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

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022



CHRIS HARRIS

A fire gutted this apartment building at 5603 Morton Ranch Road on Monday night. A relief fund has been set up for the four families displaced by the fire.

Brookshire keeps it 'all in the family'

Mayor's wife selected as mayor pro tem

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Brookshire mayoral leadership might be described as a family affair after Mayor Darrell Branch's wife, Position 3 Alderwoman Kim Branch, was selected mayor pro tem Thursday night.

Selecting a mayor pro tem is typically a simple exercise in Texas municipal government. Following the municipal election and appropriate swearing-in ceremonies, the mayor selects a mayor pro tem. The appointment is subject to council approval.

Justin Pruitt, the Brookshire city attorney, said the mayor pro tem appointment is for one year.

"There is no other provision related to that office," Pruitt said, adding that the mayor pro tem serves in the absence of the mayor if the mayor is physically absent or incapable of performing his

See **BROOKSHIRE**, page A3

Relief fund set up for families displaced by apartment fire

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

A relief fund has been arranged for four families who were displaced when their apartment building was gutted by fire Monday night.

The fire happened at 5603 Morton Ranch Road, at the southwest corner of the intersection with Patna Drive.

Donations are being accepted through the Katy Christian Ministries website donations page, the abbreviated URL for which is at <https://bit.ly/3QhSgIf>. Donors are asked to specify "Morton Ranch Road Apartments" when making their online donations so funds can be properly forwarded.

Gregg Peterson, the Katy fire marshal, said the fire started at about 6:44 p.m. Monday.

Three Katy Fire Department trucks, a medical unit, and some additional

Donations are being accepted through the Katy Christian Ministries website donations page, the abbreviated URL for which is: <https://bit.ly/3QhSgIf>.

equipment from Harris County Emergency Services District 48 were used to put out the fire.

Peterson said the last truck cleared out at 9:55 p.m.

"There were no injuries for firefighters or civilians there," Peterson said. "We didn't have any problems with the water pressure. Everything went very smoothly."

Peterson said the fire was intentionally set in several places in Unit D of the apartment building and the matter is an arson case.

"This was intentional," Peterson said. "We had some witness statements and there's a possible suspect, an adult male."

Peterson said the Harris County Appraisal District valued the building at about \$340,000, not including tenant belongings.

"It's up to the owner if they want to repair the building or repair it," Peterson said.

Peterson said the fire department is working with the Katy Police Department to process the evidence and witness statements. He said the police have forensic labs and other equipment to process the evidence, which will be presented to the Harris County district attorney.

Houston-area economy on the rebound, researcher says

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Approximately 3.2 people in the Houston metro area are now working, according to Greater Houston Partnership calculations based on Texas Workforce Commission data. Using these numbers, the area has fully rebounded from the pandemic.

Patrick Jankowski is senior vice president for research at the Greater Houston Partnership. He spoke at the Thursday meeting of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

Jankowski said 359,400 jobs were lost between March and April 2020. He said this is the worst of the three major job busts. The 1980s oil bust (226,100 jobs lost) and the 2008-09 recession

See **ECONOMY**, page A3

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Cornyn: Weapons bans, expanding background checks off the table

BY ABBY LIVINGSTON
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, the lead GOP negotiator in the Senate's efforts to pass bipartisan gun safety legislation, is managing expectations over what kind of bills he's willing to get behind.

But the answer to that question isn't going to satisfy many Democrats who are pushing for restrictions that include expanded background checks and

raising the age to purchase a firearm in the wake of the devastating elementary school shooting in Uvalde.

"Targeted reforms, I think, is the way to get to where we need to go," Cornyn said in a Senate floor speech on Monday.

As a former Senate GOP whip, Cornyn made clear that there are limits to what he and the Senate GOP conference are willing to support. Bringing up the

See **GUNS**, page A3



SERGIO FLORES/THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn arrives at a blood donation event at the Herby Ham Activity Center on Wednesday in Uvalde. Community members gathered to donate blood after 21 people died in a school shooting the day before.

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Feng Shui and real estate

BY TIMOTHY GENE SOJKA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Let me start by saying that I am not a Feng Shui consultant or expert. There are five to ten books on the concept at most bookstores, and I did not author any of them. Still, as a real estate agent for over 15 years, I have personally witnessed the advantages of Feng Shui in improving home values.

Feng Shui is a noun. It is a Chinese term used to describe a system of laws considered to govern spatial arrangement and orientation in relation to the flow of energy (qi), and whose favorable or unfavorable effects are taken into account when siting and designing buildings.

Why should you consider Feng

Shui principles when putting your home on the market?

Based on my experience, 20-30% of homebuyers consider a home's compliance to Feng Shui concepts in their purchasing decision. So, respecting these principles mean that more buyers will be interested in your home, and therefore your house may sell for more money.

Additionally, many Feng Shui principles just make sense.

- Make sure your floor plan flows nicely, with clear pathways and limited clutter.
- Remove obstacles.
- Mix dark and light in your color palette.
- Let in more natural light and airflow.
- Make your bedroom peaceful,

take-out TVs, computers and work stuff.

- Bring bits of nature into your home, bamboo plants or a fountain.
- Go vertical, integrate your vertical space.

So, if you are considering selling your home and want to maximize your value, or just want to live more comfortably in your home, hit Katy Budget Books, Books-A-Million or Kinokuniya and read up on Feng Shui.

Timothy Sojka may be a Feng Shui novice, but as the broker of the See TIM Sell Team at Keller Williams, his team has sold over 2,000 homes. Tim is also the author of the Amazon #1 Political Thrillers Payback Jack and Politikill.

County's new emergency operations center opens

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Judge KP George and the Office of Fort Bend County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HS&EM) Friday officially opened the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Richmond.

The two-story, \$9.8 million, 38,000 square foot building is equipped with state-of-the-art disaster management and public safety technology. The Office of HS&EM staff will be in the new building.

The EOC sits on the site of what was previously a 70-year-old jail facility. County officials assessed the old EOC facility after Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The hurricane heavily damaged the building, and it was inoperable during Winter Storm Uri in February 2021. The Emergency Operations Center was temporarily housed in the county's Information Technology Building.

"This building is what can happen when you combine intention and action," George said. "It can be a thought, but you have to make it happen and that is what I came into office pushing for. Our county commissioners approved the measure and here we are today."

Fort Bend County funded this project with the intention of it being a regional milestone to use during any time of emergency or disaster.

The center is designed to operate independently during an emergency if county utilities become unavailable. The systems are intended to ensure the site stays operational at all times.

The center network connects to the county network with over a 20GB connection that allows the center to move data quickly. A new online dashboard will provide Fort Bend County residents with live information to track road closures, local and national weather, county shelters, evacuation information, water levels, and other information.

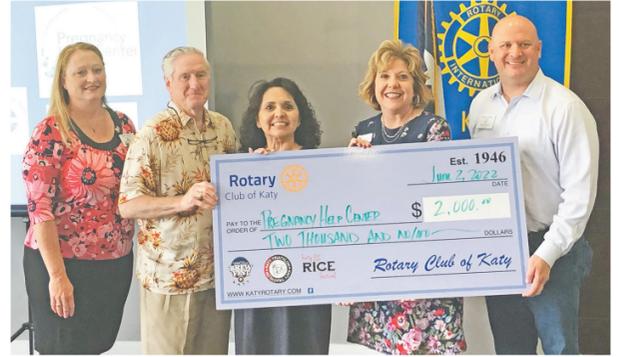
GOEDECKER SPEAKS AT KATY LIONS CLUB MEETING



KATY LIONS CLUB

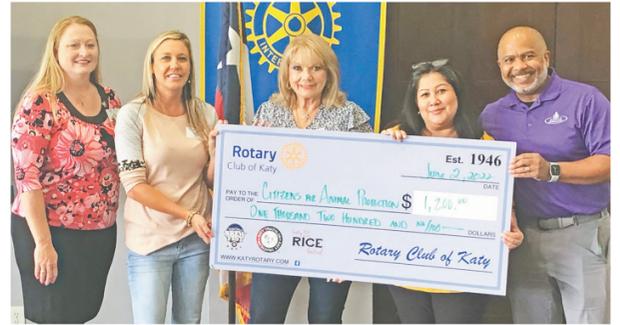
Greg Goedecker, emergency management coordinator for the City of Katy, spoke at the Thursday meeting of the Katy Lions Club.

ROTARY DONATIONS

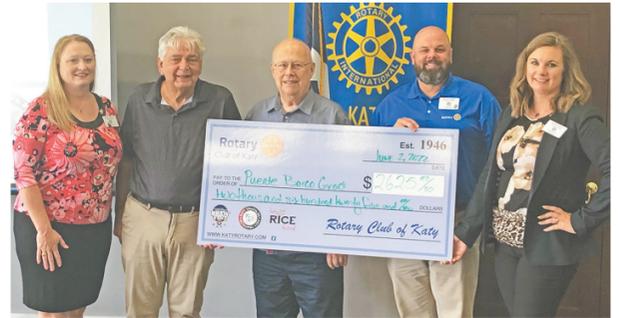


PHOTOS BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER

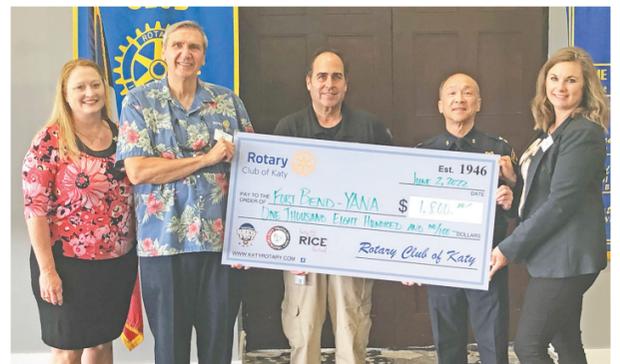
The Rotary Club of Katy made a \$2,000 donation to the Pregnancy Help Center. Pictures from left to right are Kellie Sissom, Skip Conner, Mary Rodriguez, Kelli McAnally and Jamie Corona.



The Rotary Club of Katy made a \$1,200 donation to the Citizens for Animal Protection Society (CAPS). Pictured from left to right are Kellie Sissom, Jennifer Royo, Deborah Bautista, Alice Mellado and Ralph Brock.



The Rotary Club of Katy made a \$2,625 donation to the Puente Barco Medical Unit (Global Grant) in Cucuta, Colombia. Pictured from left to right are Kellie Sissom, Nick Schrader, Bill Davis, Rocky Blair and Kristin Searcy.



The Rotary Club of Katy made a \$1,800 donation to the You Are Not Alone (YANA) program of Fort Bend County. Pictured from left to right are Kellie Sissom, George Yeiter, Michael Kahlenberg, Norman Wong and Kristin Searcy.

Texas Newspapers



are Uvalde Strong!

We are united in support of the families of the young victims of the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde.

Here's how to help

City of Uvalde - (830) 278-3315 - Accepting donations for medical expenses for victims' families. Checks may be made out and mailed to City of Uvalde P.O. Box 799 Uvalde, TX 78801 In memo line put: Robb School Fund

First State Bank of Uvalde has opened an account for the families of victims:

Donations to The Robb School Memorial Fund may be made payable to the fund and mailed to:

First State Bank of Uvalde
200 E. Nopal St.
Uvalde, TX 78801

The Uvalde Strong Fund to support victims, their families and others affected has been established by the

Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country
Go to:
communityfoundation.net/uvaldestrong.

TXN Bank is collecting funds. For more information call (830) 426-3066. Donate online at **TXN Bank** <https://account.venmo.com/u/TXNBank-Memorial-Donations>.

This space is donated by your Texas community newspaper.

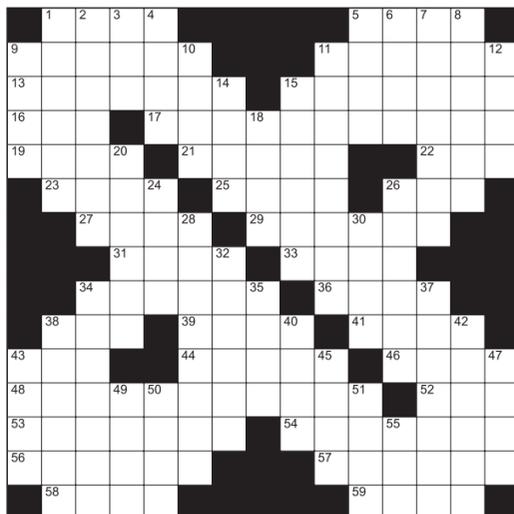
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Slovenian mountain
5. Growl
9. Where things stand
11. Made a sharp sound
13. Female spirit in Irish folklore
15. Deteriorate with age
16. A way to save for retirement
17. The Big Apple
19. Intestinal pouches
21. City in New Hampshire
22. Giving a bad impression
23. Samsung laptops
25. Without (French)
26. Scientist's tool (abbr.)
27. System of one more computers
29. Captures
31. Authentic
33. Female mammal's nipple
34. Pandemonium
36. Satisfy
38. Arrived extinct
39. Shipborne radar (abbr.)
41. Notebook of nerves
43. Monetary unit
44. Showed old TV show
46. They help you hear
48. One who eliminates

CLUES DOWN

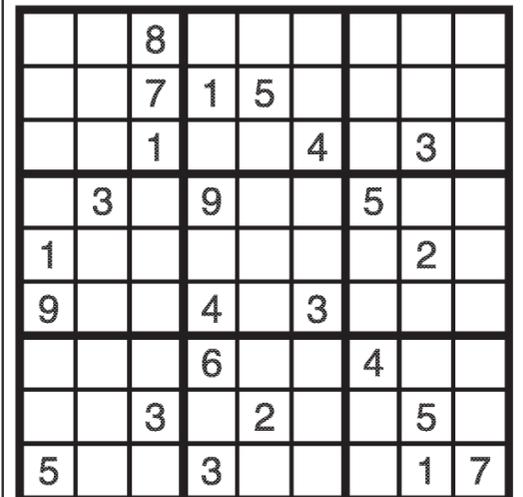
2. Congress' investigative arm
3. Parties
4. Most supernatural
6. Takes illegally
7. Breathes while asleep
8. Sea eagles
10. German surname
1. Looks at for a long time
2. Solution for diseases
3. Belonging to a thing
4. Former Packers fullback
5. Contemptible person
6. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
7. Helps
8. Final section of the large intestine
9. Invests in little enterprises
10. Look for
11. Unbeliefs
12. Susan and Tom are two
14. Female sheep
15. A poet writes it
18. Affirmatives
20. "Full House" actress Barber
24. Traveled rapidly
26. Long upholstered seat
28. Set wags



30. Peter Gabriel song
32. Sides of a jacket
34. More beautiful
35. Actress Kate
37. Furniture with open shelves
38. Indicate
40. The cost of a room
42. Gets rid of something
43. Impudence
45. No No No
47. Drunkards
49. Middle eastern country
50. High energy lasers (abbr.)
51. Primary component of ribosomes
55. An informal debt 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.

BROOKSHIRE

from page A1

duties.

On Thursday, Position 2 Alderman Lyndon Stamps nominated Position 5 Alderman Jeremiah Hill for the role. Hill is one of two new council members elected last month, along with Position 4 Alderwoman Amanda Neuen-dorf. She seconded Hill's nomination.

Hill, for his part, said he wasn't even asked if he wanted the job.

The matter appeared ready for a vote when Kim Branch expressed her concerns with Hill's relatively short council experience.

"Not that Mr. Hill is not familiar with

what's been going on in the city for a while, but he's new to the council, not even a month old, and we're going to put him in charge of the mayor pro tem," Kim Branch said. "That's my only debate."

The mayor asked if there were other nominees. Position 1 Alderman Monique Taylor nominated Kim Branch.

There was a short hesitation around the council table.

"It would be ugly to second the nomination for myself," Kim Branch said. "If you have your minds made up, we can move forward."

Pruitt said an alderman could nominate himself or herself. He said an alderman could second a nomination for himself or herself.

The matter went to a vote. Hill abstained. The vote was deadlocked at two each.

Kim Branch was the last to vote. She said it was very ugly she had to vote for herself.

"Here you are, and you have to break the tie," Kim Branch told the mayor. "I don't think that's fair to you or the rest of the council."

But he did break it by voting for his wife.

"I hated to put him in this situation," Kim Branch said after the meeting.



**KIM
BRANCH**



**JEREMIAH
HILL**

Man arrested for stalking local member of Congress

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Federal authorities have arrested Brett Coulter, a Florida resident for stalking U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, a local member of Congress who represents part of the Katy area.

"Mr. Coulter repeatedly called and left disturbing and threatening voicemails where he threatened to kill me," Nehls said in a statement. "After the first encounter, my office immediately notified the U.S. Capitol Police about the incident who took swift action. I later learned from U.S. Capitol Police investigations that there is an active warrant for the individual's arrest for the offense of intimidation in the state of New Jersey. I commend the professionalism and seriousness which all members of law enforcement handled the matter and am thankful Mr. Coulter has been arrested."

Coulter was arrested June 2 in Sarasota County, Fla.



**BRETT
COULTER**

GUNS

from page A1

old political maxim of "the art of the possible," Cornyn said "we are not talking about restricting the rights of current, law-abiding gun owners or citizens."

"What I'm interested in is keeping guns out of the hands of those who, by current law, are not supposed to have them," he said. "People with mental health problems, people ... who have criminal records. Again, this is about the art of the possible."

What is not possible, he said, are bills that the Democrat-controlled House is expected to take up this week. Democrats are expected to pass an array of legislation next week that has almost no hope of senate passage.

Among the proposals in consideration on the House side this week: raising the age to purchase semi-automatic weapons to 21; outlawing the sale, manufacture, transfer or possession of a large-capacity magazine; creating tax breaks for purchasing proper gun storage equipment; and codifying into law a Trump-era Justice Department ban on bump stocks.

"We're not talking about banning a category of weapons across the board, a ban for certain high-capacity magazines or changing the background check system by adding additional disqualifying items," he said.

Cornyn served as the Republican whip until he was term-limited out of that role

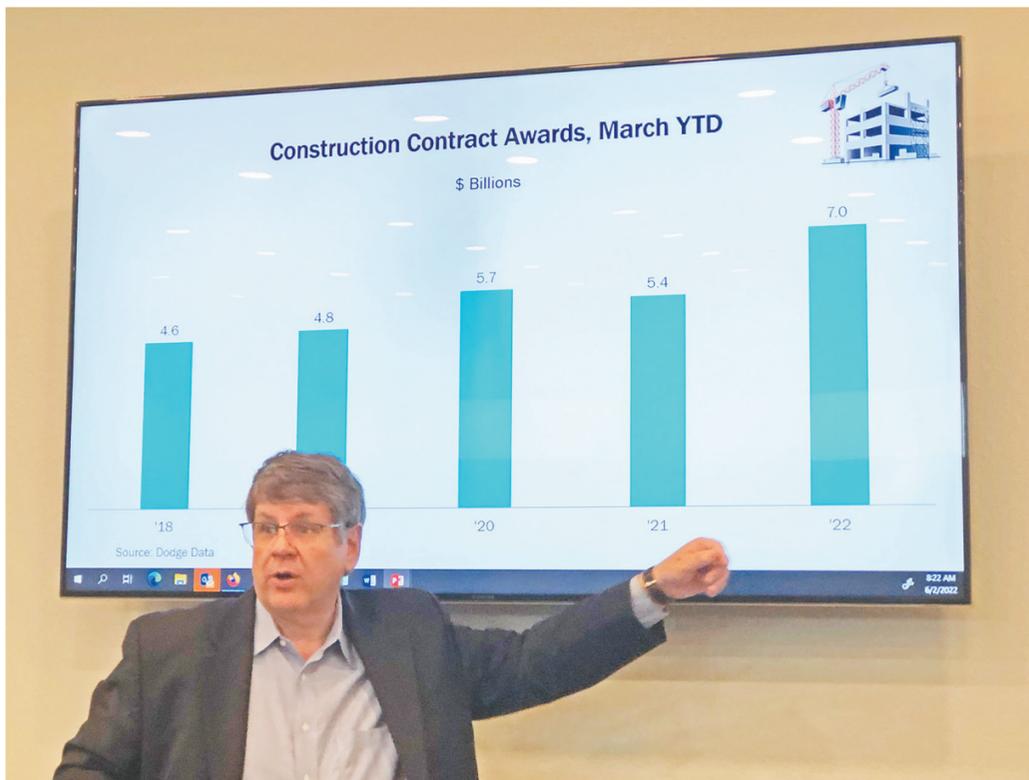
in 2019. But in that position, he acquired a reputation for staying in close communication with his GOP colleagues and for being able to deliver votes.

He has demonstrated an ability in the past to move limited gun legislation through Congress. Back in 2018, he passed a bill into law that improved the national background check system to prevent domestic abusers from purchasing firearms in the wake of the 2017 Sutherland Springs church shooting that left 26 Texans dead.

Assuming all Democrats are on board with a bill, Cornyn would need nine other Republicans to override a filibuster threat. But he telegraphed in that speech that he wants a measure that will attract even more GOP support.

In the Monday speech, Cornyn underscored his efforts by repeatedly using the word "consensus." He brought up his primary partner in negotiations, U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat, and other colleagues. But he stressed that this is a Senate-wide discussion.

Cornyn said that he is in touch "literally with everybody I can reach on the phone or get through text message to see if there's some package of mental health and safety legislation that addresses some of the factors that might have prevented the recent shootings in Uvalde and elsewhere."



Patrick Jankowski speaks at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce meeting.

GEORGE SLAUGHTER

ECONOMY

from page A1

(120,500) were the other two. The recent pandemic-fueled recession was worse than the other two combined.

The jobs numbers today are improving, with 32,500 jobs added in February, 6,100 jobs in March, and 29,700 in April, Jankowski said. From May 2020 to April, 365,500 new jobs were created in the Houston area.

Yet for the encouraging numbers, Jankowski said the Houston area is seventh among cities nationally. Dallas leads the list, followed by Tampa, Riverside, Calif., Atlanta, Phoenix and Denver.

Jankowski specified industries that have fully recovered, partially recovered, and that are still struggling.

Industries that have fully recovered, he said, were educational services, food services and drinking places, government, healthcare and social assistance, retail trade, and transportation and warehousing.

Industries that have partially recovered—he defined it as 70% or more recovered—were administrative support, arts, entertainment/

Industries that have fully recovered, Jankowski said, were educational services, food services and drinking places, government, healthcare and social assistance, retail trade, and transportation and warehousing.

recreation; information, other services and professional, scientific and technical services.

Industries that are still struggling, he said, were construction, energy, hotels, manufacturing, real estate, equipment rentals, and wholesale trade.

He said the energy industry (specified as exploration and

oilfield services) still has approximately 10,000 jobs left to recoup. Manufacturing (14,200), construction (14,900), hotels (4,600), and real estate and equipment rentals (2,400) are other industries looking to improve.

Construction, as of September 2019, had approximately 240,000 jobs filled in Houston. Those numbers fell during the pandemic but have risen back to about 220,000 jobs, Jankowski said.

Manufacturing, meanwhile, in July 2019 had about 237,000 jobs. Those numbers also fell but have since risen to almost 220,000 jobs.

The energy sector has been slower to recover. Jankowski said the industry had 80,000 jobs in May 2019 to about 66,000 jobs today.

Jankowski said interest rates, economic consequences from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and supply chain issues will also affect the economy. Yet U.S. consumer spending continues to grow. By January, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, consumer spending was just under \$17 trillion, a new high.

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Growing up in a world of childhood worries

The only worry I had was that Old Man Miller might be hiding out behind the shed trying to catch us running through his garden when we played “Tag” in our back yards.

If you grew up in the ‘70s in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, you know exactly what I’m talking about.

Our childhood was essentially a 1950s childhood, a great time to be a kid.

We played outside all day long in the summertime and no kid was ready to come home for dinner or when the street lights turned on.

We had zero involvement in the adult world. There was one television in our home and it broadcast the news an hour or so a day, but we never watched the news.

Most broadcasting was family oriented. I still have fond memories of going grocery shopping with my dad every Thursday night and arriving home just as the credits for “The Waltons” began to play.

We’d enjoy Snyder of Berlin potato chips—the giant aluminum-foil family-sized bag — and French onion dip as my sisters and I gathered around to watch the show about John Boy and his large rural family making their way through the Great Depression.

The closest thing we had to social media was the CB radio it took me weeks to save up for.

I dubbed myself “The Trail Blazer” and chatted with other “good buddies” into the wee hours about trivial things.

We lived simple lives in what appeared—to us, anyhow—to be a simple world. Our suburban world was free of chaos and suffering, because we weren’t exposed to it.

It’s not possible for children to just be children that way anymore—because children are immersed in the awfulness of the adult world through 24-hour news channels and social media.

One of my nephews is now



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

24, but I remember something he did that never could have happened in my childhood.

My sister was driving him down the highway in heavy rains and he began to panic because of a sensationalized documentary he saw about hurricanes on the Weather Channel.

He believed that hurricanes happened regularly and that he and his mother were going to die for the simple reason that a cable channel had to overdramatize its content to draw in viewers.

Now add social media into the mix.

Kids are getting the same sensationalized news adults get—and the same often-wrong information—through their social media feeds.

Now, in the aftermath of another horrendous school shooting, there is great national sadness, but nobody is surprised—least of all our children.

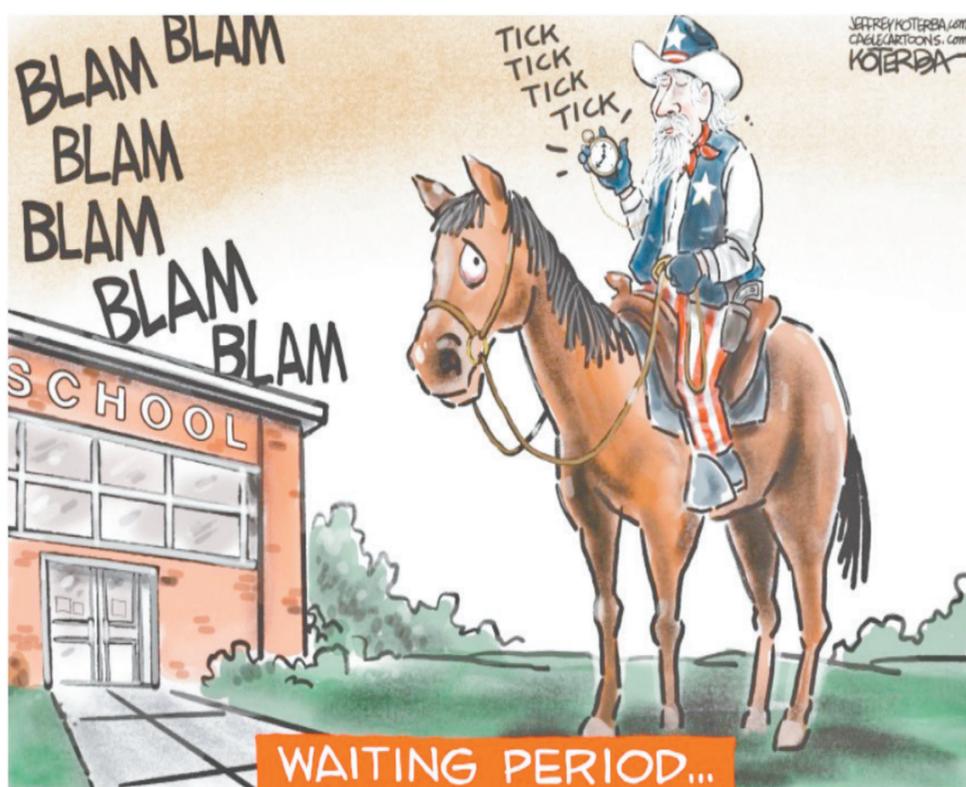
School shootings are ever present in their minds, reports Yahoo News.

I had trouble enough focusing on my lessons. How do kids focus now when, every day in class, they wonder if they may be shot?

Last December, NPR reported the U.S Surgeon General issued a stark warning about the state of our children’s mental health.

There is a direct link between the proliferation of social media platforms and the many mental and other issues our youth are suffering, according to a recent National Library of Medicine study.

The shooter in Texas used social media to broadcast his horrible intentions.



School districts are empowered to enact measures to protect students

I know parents are asking themselves this question today: As a parent concerned about the safety of my child at school, how do I get involved?

I know many are feeling helpless to effect change. Following the tragedy of Uvalde, I have heard comments from elected officials, the public and news media that we should secure every campus in the country.

In the Texas Education Code adopted in 1995 which bears my name as a co-sponsor, we attempted to change the mindset of education in an important way. Texas is one of the largest school systems in the world with great diversity in a large state—rural, urban, sparse, small, large, and fast growth. Prior to 1995, the mindset of educators and public was in order for a school district to act you needed state permission. Or, as I often heard, “We would like to do this for our students but the State will not let me.” The Education Code was drafted for the opposite effect, although it is still not well understood.

A school district is empowered in Texas to take any action necessary to protect its students and create a safe environment. The purpose of this column is not to criticize or shift blame to any local school district, but rather, to inform parents and the public of where the quickest involvement for change may occur.

It is impossible to know where and what form of tragedy will occur in advance, but in response to this issue the public needs to know where to begin to voice concerns and action. We have school campuses in our state that have fences, one controlled entrance, security forces, doors to classrooms that lock to the outside automatically and more. We have campuses with little to no security—all depending on the community-recognized needs.



PAUL SADLER
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

If, as a state, we would have mandated specific security measures, then every campus, regardless of community needs or desires would have had to comply. Instead, authority exists in local school boards and communities to take appropriate steps. The needs of a district in Dallas or Houston may not be deemed necessary in every community, but the authority to take action already exists.

If a community needs additional funding, clearly the state could provide funding to every school district and require it to be used in a certain way, or a local district could raise funds for a specific purpose. The difference is, as a state, do we require every school district to do the same thing or do we give flexibility to local to meet its individual needs?

One policy decision is clear. If it is mandated on a local community to take specific action, it is often met with an outcry against state mandates. Whereas, if a local community decides it needs certain action from the local public, it is generally embraced as a community interest. So, the Education Code was enacted with the basic provision that, unless the state interjects itself into every local district on a specific subject matter, then the local district is empowered to take all necessary steps to educate and keep students, teachers and school district personnel safe.

Federal background checks for gun owners, restrictions on gun ownership, and other topics may, in fact, require state and federal governments to act, but campus security authority already exists in

Texas.

Clearly, the state could mandate every single campus have barbed wire linked prison-style fences, a single entrance, a manned and trained security staff, surveillance equipment, educator training in gun safety, bulletproof windows, doors and so on and could stipulate the funding for these but I still believe those decisions are best made at the community. Action by the state would require a special legislative session called by the governor or wait until the legislature meets again in 2023. If a parent wants action quickly, these solutions do not help for tomorrow or even next year.

Education historically has been primarily a state issue. There are many good policy arguments why it should be, not the least of which is the ability of individual parents to enact change and be involved in the education of their children.

While many people can attend the local school board meeting or even travel to a state capital to voice their concerns, few could travel to our nation’s capital. State government and the federal government action necessarily moves like a huge battleship affecting everything in its wake.

Education often needs to be as nimble as a speed boat to deal with local concerns. The public will not wait on the safety of our children for the next legislative session or the federal government in this very diverse country to act.

The parents will leave the public school system if we believe our children are not safe. As a parent, if you want to be involved, the local school board is the place to start.

Paul Sadler is a former state representative from Rusk County and the former chairman of the House Public Education Committee. He’s a lawyer in private practice, and can be reached by e-mail at ps@sadlerandsadler.com.

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

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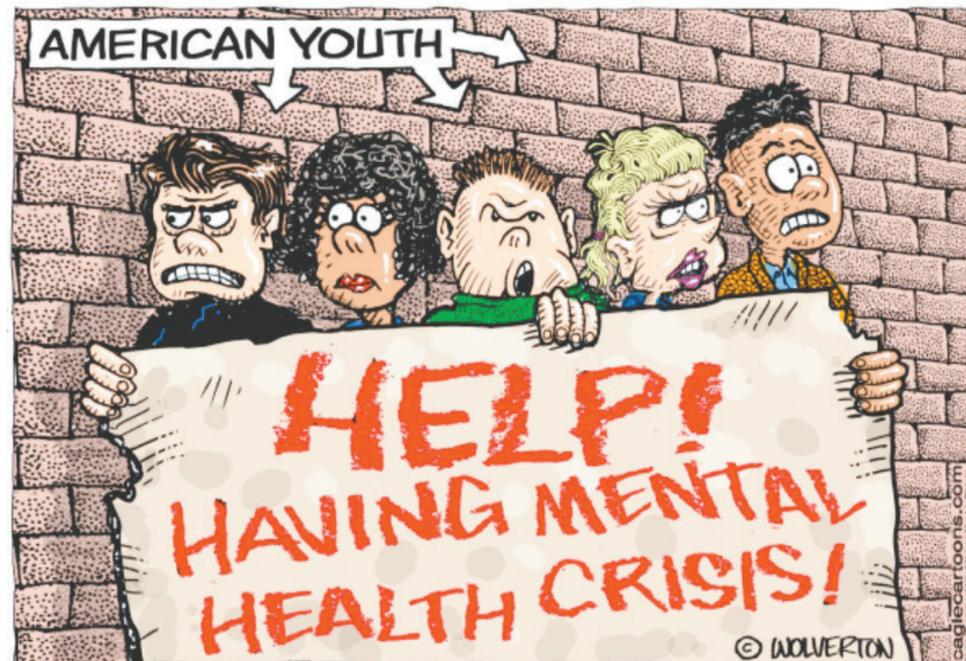
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TRIBUTES

On May 29th, 2022, Cherion passed from this earth and went into the loving arms of Jesus surrounded by her husband, brother, son and daughter-in-law.

Born in Orange, Texas, on October 31, 1944, she was the first child of Cecil Cleborn Scales Sr. and Betty Sue Brannon. She grew up in the Orangefield area in the Scales family home surrounded by many loving aunts, uncles and cousins. After graduating from Bridge City High School in 1963, she moved to the Houston area and started a family with her first husband, Samuel Beard of Spring, Texas. In addition to devoting her life to raising two children, Cherion worked part-time at the church daycare. She decided to return to college after her children were starting their adult lives, where



CHERION LEE SCALES SHABAN
1944-2022

she earned her nursing degree and was licensed as a LVN.

Her family grew by two daughters when she met and married Gregory Shaban, and over time was blessed with several grandchildren and one

great-grandchild. She loved children, and always made a special effort by listening to them and spending as much time as she could with them. When not spending time with her children or grandchildren, she held several volunteer roles including: assisting with the mentally challenged, aiding hospice patients and answering crisis hotline calls.

She is preceded in death by her first child, Shellie Lynn (Beard) Tichenor and both parents.

She is survived by her loving husband Gregory J. Shaban of Katy, Texas, her brother Cecil C. Scales, Jr. of Orangefield, Texas and son Chris Beard and wife Kirsten of Montgomery, Texas. Stepdaughters Michelle and husband Ramein Gerami of Little Elm, Texas and

Melissa Shaban of Houston, Texas. Grandchildren Aaron Meachum of Denver, Colorado, Jonathan Meachum and wife Mandy of Dalhart, Texas, Michael Christopher Beard of San Antonio, Texas, Nicole Tichenor of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Emily Tichenor of Apple Valley, Minnesota; Grandchildren Sawyer J. Shaban of Houston, Texas, Lux Gerami of Little Elm, Texas and Great-granddaughter Mya Rust of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Cherion's funeral service was held Saturday, June 4, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City, Texas. Burial followed at Claybar Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange, Texas.

The family is grateful for the kind and professional care provided by Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

BREAKING GROUND



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Officials with Home Run Dugout celebrate a Monday morning groundbreaking at its forthcoming Katy location, 1220 Grand West Blvd. Home Run Dugout began in 2019 and was built as part of Dell Diamond, home of the Round Rock Express baseball club. It features craft beers, a wiffle ball field, and two simulated batting bays. The Katy location is the second location and will be larger, featuring 12 simulated batting bays, among other attractions. The Katy location is expected to open in February.



MARILYN M. WARDENBURG
1939-2022

Marilyn M. Wardenburg was born on May 24, 1939 in The Bronx, New York to Thomas Robert and Elma Steeb Morgan. On July 27, 1963, she married Pete Wardenburg in Scarsdale, New York. Marilyn and Pete made their home in Weston Lakes, Texas, where she was a member of the Weston Lakes Women's Association.

Marilyn M. Wardenburg passed away on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at her home in Katy.

She is survived by her

husband, Pete Wardenburg of Weston Lakes; children, Peter Steely Wardenburg, Jr. and his wife April of Katy, and Lynn Wardenburg Castro and her husband George of Flower Mound, Texas; grandchildren, Austin Wardenburg, Ashlyn Wardenburg, Brylee Wardenburg, and Ella Wardenburg; great grandson, Hoyt Wardenburg; brother, Robert Morgan and his wife Susanna of Lake Worth, Florida; as well as numerous other

relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the Blanton Davis Ovarian Cancer Research Program at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home 1344 W. Grand Parkway South ~ Katy, Texas 77494 ~ (281) 391-2424



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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Royal ISD honors Class of 2022 Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and top 10%

Royal High School is proud to announce the 2022 Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and top 10%.

The valedictorian is Kayla Jung, who has a 5.014 GPA. The salutatorian is Samantha Lopez, who has a 4.987 GPA.

The following students made the top 10% of the class:

Yasmin Alvarado, Melani Alanis, Ricardo Lopez Schelmetty, Alondra Lopez, Zoe Buller, Alexis Ibarra Uribe, Angel Velasquez, Erick Mendoza, Lissy Gonzalez, Camila Quinones, Abigail Parada, Deicy Robledo Ramos, Juan Grimaldo, Jr. and Jose Alanis.

All students listed above have a 4.0 or higher GPA. There are 29 seniors with a GPA of 4.0 or higher. The class of 2022 has 166 students.

Royal ISD announces award recipients from Teacher of the Year Banquet

Royal ISD announced the award recipients from the first annual Royal ISD Teacher of the Year Banquet.

Years of Service Awards

- Transportation, 25 years: Transportation Driver Manager Steve Hendricks.
- Royal High School, 20 years: Life Skills Aide Portia Abanathy.



ROYAL ISD
Bobbie Karnes-Novicke is the Royal Junior High School Teacher of the Year.

- Royal STEM Academy: Team Member Skyler Webb.
- Royal District Alternate Education Program (DAEP): Campus Secretary Andrea Glover.

Region 4 Principal Recognition Honorees

Each year, Region 4 announces Principal Recognition Honorees. District administrators select honorees based on several criteria, including a multitude of attributes that contribute to staff and student success.

- Royal Early Childhood Principal Natasha Moses.
- STEM Academy Principal Phylicia Glover.



ROYAL ISD
Luz Diaz retired as a Royal bilingual teacher after 10 years.

School Biology Teacher Dawn Richardson, 28 years of service.

- Teachers of the Year
- Royal Early Childhood Center: Mabely Lituma.
 - Royal Elementary School: Sandra Padilla.
 - Royal Junior High School: Bobbie Karnes-Novicke.
 - Royal High School: Robert Rogers.
 - Royal STEM Academy: Daisy Jara.

Event Sponsors

Sponsors include Royal Education Foundation, Allegiance Bank, Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, Frost Bank, the Katy Times and the Roof Depot.

Adriatic Café provided food items. Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union provided gift cards and wallets for the Teachers of the Year. The West-I-10 Chamber of Commerce provided gift cards for our Spirit Award winners. Pulte Group provided desserts for the event.

Katy ISD Destination Imagination teams win top spots in global tournament

After two years of participating in online Destination Imagination (DI) Global Tournaments, 12 Katy ISD teams last month traveled to Kansas City, Mo., to participate in the one-of-a-kind educational event. After four days of creativity and connection, five Katy ISD schools placed within the top five spots in their respective categories.

The Improv Einsteins from Shafer Elementary won second place in the competition, while Exley Elementary DinoMite placed third, Morton Ranch Junior High The Nerd Herd placed fourth and Alexander Elementary Rumbling Rockets along with Beckendorff Junior High Off Topic earned fifth place.

- Katy ISD teams participating included:
- Shafer Elementary: The Improv Einsteins participated in Improv - Festival Frenzy, and finished in 2nd place
 - Exley Elementary: DinoMite participated in Scientific - Up Close, and finished in 3rd place.



The Houston, We Have a Problem team from Seven Lakes High School participated in last month's Destination Imagine Global Tournament.

- Morton Ranch Junior High: The Nerd Herd participated in Improv - Festival Frenzy, and finished in 4th place.
- Alexander Elementary: Rumbling Rockets participated in Engineering - Roll with It, and finished in 5th place.
- Beckendorff Junior High: Off Topic! participated in Service - For the Future, and finished in 5th place.
- Campbell Elementary: Golden Thinkers participated in Technical - Daring Escape, and finished in 6th place.
- Seven Lakes High: Houston, We Have a Problem participated in Fine Arts - Tricky Tales, and finished in 6th place.
- Seven Lakes High: Frenzied Revelers participated in Improv - Festival Frenzy, and finished in 9th place.
- Griffin Elementary: The Microscopic Masterminds participated in Scientific - Up Close, and finished in 9th place.
- Bryant Elementary: The Improvables participated in Improv - Festival Frenzy, and finished in 11th place.
- Shafer Elementary: The Daredevils participated in Technical - Daring Escape, and finished in 15th place.
- Shafer Elementary: Creative Crew participated in Scientific - Up Close, and finished in 17th place.

Team Nerd Herd from Morton Ranch Junior High won a special award for their Flipgrid video submission, which was an additional challenge for teams.

Katy ISD students competed with teams from across the United States, as well as Canada, China, Korea, Mexico and other countries.

"Katy ISD students were ready to demonstrate their creativity and innovation in person. As they entered the Kansas City Convention Center, they were embraced with a wealth of ideas from teams from around the world," Joan Otten, gifted & talented/advanced academics department director, said. "To see 12 Katy ISD teams compete in the global tournament is a true inspiration and speaks volumes of the talent in our students."

Destination Imagination is a worldwide creative problem-solving organization that teaches students the skills needed to succeed in school, career and beyond. Students use the creative process to turn their ideas into reality and learn valuable skills such as creative and critical thinking, team building, problem-solving and project management.

"Buckle Up" road signs now at all Katy ISD schools as seat belt safety partnership expands

Last fall, a hundred signs were installed at Katy ISD high schools. As the 100 deadliest days of summer begin, State Farm's Chris Mallett, Khalid Alrashed and Matt Schomburg have partnered with the Kailee Mills Foundation to add these potentially life-saving road signs to all Katy ISD elementary and junior high schools.

The partnership between the Kailee Mills Foundation, State Farm Insurance, and Katy ISD has now expanded, with these signs displayed at all Katy ISD schools.

Texas law requires everyone in a vehicle be properly secured. As car accidents remain the leading cause of death in the U.S. for people ages 1-54, these signs to buckle up while leaving a Katy ISD school remind drivers that their families want them home safely.

The Kailee Mills Foundation began in October 2017 following a fatal accident involving the young student for which the foundation is named. Kailee Mills was a Klein Collins High School student who had unbuckled herself in the back seat of a moving car to take a selfie. Seconds later, she was ejected from the car and killed.

In a separate incident, on Dec. 26, 2020, now-former Tompkins High School student Samuel "Sam" Mills, no relation to Kailee, lost control of his vehicle causing it to flip. He too was ejected from the car.

In both incidents, neither person was wearing a seat belt.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



The Microscopic Masterminds team from Alexander Elementary participated in last month's Destination Imagine Global Tournament.

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'Like a father'



TYLER TYRE

Wes Hearne was named the new head coach of Katy after their season finale, following Tom McPherson's retirement.

Hearne ready to lead Tigers

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Wes Hearne has waited his entire career for this type of opportunity.

Hearne has spent nine years underneath Tom McPherson, who retired following the 2022 season after being the winningest active coach in Texas high school baseball, as an assistant.

During that time, Hearne absorbed everything he could from McPherson and other experienced coaches in the Tigers program, and he prepared for his own chance to be a head coach.

That time finally came for Hearne this past week as he was named the new head baseball coach of Katy following the 'Tigers' final game of the season.

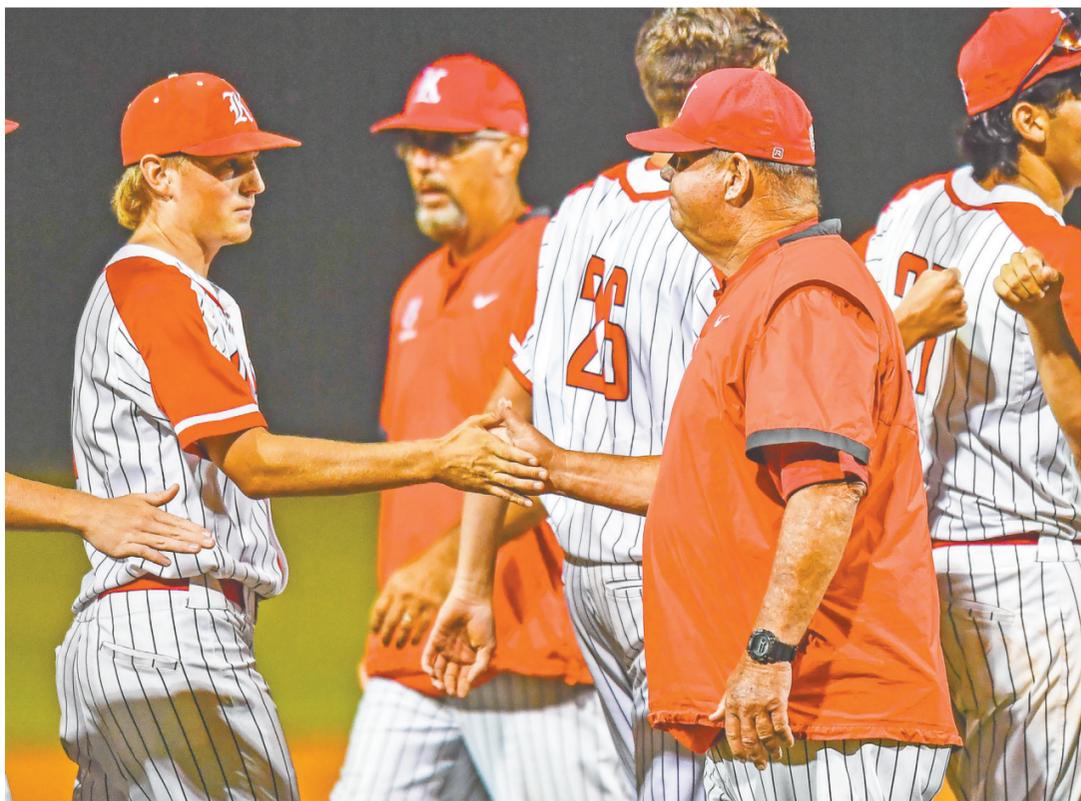
"It was just super exciting when I learned I got the job," Hearne said. "It was really hard to keep it a secret since we needed to keep it quiet until the end of the season. But I just love these guys. I can't wait to get going."

Hearne knows how hard it will be to step in as head coach and follow in the footsteps of a man who led the Tigers for 34 years, accumulating 891 wins. While he hopes to maintain the Tigers success, Hearne knows it would be impossible to replace McPherson.

"I don't know that you can replace him," Hearne said. "I know that it's going to be very big shoes to fill, but I'm excited to do it and I know we have a great group coming back that I will be able to work with. I just hope that can make me successful. At the end of the day, you are as successful as the guys make you."

McPherson for his part, is very confident in the

See **COACH**, page B3



PHOTOS BY MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy's Tom McPherson congratulates players after winning game two during a Region III-6A Regional SemiFinals baseball game between Katy and Strake Jesuit at Mayde Creek High School, Friday, May 27, 2022.

MCPHERSON RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS AT HELM OF TIGERS

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tom McPherson's name is synonymous with Katy High School and city of Katy.

For 34 years, McPherson has donned the red and white, leading the Tigers on the baseball diamond and helping mold young minds.

The Katy head coach was at the helm as the Tigers rose and became one of the premier programs in baseball in the state of Texas, leading the Tigers to a state runner up trophy in 2006 and numerous district titles.

But the McPherson era at Katy had to come to an end at some time, and that end point came when the Tigers' season ended against Strake Jesuit.

McPherson had announced in April he would be retiring at the season's end and although it was a very successful year, the Tigers finished with a Class 6A Region III semifinal appearance.

"It's bittersweet right now," McPherson said. "We needed one more bounce to go our way. It was a good series and the pitching by both sides was phenomenal. They kept out bats in check and that was the difference. We just couldn't get those key hits today. The last one was always going to be hard."

McPherson helped grow young players

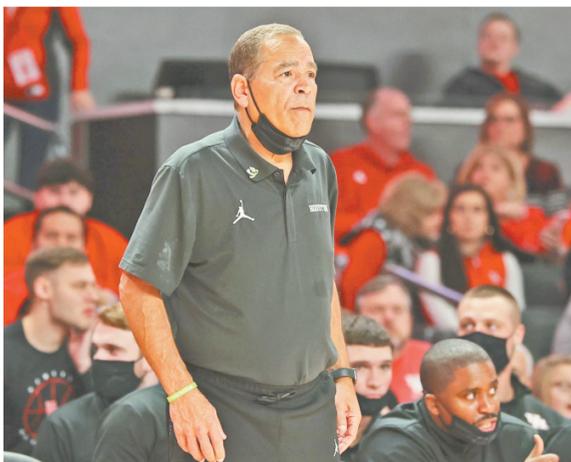
See **MCPHERSON**, page B3



Katy's Tom McPherson looks on in hopes his team can pull through in what could be his final game as head coach before retiring during the Region III -6A Regional SemiFinals at Jersey Village, Saturday May 28, 2022.

Houston Cougars head coach Kelvin Sampson during an NCAA men's basketball game between Houston and Wichita State on Jan. 8, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN



Sasser withdraws from NBA draft, will return to Houston

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

"Houston, we got unfinished business."

It was the words every University of Houston fan had hoped to hear over the past few months. What every player on the Houston basketball coaching staff had been counting on to put the Cougars back in the mix of the national championship race heading into next year.

Marcus Sasser, a senior point guard and

one of the leaders of the Cougars locker room, announced Thursday that he was withdrawing his name from the NBA draft and announcing he would return to the school for his senior season.

"Going into the process I just wanted to be 100% sure and not have any doubt that I would get drafted," Sasser said. "I only wanted to stay in if there was no doubt I would get drafted, but there was some doubt. So it wasn't a hard choice

See **SASSER**, page B3



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LaViolette named District 19-6A MVP

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jace LaViolette capped off his senior season by being named the District 19-6A MVP after a terrific season where he helped Tompkins to a district title.

LaViolette had a huge year, hitting .601, with nine doubles, 13 triples and 11 homeruns while driving in 51 and scoring 53 runs.

Cinco Ranch's Connor Ficarra was named the newcomer of the year in the district after a strong year in which the Cougars finished fifth in district.

Lucas Moore was the first pitcher on the first team, as he had a terrific junior year. The Katy starter threw 74.1 innings with a 1.41 era while striking out 80 with a 10-2-1 record on the season. Moore had one perfect game and five shutouts over the course of his junior season.

The Falcons had seven players named first team all-district to lead the selections, while Cinco Ranch had four, and Katy and Taylor had three.

Distinct Awards

District MVP	Jace LaViolette	OTHS
Newcomer of the Year	Connor Ficarra	CRHS

1st Team

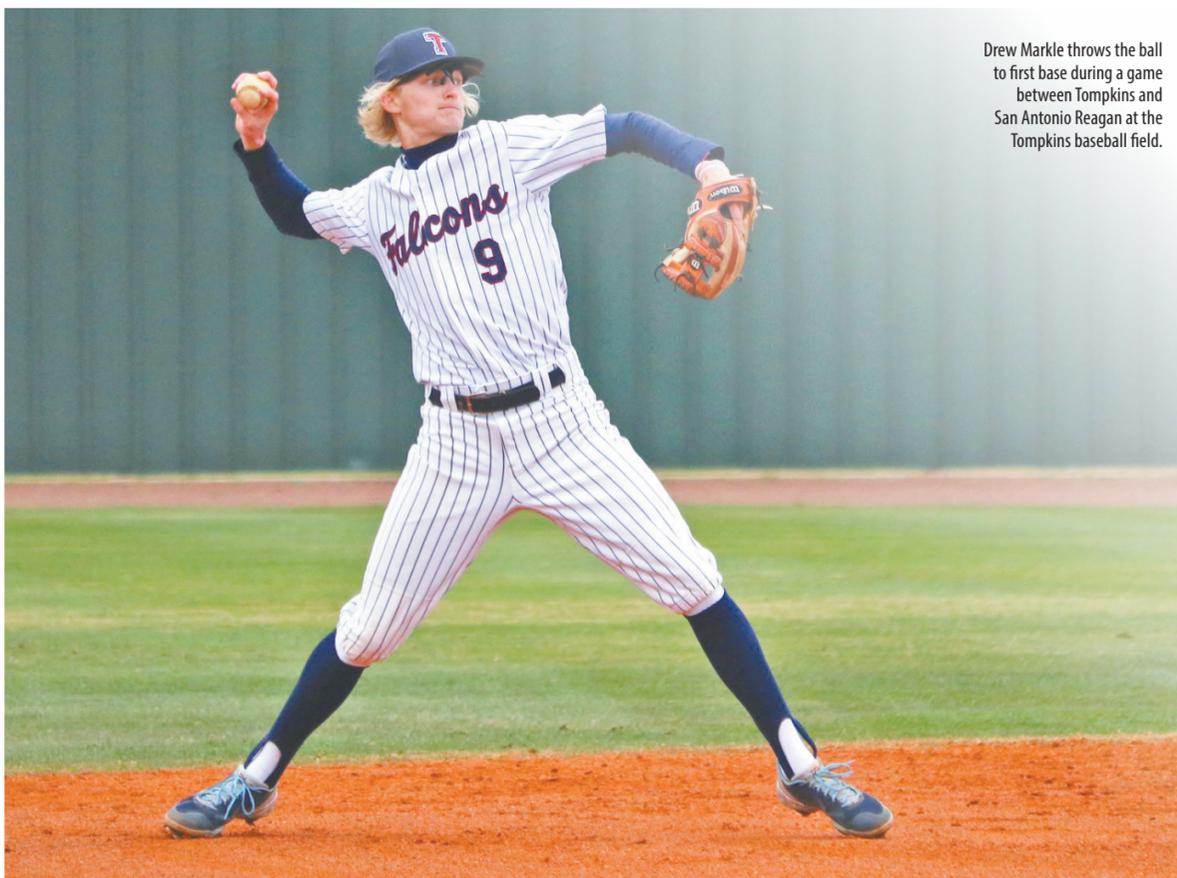
C	Reece Ruderman	KHS	11
1B	Jack Little	OTHS	12
2B	Cash Russell	OTHS	12
2B	Ranier Castillo	CRHS	11
3B	Gavin Rutherford	CRHS	11
SS	Drew Markle	OTHS	11
OF	Blake Hansen	CRHS	12
OF	Jhonnatan Ferrebus	KHS	12
OF	Carlos Michinaux	SLHS	12
OF	Charlie Atkinson	CRHS	11
DH	Hunter Ham	THS	11
UT	Ty Dagley	OTHS	11
SP	Lucas Moore	KHS	11
SP	Trevor Esparza	OHS	12
SP	Jared Schaeffer	THS	12
SP	Solomon Rotberg	OTHS	12
RP	Michael De Battista	OTHS	12
RP	Matthew Irwin	THS	12

2nd Team

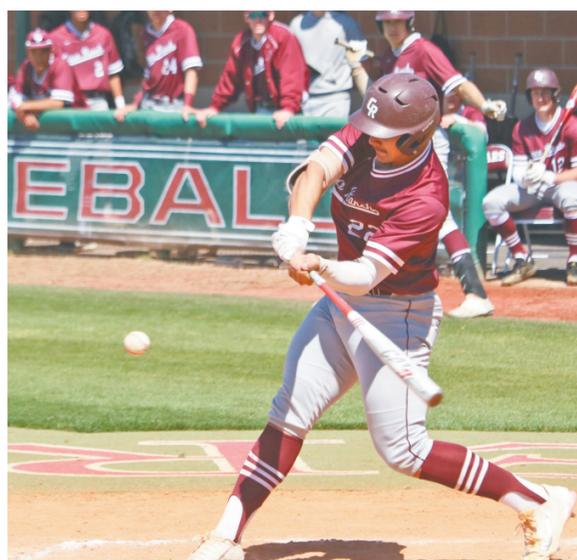
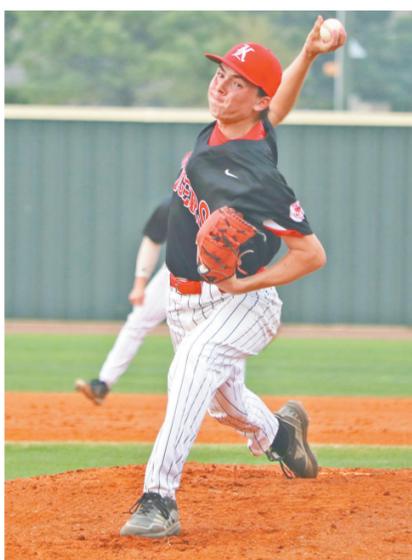
C	Jack Coultas	SLHS	12
1B	Brandon Hasselbring	MRHS	11
2B	Chase Marshall	THS	10
3B	Cade Climie	SLHS	12
SS	Ryan Franden	SLHS	12
OF	Nick Paul	MCHS	11
OF	Joe Jefferson	THS	11
OF	Brett Dolejsi	THS	11
OF	Tyler Brownlee	OTHS	12
DH	Joseph Romero	MCHS	12
UT	Jason Hinojosa	MCHS	12
SP	Austin Bonjonia	CRHS	12
SP	Nathan Johnson	SLHS	9
SP	Lawson Moreno	SLHS	11
SP	Zachary Royse	CRHS	12
RP	Blake Wolf	THS	12
RP	Brayden Powers	KHS	12

Honorable Mention

KHS	Parker Kidwell, Graham Laxton, Sutton Hull
THS	Ryan Mullan, Nate Lopez, Camden Champness, Pete Dworaczyk
MCHS	BJ Lumkins, Hayden Fullem
CRHS	Brayden Hodge, Brock DeYoung, Ethan Muniz
MRHS	Griffin Allan, Tyler Harvey, Landen Kovar, Simon Massi, Jacob Pittman
SLHS	Kyle Perkins
OTHS	Cooper Markle, Ivan Gomez, Ross Giluso, Judson Murdock, Caleb Klingbeil, Adam Benavidez, Judson Collier, Landon West



Drew Markle throws the ball to first base during a game between Tompkins and San Antonio Reagan at the Tompkins baseball field.



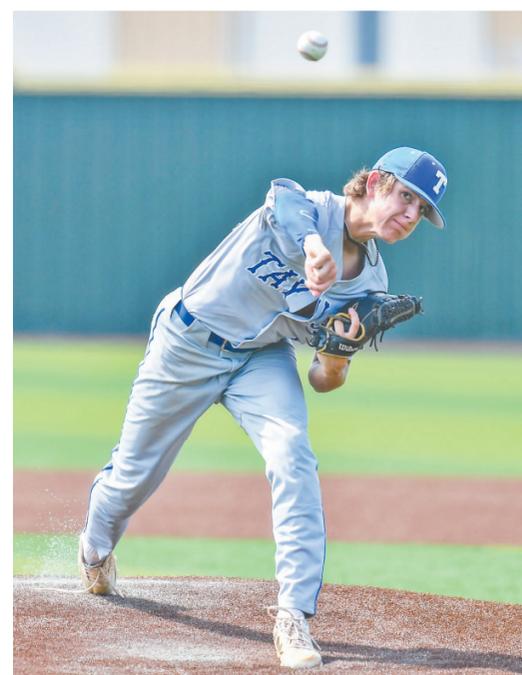
Far left: Lucas Moore pitches during a District 19-6A game between Katy and Tompkins at the Tompkins baseball field. At left: Blake Hansen hits during a game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Katy baseball field.

TYLER TYRE PHOTOS



At right: Jace LaViolette rounds third base after a home run during a Class 6A area round game between Tompkins and Lamar at the Tompkins baseball field.

TYLER TYRE



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy Taylor's Jared Schaeffer starting pitcher, pitches during the first inning during a Region III-6A quarterfinals baseball game at Langham Creek High School, Saturday, May 21, 2022.

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LOFTIN INDUCTED TO TASCO HALL OF FAME



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy head soccer coach Diane Loftin, who retired at the end of the school year, was named to the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame for her contributions to high school soccer in the state of Texas. Loftin had 413 wins over the course of her career including making the postseason 23 times.

COACH

from page B1

hire and is excited to see Hearne get the opportunity.

"He's going to do such a great job," McPherson said. "I'm sure he'll move things around a bit and probably have a little bit more engine than a 70-year-old. But he'll do a great job. I'm so happy for him. Just proud of him as a coach."

Along with Hearne's nine years of experience at Katy, he also has coached at Taft, Needville and Lufkin. His experience was a big part in him earning the head gig.

"Before I came to Katy, I thought that I knew a lot about baseball, but (McPherson) has forgotten more about baseball than I'll ever know. But I learned how to manage and call a game because of what he does. He's just phenomenal, he's been a great mentor and I just hope he doesn't change phone numbers because he's going to be getting some phone calls from me."

Katy will lose just four starters to graduation this year and will return a strong

senior class of 11 players, including each of their top three starting pitchers. That amount of talent and the opportunity has, already has Hearne ready to go next year.

"It's unbelievable what we have coming back," Hearne said. "We're going to have almost every pitcher coming back. We could run out four guys that can throw 90 miles per hour next year. The main nucleus of our lineup is back also and if they're willing to work, we can go a long, long way."

"He's just a great coach, not just with winning but with developing us too. He knows how to get us ready for the next level since he coached at (Texas) Tech. You just couldn't ask for anyone better to lead you."

—Jhonnatan Ferrebus, Katy senior left fielder

MCPHERSON

from page B1

games and grow teenagers into young men for his whole career. To his players, that meant everything.

"He taught me so much, he was like a father figure to me," said senior left fielder Jhonnatan Ferrebus. "He taught me how to hit and how to be a better player in every way. When I got here freshman year, I had a lot I needed to improve on. He helped me with that through my sophomore year and then last year I really became a different player. I was able to turn it on and he really helped me with that. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't be the player I am today."

Ferrebus speaks for many Katy student athletes that grew under McPherson. During his time as a high school head coach, McPherson accumulated 891 wins while coaching at Canyon, Levelland, Johnson City and Katy. He also had stops as an assistant at Texas Tech and Hardin-Simmons.

"He was the winningest active coach in the state of Texas," Ferrebus said. "He's just a great coach, not just with winning but with developing us too. He knows how to get us ready for the next level since he coached at (Texas) Tech. You just couldn't ask for anyone better to lead you."

With McPherson's retirement, Katy assistant coach Wes Hearne will take the reins as head coach. But while McPherson may not be there to lead the team every day, he knows that the school and the program will always be a part of him.

"He'll get a lot out of this bunch next year," McPherson said. "They're a great bunch and I can't wait to come back and watch them. It will be different, but I can't wait."



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Cougars quarterback Clayton Tune attempts to avoid the tackle attempt from SMU Mustangs linebacker Richard Moore during an NCAA football game between Houston and SMU on October 30, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

SASSER

from page B1

for me, I knew I needed to come back to school, the University of Houston is where I need to be."

Sasser was limited to just 12 games in his junior season, but showed he was among the elite in the nation by averaging 17.7 points, 2.6 assists and 2.2 steals per game while shooting 43% from the field and 43% from three point land, before having to miss time due to a broken bone in his foot. Houston head coach Kelvin Sampson will count on Sasser as one of his top producers next season and both are excited about the reunion.

With the Final Four heading to Houston next year, the only goal on both of their minds is making it there and competing for a national championship.

"He's happy for me and I'm just happy to be back," Sasser said. "It's definitely a good player-coach relationship and I'm just excited about the Final Four being in Houston and me coming back. I just want to make sure we are playing in that Final Four and we're both excited to get started working again."

Along with competing for a national championship, Sasser will be looking to improve on certain areas of his game to make sure his name is called in next year's NBA draft, as a big part of going

"It's going to help me become a better player all-around and just be even more prepared for the draft process next year."

—Marcus Sasser, Senior point guard for the University of Houston

through the combine and individual workouts for him this year was finding out what NBA scouts thought about his game.

"They like me as a floor spacer and being able to knock down shots on the perimeter as well as my on ball defense," Sasser said. "My playmaking ability is getting better but they want to see it at a higher level. And they want to see me be more of that leader and alpha dog with my team. There's just a few things that I know that I need to work on, but I got a lot of good feedback from a lot of the teams."

But ultimately, the biggest reason for Sasser decided come back is wanting to win and making the right decision for himself.

"This was just the best choice for me to come back," Sasser said. "It won't do anything but help me even more. It's going to help me become a better player all-around and just be even more prepared for the draft process next year."

Houston places 14 players on preseason all-conference team

STAFF REPORT

A total of 14 University of Houston football players have been recognized as part of Athlon Sports' preseason 2022 American Athletic All-Conference Team including six First-Team selections, the publication announced Tuesday.

Senior quarterback Clayton Tune, junior wide receiver Nathaniel Dell and sophomore offensive lineman Patrick Paul have been recognized on the First-Team Offense. Senior defensive lineman Derek

Parish, senior linebacker Donovan Mutin and senior defensive back Gervarrus Owens were honored as First-Team Defense.

A pair of Cougars picked up Second-Team honors with senior running back Ta'Zhawn Henry and senior defensive lineman D'Anthony Jones named to the offensive and defensive teams, respectively. Sophomore punter Laine Wilkins earned Third-Team honors as a specialist while sophomore defensive lineman Nelson Ceaser was tabbed Third-Team Defense.

Four Houston players appeared on the Fourth Team including offensive honorees in senior tight end Christian Trahan and junior offensive lineman Tank Jenkins. Sophomore defensive lineman Chidozie Nwankwo and junior defensive back Alex Hogan were named Fourth-Team Defense.

Houston's six First-Team honorees ranked second among American schools, trailing only Cincinnati (7). The program's 14 total honorees ranked third behind Cincinnati (20) and UCF (15).



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Katy ISD Provides Screenings for Students with Suspected Disabilities

The Katy Independent School District Special Education Department provides screenings for students with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. The screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of three and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Katy ISO Special Education office at 281-396-2066. The Special Education office will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions or concerns.

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June 2 Puzzle Answers

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NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT TO REVISE A SUBDIVISION PLAT FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

APPLICATION: Lara Investor Group LLC, Hector Lara owner, is requesting to be allowed to revise Lot 45 and a Portion of Lot 46 West Magnolia Forest Sec One. The revision will CREATE 2 RESIDENTIAL LOTS. These newly configured lots would consist of RESIDENTIAL LOTS 45A AVERAGE AC. 7.152 AND 45B AVERAGE AC.7.151. West Magnolia Forest Sec One is situated in the OWEN WINGFIELD SURVEY ABSTRACT-269, Waller County, Texas recorded in Volume CABINET, Page CABINET B-96, in the Deed Records of Waller County, Texas.

This replat request, if approved, will only revise the applicant's property.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on (JULY 13TH AT 9AM) at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin St., Hempstead, Texas, 77445.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be electronically received, until **2 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, July 7th, 2022** and then publicly opened and read at the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for "**Elyson Phase 5 & 6 Mitigation Channel East Landscape**", Harris County, Texas. In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/98426196026>.

Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **Thursday, June 23rd, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time**, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/95054245735>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search NWC114.A. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website in order to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 3036 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON MAY 23, 2022:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, APPROVING THE REDISTRICTING OF THE CITY'S SINGLE-MEMBER COUNCIL WARDS AND ESTABLISHING NEW WARD BOUNDARY LINES FOR KATY CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS BASED ON 020 CENSUS DATA; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

AVISO

SE NOTIFICA POR EL PRESENTE QUE EL 23 DE MAYO DE 2022 EL CONSEJO MUNICIPAL DE LA CIUDAD DE KATY, TEXAS, ADOPTÓ LA ORDENANZA NRO. 3036 QUE LLEVA EL SIGUIENTE ENCABEZADO:

ORDENANZA DEL CONSEJO MUNICIPAL DE LA CIUDAD DE KATY, TEXAS, QUE APRUEBA LA REDISTRIBUCIÓN DE DISTRITOS DE LOS DISTRITOS MUNICIPALES DE UN ÚNICO MIEMBRO DE LA CIUDAD, QUE ESTABLECE NUEVOS LÍMITES DE DISTRITOS PARA LAS ELECCIONES DEL CONSEJO MUNICIPAL DE KATY EN FUNCIÓN DE LOS DATOS DEL CENSO DE 2020 Y QUE DISPONE UNA FECHA DE ENTRADA EN VIGENCIA.

THÔNG BÁO

THEO ĐÂY XIN THÔNG BÁO HỘI ĐỒNG THÀNH PHỐ CỦA THÀNH PHỐ KATY, TEXAS THÔNG QUA SẮC LỆNH SỐ 3036 VỚI TIÊU ĐỀ SAU ĐÂY VÀO NGÀY 23 THÁNG NĂM, 2022:

MỘT SẮC LỆNH CỦA HỘI ĐỒNG THÀNH PHỐ CỦA THÀNH PHỐ KATY, TEXAS NHÂM PHÊ CHUẨN VIỆC TÁI PHÂN KHU CỦA CÁC KHU VỰC HỘI ĐỒNG THÀNH PHỐ MỘT THÀNH VIÊN VÀ THIẾT LẬP ĐƯỜNG RANH GIỚI KHU VỰC BẦU CỬ MỚI CHO CÁC CUỘC BẦU CỬ HỘI ĐỒNG THÀNH PHỐ KATY DỰA TRÊN DỮ LIỆU ĐIỀU TRA DÂN SỐ NĂM 2020; VÀ QUY ĐỊNH NGÀY CÓ HIỆU LỰC.

通知

特此通知：含有以下提要的第3036號法令已由TEXAS州KATY市市議會於2022年5月23日予以採納：

本法令由TEXAS州KATY市市議會頒布，旨在批准重劃本市單一席位議會選區；根據2020年人口普查數據為KATY市議會選舉劃定新的選區邊界線；以及規定本法令之生效日期。

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Quiddity Engineering, LLC, attention Travis W. Miller, PE, will be **electronically** received until 2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, June 16th, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of Paving Facilities in Sunterra Section 39 for Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 569, Harris County, Texas."

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.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, large public gatherings are not permitted by law. 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 98004033# when prompted.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Paving Facilities in Sunterra Section 39

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, June 2nd, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 708467382# when prompted.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.

Copies of the bidding documents are on file at the following locations:

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Owner's judgment will be most advantageous to the Owner and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

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Texas dominates Air Force, advances to Super Regionals

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Life is a little easier when you're playing with a lead.

No. 9 Texas started the regional final with a five-hit, five-run first inning to win its third straight game and clinch the Austin Regional title with a 10-1 win over Air Force on Sunday night at Disch-Falk Field.

"Regional champs is something pretty special; we don't take that for granted," Texas head coach David Pierce said. "To be able to come in and play well in front of our crowd and finish it like today was pretty special."

Making just his third start of the season, redshirt freshman starting pitcher Travis Sthele allowed two hits with two strikeouts and two walks in three innings.

Rouse alum Jared Southard set a new career high with six strikeouts across three innings of relief to pick up his fourth win of the year.

"We've been through a lot as a bullpen and a lot of things fall on us," Southard said. "We kind of just got all together and said we're not done. We know if we're going to keep going in the postseason, we're going to have to step up, and that's what we've done so far."

Ivan Melendez hit a two-run homer in the first, and Dylan Campbell hit a pair of home runs, the second multi-home run game of his Texas career. He hit a team-high three dingers in the regional.

"You never go up there trying to hit a home run, it's just something that happens," Campbell said.

"I kind of just go into each day preparing like I'm going to play whether I know I am or I'm not, so when I do see my name in the lineup I can be ready whenever."

The Longhorns will take on the winner of the Greenville Regional next week. Coastal Carolina beat No. 8 East Carolina on Sunday to force a do-or-die game on Monday.

If the Pirates win, Texas travels to Greenville. If the Chanticleers win, the Longhorns will host them at Disch-Falk Field.

"Our success is not taken for granted, these guys have worked

their tails off to get to the points where we can host," Pierce said. "To play so well and to do it here means a lot. With the history of the program, it's pretty special to continue that success."

Texas beat Air Force 11-3 in the opening game of the regional on Friday.

The Falcons, which made the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 55 years, advanced to the regional final for the first time in program history with wins over Dallas Baptist and Louisiana Tech in elimination games.

After the game, Air Force head coach Mike Kazlauskis had all eight lieutenants, most of which are going on to fly planes instead of play baseball, to the postgame press conference.

"We always talk about how baseball is our lives, but their lives are way more than just this game," Campbell said. "They're going on to do something a lot greater than us and they're making sacrifices that we aren't making. We tip our caps to them."

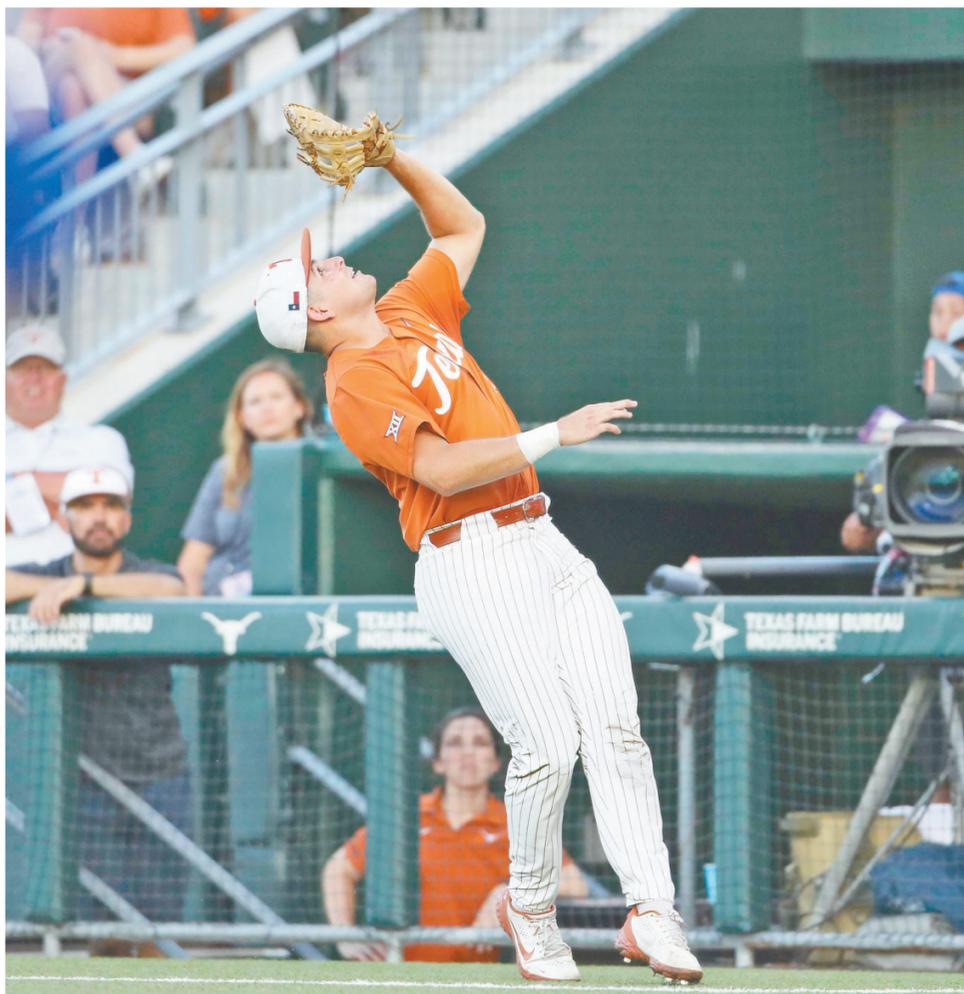
Melendez launched his 30th home run of the season in the first inning, becoming the first player to reach that mark since Kris Bryant's monitor season with San Diego in 2013.

"The offense just did what they do," Pierce said. "Great start scoring five runs in the first and continuing to tack runs on."

His moonshot gave the Longhorns a 2-0 lead, and Faltine extended the lead to 5-0 with a bases-loaded ground-rule double later in the inning. Mitchell Daly extended the Texas lead with a sac fly in the third inning.

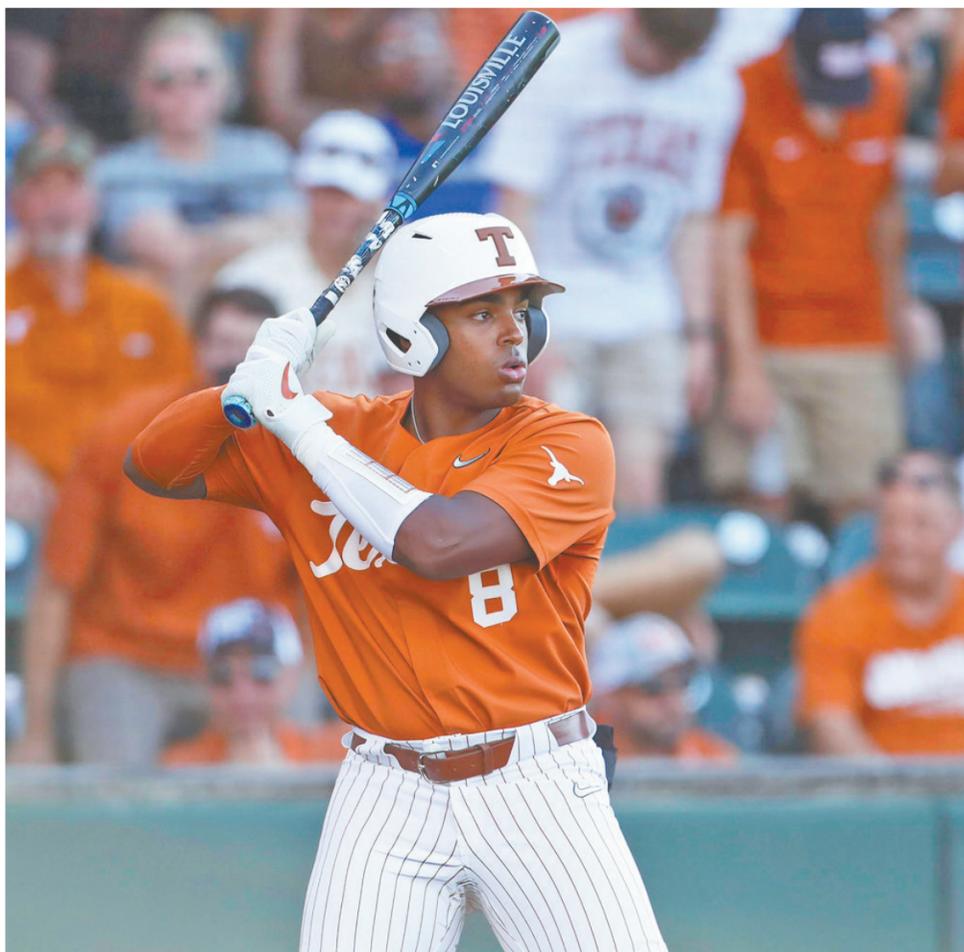
Campbell hit his first home run of the game in the fourth inning. Silas Ardoin drove in a run with a double to right in the fifth before Campbell crushed his second homer and ninth of the year in the eighth.

"There are so many good teams in the country, but I like the way we're playing," Pierce said. "All the calluses we've built throughout the year have paid dividends. We're not there yet, we're still trying to get better every day."



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Above: Texas infielder Ivan Melendez (17) looks in a foul ball in front of the dugout for an out. Below: Texas infielder Dylan Campbell (8) at bat during an NCAA playoff baseball game against Louisiana Tech on June 4, 2022 in Austin, Texas.



Texas third baseman Skyler Messinger (5) catches a fly ball for an out.

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Katy Times



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy Taylor's Jase Forester intercepts the pass intended for Mayde Creek's Jordan Kelly during a conference game between Mayde Creek and Katy Taylor at Rhodes Stadium.

Four Katy ISD athletes chosen to compete in 2022 Bayou Bowl

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Four Katy ISD athletes were named to the West team of the Bayou Bowl, which will be held on Saturday at Traylor Stadium in Rosenberg.

Cinco Ranch safety Fordham Parks, Tompkins linebacker Bryce Shaink, Mayde Creek receiver Jordan Kelly and Morton Ranch offensive lineman Ja'Kobe Hinton were all seniors chosen for the West team, which showcases graduating high school players from around Houston every year.

Fordham Parks was the leader in the secondary for the Cougars last season. A three year varsity player, he was a big part of the resurgence of the Cougars defense, as he had 89 tackles, including a team leading 68 solo tackles and also had 10 tackles for loss. Parks also led the team with five interceptions and 11 deflected passes while forcing three fumbles on the season. Behind a strong defense and passing game Cinco Ranch went 8-5 on the year and made it to the Class 6A, Division II regional semifinals after winning just one combined game over the previous two seasons. Parks is signed to play football at Stephen F. Austin.

Shaink, also a three year varsity player and starter, had a huge senior season, helping Tompkins to a regional quarterfinal appearance and an 11-2 record. Shaink had a team high 97 tackles on the season, including 46 solo tackles, while also recording 13 tackles for loss, four sacks and two interceptions. Shaink is a Navarro College signee.

Kelly was a huge presence in the Mayde Creek offense as a senior — he was the team's most productive weapon, recording 898 yards in receiving on 49 catches on the season, averaging 89.8 yards per game and 18.3 yards per catch. Kelly also scored 10 touchdowns on the year, an average of one per game for the Rams. Kelly is signed to play at Central



RAY BORCHERT | RAYBORCHERTPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM

Tompkins junior linebacker Bryce Shaink strip-sacks North Shore quarterback Demetrius Davis during their Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal against North Shore on Dec. 24 at Legacy Stadium.

Michigan.

Hinton was the biggest presence on the offensive line for Morton Ranch in his senior season, helping lead a group that averaged 220 yards on the ground and 109 passing yards per game. The Mavericks, with a very physical attack, had

25 rushing touchdowns and wore teams down repeatedly to win games, with Hinton being a huge part of that.

The four will take on an East team that includes plenty of talent on Saturday before heading off to start their collegiate careers.

Rockets will pick third in NBA draft

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

After a month of wondering, the Houston Rockets finally found out where they will be picking in the NBA Draft next month.

The Rockets will have the third pick overall in the draft, as the Rockets will pick in the top three for the second straight season after the draft lottery was announced on Thursday.

The Rockets came into the draft with a guarantee of a top five pick, but only a 40 percent chance of a top three pick, while they had a 50% chance of picking fifth in the draft.

The Magic got the top pick in the draft, while the Thunder will pick second. The Kings and Pistons round out the top five picks of the draft.

With this being widely considered a three superstar draft, it was huge for the Rockets to get into the top three picks, to have a chance at getting one of the talented three forwards of Chet Holmgren, Jabari Smith or Paolo Banchero.

Along with having the No. 3 pick in the draft, the Rockets will also pick at No. 17, which they acquired as part of the deal which sent James Harden to the Nets.

Rockets general manager Rafael Stone was excited at the opportunity to pick in the

"I think whether we pick third, or trade the pick I think we are going to be a materially more talented team this coming season than we were this last one."

—Rafael Stone, Rockets general manager

top three, but also said he was not opposed to trading back if a team offered the right package.

"We feel really good and we're excited," Stone said. "I think whether we pick third, or trade the pick I think we are going to be a materially more talented team this coming season than we were this last one. That's exciting, so we're really happy."

The Rockets drafted Jalen Green with the second overall

pick last season. They hope that whoever they draft will be another cornerstone that can play alongside Green, but the fit is less important than the overall talent of the player.

"I think you always have to go best player available," Stone said. "Fundamentally, it's our jobs to win championships, so when you are picking this high in the draft, you want to see if you can get someone who can be a cornerstone of your franchise going forward. Fit is secondary."

The draft is set to occur on June 23.

"The balance is 99% tape and 1% workout from here on out," Stone said. "You have to be very careful with making any kind of judgements on someone over a single day. The tape is the most important thing when it comes to that."

Following is the full NBA Draft Lottery results:

1. Magic
2. Thunder
3. Rockets
4. Kings
5. Pistons
6. Pacers
7. Trail Blazers
8. Pelicans (via Lakers)
9. Spurs
10. Wizards
11. Knicks
12. Thunder (via Clippers)
13. Hornets
14. Cavaliers



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