soon join the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association (THSADA) Hall of Honor.

"This is a tremendous honor and one that I attribute to the many athletes, coaches and administrators with whom I have worked with throughout my career," said Debbie Decker, Executive Director of the Katy ISD Athletics Department. "THSADA is an outstanding organization and serves a vital role in its support of athletics throughout the state of Texas. I am fortunate to be a part of this association and am humbled and appreciative of this great honor," added Decker.

Between 2017 and 2018, Decker served as the president of THSADA where she oversaw the day-to-day business of the association, which included

See **DECKER**, page 10



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850 HELP WANTED	850 HELP WANTED	950 PUBLIC NOTICES							
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West Houston CPA firm seeks CPA with 7 to 10 years of tax preparation experience for contract work in 2022. Contract rate commensurate with experience. Could lead to full time position based on work product quality. Please fax resume to 281-492-6879 only.

NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 is District Administration Building located at 21201 Morton Road, Katy, Texas 77449.

**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.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Fort Bend-Waller Counties MUD will be received electronically until 10:00 a.m., Friday January 21st, 2022 and then publicly opened and read for furnishing all plant, labor, material and equipment and performing all work required for the construction of: **Katy Court Detention in Katy Court Phase I.**
The bids will only be received electronically bid through CivcastUSA. The electronic bids will be publicly opened and read via conference call. Physical bids will not be accepted.

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.

**December 30
Puzzle Answers**

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

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

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, large gatherings are not recommended. Bids will be publicly read aloud at the time bids are due via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 663757253# when prompted.

The project is located within the future Katy Court Development in Harris County, TX. It is within the boundaries of Fort Bend - Waller Counties M.U.D. No. 2 and is in the City of Katy. It is approximately 900 feet south of the Clay Rd and Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd intersection. The project is located in Harris County, Key Map No. 444-G, 444-H, 444-L, and 444-M.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check (the "bid security") drawn on a responsible bank located in the State of Texas, for at least two percent (2%) of the total amount of the bid and made payable to Owner only. Bid Bonds for five percent (5%) of the maximum total bid amount are acceptable for construction contracts over \$250,000. The successful bidder shall forfeit bid security to Owner as liquidated damages if it shall fail or refuse to enter into a proper contract for the Work, including failure or refusal to furnish the Performance and Maintenance Bond and the Payment Bond required by the Contract. Bid security will be returned to all but the three lowest bidders within three days after the Bid Opening Time, and the second and third lowest bidders may at that time substitute a bid bond by a qualified surety for the certified or cashier's check. Remaining bid security will be returned after execution of the Contract.

Plans, specifications, and bidding documents are available at www.civcastusa.com.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Friday, January 14th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 640582424# when prompted.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any or all irregularities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of 60 days from the date bids are open.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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Application has been made with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for an Off-Premise Beverage Permit by KATT Endeavors, LLC DBA Farm Stores to be located at 3830 N. Mason Road, Katy, TX. Officers of this company are Amy Wise.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BG Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit / BF Beer Retailer's Off-Premise License by Q & T Food Mart AND to be located at 4111 5TH ST, BROOKSHIRE WALLER, Texas. Officer of said corporation is Quaneshia Survillion OWNER/ MANAGER.

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**Annual Report Public Hearing
Scheduled January 24, 2022**

The Katy Independent School District will conduct a public hearing for the 2020-2021 Annual Report on January 24, 2022. The hearing will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees at 5:00 p.m. in the Katy ISD Administration Building at 6301 South Stadium Lane.

Texas Education Code 39.306 requires each school district's board of trustees to publish an annual report that includes the Texas Academic Performance Report, campus performance objectives, a report of violent or criminal incidents along with prevention and intervention policies, information received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the district's accreditation status, and the progress towards goals set for early childhood literacy and math proficiency as well as college, career, military readiness.

NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 is Willowfork Fire Station, 24655 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, Texas 77494.

NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 is 21055 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, Texas 77450.

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). Reproduction charges will apply according to CivCastUSA rates.

**COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID**

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

- Mowing
- Bridge & Guardrail Improvements
- Gasoline & Diesel Fuels

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., January 18, 2022 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. January 19, 2022, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on January 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.

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

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

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

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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
TO DISCUSS CALVIN NELMS
CHARTER SCHOOLS
2020-2021 TAPR (Texas Academic
Performance Report)**

Calvin Nelms Charter Schools will hold
A public meeting
At 11:30 AM January 18, 2022
In the Conference Room
Calvin Nelms Charter Schools High School Building
20625 Clay Road
Katy, TX 77449

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Calvin Nelms Charter Schools' 2020-2021 TAPR Indicators.

114 Katy ISD student athletes named THSCA all-state

STAFF REPORT

The Texas High School Coaches Association recognized senior scholar-athletes on its academic all-state teams.

114 Katy ISD student athletes were named to the team during fall sports, including football, volleyball and cross country.

Leeah Chang of Seven Lakes cross country, Christian Collins of Katy football and Malik Edwards of Tompkins football were named to the Elite team.

Katy had 31 all-state academic qualifiers, Tompkins had 11 in volleyball, adding 18 in football.

THSCA ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

CROSS COUNTRY

Cinco Ranch

- Anika Mueller-Hickler, honorable mention
- Alison Mueller-Hickler, honorable mention

Katy

- Andrew Garza, 1st team
- Christina Rodriguez, 2nd team
- Julian Fraga, 2nd team
- Isabella Rubio, 2nd team
- Cecilia Cantu, 2nd team
- Ana Hurtado Villagomez, honorable mention
- Samantha Soeken, honorable mention

Seven Lakes

- Leeah Chang, ELITE

- Blez Arbolado, 1st team
- Avary Catchings, 2nd team
- Ingrid Vargas Castaneda, honorable mention

FOOTBALL

Cinco Ranch

- Rhett Rodabaugh, 1st team
- Conner Black, 1st team
- Daniel Tabori, 2nd team
- Davis Pickett, 2nd team
- Zachary Dycus, 2nd team
- Youssef Sayed, 2nd team
- Cade Snyder, honorable mention
- Nathan Rothwell, honorable mention
- Gabriel Tan, honorable mention
- Aurelio Del Carmen, honorable mention
- Zachary Amaya, honorable mention
- Bowen Cheng, honorable mention

Katy

- Christian Collins, ELITE
- Carson Marshall, 2nd team
- Tucker Herrin, 2nd team
- Karson Sanamo, 2nd team
- Dylan Erickson, 2nd team
- Don Dickens, 2nd team
- Jake Halbison, 2nd team
- Joshua Artis, 2nd team
- Carson Hord, honorable mention
- Jamison Wylie, honorable mention
- Jarell Carr, honorable mention
- Judson Ceyanes, honorable mention
- Matthew Tristan, honorable mention
- Ty Kana, honorable mention
- Mckena Hendrix, honorable mention



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES
Tompkins QB Cole Francis delivers a pass during the UIL area playoff game between Tompkins and Jersey Village at Pridgeon Stadium in Houston.

- Allison Hammond, honorable mention
- Justin Jurek, honorable mention
- Joshua Holycross, honorable mention
- Nathan Wilson, honorable mention
- Dylan Bennett, honorable mention

Mayde Creek

- Kyle Johnson, 2nd team

Paetow

- C.J. Dumas, 2nd team
- Sultan Bakare, 2nd team
- Jeremiah Richard, 2nd team
- Tyler Silves, 2nd team
- K.J. Truehill, 2nd team
- Kole Wilson, 2nd team
- Christian Rodriguez, honorable mention
- Luke Fitch, honorable mention

- Kentrell Webb, honorable mention
- Nicholas Casiano, honorable mention
- Luke Harwell, honorable mention
- Matthew Collins, honorable mention
- James Bailey, honorable mention
- Josh Prieto, honorable mention

Seven Lakes

- Eddie Kim, 1st team
- Filbert Presley, 1st team
- Casen Floyd, 1st team
- Michael Amico, 2nd team
- Daniel Creager, 2nd team
- Shashwat Singh, 2nd team
- Roman Bersche, 2nd team
- Kyle Kerstann, honorable mention

Taylor

- Jake Webster, 1st team
- Nicholas Goedde, 2nd team
- Christopher Dible, honorable mention
- Gavin Arnold, honorable mention

Tompkins

- Malik Edwards, ELITE
- Jack Craig, 1st team
- Cole Francis, 1st team
- Ciera Gordon, 1st team
- Brandon Shim, 1st team
- Brooklin Way, 2nd team
- Michael Wood, 2nd team
- Satchitanand Sreekumar, 2nd team
- Jace Miller, 2nd team
- Henry Saban, 2nd team
- Emily Magee, 2nd team
- Finlay Torrance, 2nd team
- Nolan Fryer, 2nd team
- Dillon Gee, 2nd team

- Ethan Rawlings, honorable mention
- Jack Lynch, honorable mention
- Collin Marshall, honorable mention
- Cole Metz, honorable mention

VOLLEYBALL

Katy

- Charlize Reyes, 2nd team
- Izabela Denton, honorable mention
- Brooke Pagel, honorable mention
- Maddie Waak, honorable mention

Paetow

- Kelsi Sims, 2nd team
- Seven Lakes
- Sylvia Lopez, 2nd team
- Natalie Burton, honorable mention
- Sydney Holdman, honorable mention
- Casey Batenhorst, honorable mention

Taylor

- Jana Saad, 2nd team
- Jill Parker, 2nd team
- Devon Carrillo, 2nd team

Tompkins

- Emily Edwards, 2nd team
- Cassidy Karonka, honorable mention
- Kali Martinez, honorable mention
- Emma Holt, honorable mention
- Kristen Saba, honorable mention
- Natassia Baptiste, honorable mention
- Sofia O'Brien, honorable mention
- Madison Gundry, honorable mention
- Myah Balnoschan, honorable mention
- Olivia Thomas, honorable mention
- Madison Danganan, honorable mention

Southland Women's Basketball Tip-Off Event canceled; mens' event slated for Thursday

STAFF REPORT

The Southland Conference Women's Basketball Tip-Off event, originally scheduled for Jan. 3-5, has been canceled due to COVID-19 protocols in multiple programs. The Tip-Off would have featured all eight women's teams playing a bracketed pre-conference tournament at the Merrell Center in Katy, Texas, site of the Southland's Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament since 2008.

The men's tip-off event remains scheduled at the Merrell Center, Jan. 6-8, and all games will be televised live on ESPN+. Official league play begins for men's and women's teams on Saturday,

Jan. 15.

"We regret this unfortunate development that will prevent the Women's Tip-Off from being played," Southland Commissioner Tom Burnett said. "However, we want all of our programs safe and healthy as they prepare for the start of league games in a couple of weeks. We look forward to seeing our teams compete through the full Conference schedule."

The Men's Basketball Tip-off will include precautionary Covid-19 measures at the Merrell Center similar to those taken at the 2021 Conference Tournament, including an altered physical configuration, distancing requirements, masking, and other necessary access restrictions.

SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL TIP-OFF

Leonard E. Merrell Center, Katy, Texas
Thursday-Saturday, January 6-8, 2022

SCHEDULE (All Times Central):

Thu., Jan. 6:

- Game 1: Southeastern La. vs. Houston Baptist, 11 a.m.
- Game 2: New Orleans vs. McNeese, 1:30 p.m.
- Game 3: Northwestern St. vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, 5 p.m.
- Game 4: Nicholls vs. UIW, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 7:

- Game 5: Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser, 11 a.m.
- Game 6: Game 3 Loser vs. Game 4 Loser, 1:30 p.m.

- Game 7: Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner, 5 p.m.
- Game 8: Game 3 Winner vs. Game 4 Winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 8:

- Game 9 (Seventh Place): Game 5 Loser vs. Game 6 Loser, 11 a.m.
- Game 10 (Fifth Place): Game 5 Winner vs. Game 6 Winner, 1:30 p.m.
- Game 11 (Third Place): Game 7 Loser vs. Game 8 Loser, 5 p.m.
- Game 12 (Championship): Game 7 Winner vs. Game 8 Winner, 7:30 p.m.

All games will be televised on ESPN+.

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BOWL

from page 6

“We came in here wanting to put a stamp on a great season, and I think we did that,” said Houston head coach Dana Holgorsen. “Now we can propel it into next year. I referenced what Cincinnati did three years ago, they came here to Birmingham and won their bowl game and have gone 22-1 since. That kind of proves where our programs at and we had a really good year and made a lot of strides.”

Houston started the game as well as any fan could ask, taking the opening kickoff 87 yards on 12, converting on two third downs and a fourth down before Clayton Tune found Alton McCaskill for a five-yard touchdown pass to give the Cougars the lead.

Auburn and Houston punted on four straight drives from there before Auburn drove the ball into the Cougar red zone but failed to convert a fourth and two, coming up empty handed.

Houston carried that momentum into its next drive, going 45 yards on nine plays and coming away with a field goal. Auburn answered back before the teams traded punts heading into halftime with the Cougars holding a 10-3 lead.

“We just had to keep the confidence, we just kept talking to each other on the sidelines,” said receiver Jake Herslow. “We kept telling each other ‘yeah we got this,’ we knew we were going to drive down and we are going to score and win the game. We knew that, there wasn’t any second guessing it and I’m glad we got it done.”

But Cougars couldn’t bring



Houston Cougars tight end Seth Green (17) celebrates with teammates after a touchdown catch during an NCAA football game between Houston and Texas Tech on September 4, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

any of their momentum into the second half.

Auburn marched down the field on its opening possession of the half but was forced to settle for a field goal, making things a four-point game.

Things continued to trend downhill as Houston was forced to punt and Auburn then drove 78 yards on 11 plays and took the lead on a 12-yard touchdown pass from TJ Finley and Kobe Hudson. Houston then threw an interception, gifting Auburn a chance to make things a two-possession game, but the Cougars defense held strong to give the Cougars the ball back

heading into the fourth quarter. The Cougars offense couldn’t take advantage though, and after getting into Tiger’s territory, Tune was unable to convert on a fourth down scramble.

The Cougars only had three first downs in the second half to that point, but finally found a rhythm with under five minutes left in the game, getting first downs on back to back plays. But then disaster struck the Cougars again as the team dialed up a throwback reverse pass to the quarterback that was intercepted.

Houston’s defense again held Auburn though, giving the Cougars

one last chance to drive for and regain the lead with six minutes remaining in the game.

“We played awesome in the first half, but we didn’t play good at all in the third quarter,” Holgorsen said. “Whether it was special teams or offense or defense, we played bad. But to come back from that and get stops in the fourth quarter, and then score when we needed to, it was a good team effort and it’s what this team’s done all year. We compete and we’re hard to play against and beat.”

The offense finally capitalized on the defense’s strong day, Tune drove 80 yards on eight plays, culminating in a 26-yard touchdown pass to Herslow as Houston regained the lead for the first time since they lost it on the first drive of the second half.

Auburn had a chance to drive and retake the lead, but Houston’s defense came up huge again, all but ending the game.

It was the first bowl victory in the last five appearances for Houston, who ends the season at 12-2.

The Cougars expect to return Tune and Dell and will be right in the mix of the American Athletic Conference title race next season.

“It means a lot,” Tune said. “You want to finish off the season with a win and it’s been six years since we won a bowl game. Last year I had a bad taste in my mouth because we went out with a loss in the New Mexico bowl and this year has kind of been a revenge tour. To come out and have the season that we did and finish with a bowl win is awesome.”

Houston 17, Auburn 13

Houston	7	3	0	7	—	17
Auburn	0	3	10	0	—	13

First quarter

HOU: Tune 5 pass to McCaskill (Witherspoon kick), 8:46.

Second quarter

HOU: Witherspoon 52 field goal, 6:58.

AUB: Patton 27 field goal, 3:10.

Third quarter

AUB: Patton 35 field goal, 12:12.

AUB: Finley 12 pass to Hudson (Patton kick), 3:52.

Fourth quarter

HOU: Tune 26 pass to Herslow (Witherspoon kick), 3:27.

	HOU	AUB
First downs	19	14
Rushes-yards	26-114	29-125
Passing	283	207
Comp-Att-Int	26-41-2	18-36-0
Punts	4-36	6-38
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	6-34	3-35

Individual statistics

Rushing: Houston, McCaskill 14-78, Tune 7-43, Henry 2-(minus 2), (Team) 3-(minus 5). Auburn, Bigsby 16-96, J.Hunter 5-17, J.Johnson 2-16, M.Johnson 1-10, Shenker 1-1, (Team) 1-(minus 3), Robertson 1-(minus 5), Finley 2-(minus 7).

Passing: Houston, Tune 26-40-1-283, S.Green 0-1-1-0. Auburn, Finley 18-36-0-207.

Receiving: Houston, Dell 10-150, Herslow 4-57, McCaskill 4-15, Trahan 3-30, Singleton 2-17, Henry 2-6, Sylvester 1-8. Auburn, Bigsby 5-68, Shenker 5-54, Hudson 4-57, Robertson 2-15, Sh.Jackson 2-13, J.Johnson 1-20.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Texans quarterback Davis Mills (10) pitches the ball to running back Rex Burkhead (28) during an NFL game between the Texans and the Colts on December 5, 2021 in Houston, Texas. The Colts won, 31-0.

TEXANS

from page 6

those guys, they’ve done a great job and I have to go back to wat our coordinators did. They did such a great job getting our players ready. It’s truly, truly the next man up mentality, those guys were ready and didn’t bat an eye.”

Behind 254 yards passing and two touchdowns from Davis Mills, the Texans secured their fourth win of the season and second straight win over the Los Angeles Chargers at NRG Stadium.

“He protected the football and he got us in the endzone and when your quarterback does that good things happen,” Culley said. Our quarterback was able to execute what we asked him to do and we protected him and also had a good run game. Our offense did a good job today.”

The Chargers struck first on a 50-yard field goal, but the Texans came right back on an eight play, 43-yard drive, capped off with a 25-yard touchdown run by Rex Burkhead to take the lead, a lead.

It seemed as if the Chargers would pull away after that, they kicked a 46-yard field goal and then Justin Jackson scored on a 17-yard touchdown to put things in the Chargers favor. But the Texans would not quit.

After battling through those two scored spanning the first and half of the second quarters, the Texans trimmed the lead with a 51-yard field goal from Dominik Eberle

The Chargers were driving again but Jonathan Owens came up with a huge interception at the Texans goal line and then after driving the field late in the half Mills threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to Chris Conley to make it 17-12 Texans at half.

The Texans missed a field goal to start the second half and Los Angeles answered back with an 11-play drive capped off by a 35-yard field goal. But the Texans came back with a 13 play, 75-yard drive in which Rex Burkhead ran in a four yard

touchdown, making it a 24-15 Texans lead.

Burkhead had his best game of the year and the Texans found success in the run game for one of the only times this year as Burkhead ran for 149 yards and two touchdowns and the Texans totaled 190 yards on the ground.

“We weren’t going to change what we were going to do and we mixed the run in when we had an opportunity to. We also ended up getting some big plays off of that and because of that. It all started with the offensive line and that continuity. They were prepared and had no distractions and disruptions and when you play the game the right way, you get results like this, it doesn’t matter who you play.”

The Texans added a field goal after a Chargers fumble and just when it looked like Los Angeles was going to get back into it, scoring on a 9-yard run from Jackson, the Texans were able to respond again. Miss found Nico Collins for a 14-yard score as the Texans continued to respond to every punch thrown. Tavierre Thomas all but sealed things with a 48-yard interception return, capping off what may have been the Texans best overall game of the season. The Chargers scored another touchdown late in the fourth but it was too little too late as the Texans kneeled their way to the win afterwards.

Houston will travel to San Francisco next week before returning to Houston to close the season against the Titans.

“All of the coordinators did such a great job on all three phases,” Culley said. “It was the most complete game we’ve had this year. They put it together and we finally got a score on defense. I knew it was coming eventually and I almost wish he would have gone down so we could end the game but when he saw that endzone he had to go for it. But the coaches did a great job of preparation in everything we did this week.”



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Cryer, Shumpert lead the way with Royal all-district picks

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

After its best season in 11 years, Royal was represented well on the District 12-4A, Division II all-district team.

Royal's Zamarion Gipson as well as DeShawn Adams and Antonio Page were named to the first team on offense.

Gipson rushed for 366 yards on the year and 3 touchdowns, while catching 31 passes for 547 yards and three more touchdowns. He also passed for 107 yards and three touchdowns.

Adams was the team's leading receiver with 608 yards on 33 catches and he hauled in 6 touchdowns. Adams averaged over 18 yards per catch and 60 yards per game.

Page had 25 receptions on the year for 426 yards and had the most receiving touchdowns on the team with 10. He averaged 17 yards per catch and had a long of 78 yards on the season.

Justin Cryer led the way for the Royal defense on the first team and was joined by John Lewis, Jeremiah Robinson and Kerry Quashijah.

Cryer led the team in every tackle category; he had 103 tackles on the year with 48 of those being solo tackles. He had 19 tackles for loss on the season and five sacks. He also led the team with three interceptions and six pass deflections. Cryer averaged over 10 tackles per game.

Robinson led the team in sacks, with eight, and also tackled on eight tackles for loss to go with his 37 total tackles. Quashijah was second on the team in tackles, with 61 and had six tackles for loss and five sacks. Lewis had five sacks on the year to go with 55 total tackles.

J'Marcus Wilkerson, Kameron Jones and Kendrien Vinson were named to the all-district second team.

Shumpert named to volleyball all-district first team

On the hardwood, Rani'a Shumpert was named to the first team in District 24-4A to lead Royal. Shumper had 63 kills, 26 aces and 128 digs on the year. Deicy Robledo was named second team all-district while Marwina'e Wolfe, Neveah Houston and Siryah Febrez were honorable mentions.

ALL-DISTRICT 12-4A DII FOOTBALL

- **MVP:** Robert Briggs, Sr., Bellville
- **Offensive MVP:** Richard Reece, Sr., Bellville
- **Defensive MVP:** Tyler Fishbeck, Sr., Bellville
- **Newcomer of the Year:** D.J. Sanders, Fr., Bellville
- **Utility Player of the Year:** Connor Krenek, Sr., Sealy
- **Coaching Staff of the Year:** Bellville

First team

Offense

D'Vonne Hmielews, Jr., QB, Sealy
Trace Holmes, Sr., QB, Sweeny
Zamarion Gipson, Sr., RB, Royal
Xavier Woods, Sr., RB, Sweeny
Dabirion Nelson, Sr., RB, La Marque
Armond Robinson, Sr., RB, La Marque
Caden Coopersmith, Sr., OL, Bellville
Yahir Alvarez, Sr., OL, Sealy
Rex Aschenbeck, Sr., OL, Bellville
Jacob Miles, Jr., OL, Bellville
Brandon Russell, Jr., OL, La Marque
Terryse Harris, Jr., OL, Wharton
Bucky Koy, Jr., TE, Bellville
Garrett Nail, Sr., TE, Sweeny
DeShawn Adams, Jr., WR, Royal
Antonio Page, Jr., WR, Royal
Haden Wernecke, Jr., WR, Sealy
Graham Samonte, Sr., WR, Sealy
Thomas Clark, Sr., WR, Sealy
Dylan White, Sr., WR, Sweeny
Dylan Thomas, Soph., WR, La Marque
Carlos Juardo, Sr., K, Sweeny

Defense

Brandon Dixon, Sr., DE, Sweeny
John Lewis, Sr., DE, Royal
William Forrester, Jr., DE, Sealy
Brandon Jones, Sr., DE, La Marque
Jeremiah Robinson, Jr., DT, Royal
Cole Powell, Sr., DT, Bellville
Salvador Reyes, Jr., DT, Bellville
Jeremiah Stance, Jr., DT, La Marque
Lane Lischka, Jr., ILB, Bellville
Jeffrey Neu, Soph., ILB, Sealy
Justin Cryer, Jr., ILB, Royal
Caleb Myers, Sr., ILB, Sweeny
Treyian Austin, Sr., ILB, Sweeny
Ethan Sajna, Sr., ILB, La Marque
Thomas Clark, Sr., OLB, Sealy
Kaden Pate, Sr., ILB, Sweeny
Dylan Thomas, Soph., OLB, La Marque
Garrison Burns, Jr., OLB, Wharton
Carson Peschel, Sr., DB, Bellville
Kerry Quashijah, Sr., DB, Royal
Mason Klotz, Jr., DB, Sealy
Trevion Johnson, Sr., DB, Sweeny
Amador Lopez, Jr., P, Sealy

Second team

Offense

Sam Hranicky, Soph., RB, Bellville
Ethan Hart, Sr., RB, Sealy
Jaylyen Washington, Jr., RB, Sweeny
Raymond Hudson, Jr., RB, Wharton
Landen Garner, Sr., FB, La Marque
Kameron Jones, Sr., OL, Royal
Erick Robledo, Soph., OL, Royal
Francisco Reyes, Sr., OL, Sealy
Robert Gaytan, Sr., OL, Sealy

Marcus Smith, Jr., OL, Bellville
Kyle Willingham, Soph., OL, Sealy
Xavier McGregor, Soph., OL, Sweeny
Lance McLaren, Sr., OL, Sweeny
Ashton Henderson, Jr., OL, La Marque
Michael Moran, Sr., OL, La Marque
Kendon Mayberry, Soph., OL, Wharton
J'Marcus Wilkerson, Jr., WR, Royal
Henry Harris, Sr., WR, Sweeny
Juan Garcia, Jr., K, La Marque

Defense

Jonathan Monterroza, Sr., DE, Sealy
Kendrien Vinson, Soph., DE, Royal
Rex Aschenbeck, Sr., DE, Bellville
Gavin Massey, Soph., DE, Sweeny
Terrance Samuels, Sr., DT, La Marque
Larry Butler, Sr., ILB, La Marque
Richard Hahn, Jr., ILB, Sealy
Carlos Muratalla, Jr., ILB, Wharton
Rayshawn Hood, Jr., ILB, Wharton
Peyton Pierce, Soph., OLB, Sweeny
Jayson Washington, Sr., OLB, La Marque
Maliek Oliva, Sr., DB, Sweeny
Haden Wernecke, Jr., DB, Sealy
Gage Grigar, Sr., DB, Sealy
Dillon Lyons, Sr., DB, Bellville
Timmy Shepard, Soph., DB, Sweeny
Garrison Burns, Jr., P, Wharton



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Director
Debbie
Decker will
be inducted
into the
Texas High
School
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Honor.
FILE PHOTO



DECKER

from page 6

leading committees and its members, serving in special events, expanding on professional development and leadership training opportunities, among other tasks.

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less hours in their profession to ensure opportunities for students, coaches and other athletic personnel.

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