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THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022

City to apply for \$1.13 million from state, hopes to allocate it to drainage projects

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council Monday authorized the acceptance of about \$1.13 million dollars from the Texas General Land Office.

The vote to accept precedes the city's application for the money. If received, the money will be used for drainage projects, City Administrator Byron Hebert said.

In a letter to the city, Houston-Galveston Area Council Executive Director Chuck Wemple wrote that the Texas General Land Office allocated \$488.8 million to the Houston-Galveston Area Council—called H-GAC—to develop a method of distribution for a regional mitigation program.

This program is part of the state's Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Action Plan. Wemple wrote that Katy is a potential recipient of funding, but also said the



Police Chief Noe Diaz briefs the Katy City Council Monday on updates to the Katy Animal Control Shelter.

amount is subject to change and the General Land Office must give final approval.

Wemple wrote that Harris County is excluded from this method of distribution,

as the county received a direct allocation of \$750 million from the General Land Office. As a result, Katy's allocation excludes the Harris County portion of the city, Wemple wrote.

Ward A Council Member Janet Corte recognized the city staffers who prepared the grant application.

"Initially, when the allocation came out, the city was down for \$0," Corte said. City staff members met with H-GAC representatives and worked with them to reach the approximately \$1.13 million figure, Corte said.

"This would not have happened without the grant writers," Corte said, adding that she's "real anxious" to see the city get the money and put it to work on the drainage project.

Council Member-at-Large Chris Harris asked Hebert if the city had a specific drain-

age project for which the money, if received, would be allocated.

"We do," Hebert said, not being more specific. Hebert said if the allocation comes through, city officials would have a follow-up with a project list that would be formalized.

Mayor Dusty Thiele praised Corte, who serves as the city's H-GAC representative, for her work on the grant.

Council receives animal control shelter update

Police Chief Noe Diaz said two new dog runs were being added to the city's animal control shelter, 25839 Katy Fwy.

The dog runs were scheduled to be completed Monday. It has been pushed out due to a missed workday Friday, the heat, and

See CITY, page A3

Fort Bend County officials highlight summer safety tips

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County officials offered tips for summer safety at a news conference Friday.

Speaking at the news conference were County Judge KP George, Sheriff Eric Fagan, Office of Emergency Management Manager Mark Flathouse, Interim Chief of Emergency Medical Services Brian Petrilla, Department of Social Services Manager Najat Elsayed, Health and Human Services Communications Director Kaila Williams, and Animal Services Renee McAnally. The news conference took place at the recently opened Fort Bend Coun-

See FORT BEND, page A3

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Highway 36A chairman describes efforts to develop north-south routes in Southeast Texas

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

As Katy and Southeast Texas grow westward, it's easy to see the need for east-west routes. But the need for north-south routes is also important to ease congestion, to help economic growth and to expand emergency evacuation routes.

Robert Pechukas is director of policy and administration for the Waller County Commissioners Court. He is also in his second year as chairman of the Highway 36A Coalition. According to its website, Highway 36A Coalition, Inc. is a group of local governments, elected officials, private businesses, and individuals working to develop a regional transportation infrastructure from the Brazosport area to Hempstead. Pechukas spoke Thursday morning at a Katy area Chamber of Commerce meeting.

"The mission of 36A basically is to foster strong working relationships with the local governments, with the general public, and with all the regional players and departments that we have in order to enhance our mobility and enhance our evacuation runs, and to provide some sustained transportation throughout the area," Pechukas said.

Before joining Waller County, Pechukas worked for Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers. There, Pechukas said, he was concerned about the relative lack of north-south routes. But other than the recently-opened Texas Heritage Parkway, there is no major north-south route in the area.

"The growth that we have out there, it's pretty amazing," Pechukas said. "It's very exciting, but at the same time it's a bit nerve-racking knowing we have all these people that are going to be moving out here. All these developments that are going to be coming, and as far as pushing people more south, there's nothing really feasible to move that traffic. FM 359 is in the area, but that's a two-lane asphalt road and a lot of parts. We're trying our best to work on getting something on the ground at some point to where we can move all these people. It's coming. We can't stop it."

Pechukas said when it came to developing north-south routes, he did not want to follow Austin's example.

"I don't like the Austin mentality of, if we don't build it, it won't come," Pechukas said. "That was proven wrong many, many, many years ago. So, why not plan for it, and why not be efficient in what we do and why not make the people out here a little bit happier and pull ahead."

In thinking about the route that the Highway 36A coalition wants to see, he said it was divided into north and south sections.

"Speaking from the Brazoria and Fort Bend side of things, I can say I think the route is relatively set," Pechukas said. "The Ranch Road or Total Park Road or whatever you want to call it, it seems to be a logical choice. I wouldn't say it's set in stone, but that seems to be the general concept of where things might go."

The north section, he said, was another



Highway 36A Chairman Robert Pechukas speaks to the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

story. "We just don't know," Pechukas said. "There's a lot of different factors that go in north of I-10. When you look at what's going on in Waller County, you've got developments coming in."

In addition to the developments, Pechukas said working with the Coastal Prairie Conservancy, and knowing how best to address major flood areas, were other factors to consider. He said an environmental impact study

See CHAIRMAN, page A3

Two former Katy residents sentenced to federal prison for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Two former Katy residents have been sentenced to federal prison after being convicted of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin, U.S. Justice Department officials said Thursday.

Esteban Lopez Hernandez, 41, pleaded guilty in June 2021, as did Longion Jaimes-Solorzano, 23. Both men lived in Katy, illegally so, officials said.

A third man, Robert Gomez, 28, of Missouri City was part of the conspiracy and also pleaded guilty.

U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes found Hernandez to be a leader in the conspiracy and ordered him to serve a 235-month term of imprisonment—over 19 years. At the hearing, the court heard additional evidence detail-

ing that their drug trafficking organization specialized in distributing black heroin.

In handing down the prison terms, Judge Hughes noted the extreme negative impact of the drug on the community after hearing that since the group was placed in custody there is almost no black tar heroin circulating in the Katy area.

Gomez and Jaimes-Solorzano were previously sentenced to 10 years in prison. Not U.S. citizens, Hernandez and Jaimes-Solorzano are expected to face removal proceeding following their terms of imprisonment, officials said.

All three men were involved in a drug trafficking organization that specialized in black tar heroin for approximately two years. While Hernandez was found to be the leader, Gomez and Jaimes-Solorzano were drug couriers.



Three men, two of whom are former Katy residents, have been sentenced to federal prison after being convicted of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin.

The drug had a major impact on the Katy area in 2017, officials said. A rash of several young drug-related overdoses had links to specific dealers in the Katy area. Authorities identified the supply source for the dealers, and they uncovered other details of the

organization. The investigation revealed the organization deployed multiple stash houses and used several couriers.

Officials said all three men remain in custody and will soon

See CONSPIRACY, page A3

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Midsummer Festival show set for July 16

Queen Nation, the Chee-Weez and the Bo Phillips Band are set to perform at the Midsummer Festival. In addition to the live music, the festival features a country fair, food trucks, and fireworks show.

The festival is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at 700 Westgreen. For tickets, visit the website midsummerfestkaty.com. Proceeds from the event benefit The Ballard House, Compassion Katy and Christ Clinic.

Community helpers at Katy Branch Library

Come learn more about the helpers in the Katy community. Katy Police officers will be visiting the Katy Branch Library, 5414 Franz Road, at 1:30 p.m. July 22. This event is open to children of all ages.

Date Night on Downtown Katy Plaza

The Downtown Katy Plaza hosts Date Night from 6-10 p.m. July 22. The event features live entertainment, a photo booth, dinner, and more.

The city is partnering with Tippi Toes Dance to host Parents Night Out at the city's Woodsland Community Center so parents can enjoy the evening while the kids enjoy the night out with the Tippi Toes teachers.

The kids can arrive in their jammies and can bring their pillows and sleeping bags. The night is filled with lots of fun, including pizza, dancing, movie, games and sometimes even a little karaoke. Parents are asked to let organizers know if their child has any allergies, and they will need to bring their child's own dinner.

Pricing is \$50, and participant and sibling discounts are available. Limited space is available. To enroll, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is <https://bit.ly/3yguGmQ>.

The Arc of Katy to hold "Achieve with us" gala

The Arc of Katy will host its annual gala with an "Achieve with us" theme to benefit programs that empower and enrich the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

The gala is from 6:30-11 p.m. Sept.



VFW 9182

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary 9182 sponsors a yearly art contest "Illustrating America." Chaitri Kalyanam, a seventh-grade student at Tays Junior High, is representing Texas this month at the national convention in Kansas City.



VFW 9182

Veterans of Foreign Wars 9182 Auxiliary sponsors a yearly singing contest yearly where contestants sing the national anthem. Catherine Johanna Evans, a Katy Elementary student, is representing Texas this month at the national convention in Kansas City.

23 at Beckendorff Farms, 28533 Morton Road.

The Arc of Katy invites individuals, businesses, and organizations to register as sponsors, underwriters, auction donors and attendees for the fun, fundraising gala event, said Cherie Duddridge, president of The Arc of Katy.

Intellectual and developmental disabilities are disorders that usually present themselves at birth and impact the trajectory of an individual's physical, intellectual, or emotional development including their ability to learn, reason and problem-solve, Duddridge said.

"With funds raised through our annual gala, The Arc of Katy provides opportunities for our family members, friends and neighbors diagnosed with IDD such as Down syndrome or autism spectrum disorders to be active, respected and fulfilled members of our community," Duddridge said.

Duddridge recognized gala chair Fran Dahl and committee members Fred Shafer and Mary McGovern, who are working in tandem with Joni B's Events to plan the event.

"They are planning a wonderful evening of festive entertainment and divine dining that embraces the bountiful harvest of the autumn season in the beautiful fall foliage of Beckendorff Farms," Duddridge said.

The event guest speaker is Roderick Batson, philanthropist and native of the Houston area, serial entrepreneur, and

partner in Katy's Howdy Homemade Ice Cream franchise. He will share his story, including the inspirational focus and employment practices of his business that are complementary to the mission of The Arc of Katy.

Entertainment will include surprises for guests from The Arc of Katy participants as well as live and silent auctions, a wine pull and music for dancing. Event sponsors and auction donors to date include Beckendorff Farms, Margaritaville Lake Resort in Conroe, Hungry's Café & Bistro, Total Wine and More, Houston Dynamo Football Club, Houston Interactive Aquarium, Nice Winery and Crayola Experience.

"This event will not be possible without the help of our community donors and sponsors," Duddridge said. "We are excited for their support and a special thank you goes out to each."

Those interested can sign up and find additional information about the event at the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3yrj3tg.

The deadline for sponsor and donor recognition in event communications is Aug. 6. For more information, visit the website thearcofkaty.org, or send an email to info@thearcofkaty.org.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

Special Pals to give away 100 microchips to local pets

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

In honor of National Lost Pet Prevention Month, Special Pals, 3830 Greenhouse Road, will give away 100 free microchips to local pets in a project sponsored by Ohana Garage Doors. Dog and cat owners who need to microchip their pets can visit Special Pals Monday-Friday from 12-4 p.m. to have their pet microchipped at no cost, starting July 11 and running through July 31.

'Ohana' is the Hawaiian word for family and Mark Guzman, owner of Ohana Garage Doors, places a priority on supporting the community 'ohana.'

"We're a family business, and our pets are part of that family too," Guzman said. "Partnering with Special Pals helps more pets and people in our community and we are proud to support this service."

National Lost Pet Prevention Month helps raise awareness of services like microchipping to ensure that pets stay together with the people who love them. It is estimated that one in three pets will go missing in their lifetime. By microchipping their pets, the community can prevent their dogs and cats from entering local shelters, especially during the summer months when shelters are often overcrowded.

"If they are ever lost, microchipped dogs and cats are twice as likely to be reunited with their families than animals that are not microchipped," Becky French, Special Pals executive director, said. "The City of Houston's mandatory microchipping ordinance has increased the need for this service, and we are excited to offer more opportunities for pet owners to get their pets chipped."

The 100 free microchips are available while supplies last. No appointment is necessary.

"If they are ever lost, microchipped dogs and cats are twice as likely to be reunited with their families than animals that are not microchipped."

—Becky French, Special Pals executive director

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Absence of difficulty
5. Preserve a dead body
11. Gratitude
14. The act of coming together again
15. More cushy
18. Visionaries
19. Large, fish-eating bird
21. Indicates near
23. NY Mets legend Tommie
24. Icelandic books
28. Pop
29. Hammer is one
30. Sense of self-importance
32. Thyrotrophic hormone
33. Can't be found
35. Electronic data processing
36. Passports and licenses are two
39. Snake-like fishes
41. Air Force
42. Popular computers
44. Intermediate ecological stage
46. Wines
47. Used in combination
49. Laid back
52. Jewelled headdress
56. Slow
58. Famous Falls

CLUES DOWN

1. Body part
2. Mimics
3. Expel large quantities
4. Sea eagle
5. Genetically distinct varieties
6. Dialect of Chinese
7. Famous Mr. T character
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. Menace to yards
12. Ireland
13. Palm trees
16. Fungal disease
17. Willis and Robert are two
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. It shows who you are
25. The First State (abbr.)
26. Get older
27. Associations
29. Woman (French)
31. Womscreen rating
34. Brew
36. Leader
37. Plants in the legume family

38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Junior's father
43. Scads
45. Morning
48. Length of a line (abbr.)
50. Double curve
51. Small, thin person
53. Worn by exposure to the weather
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Word element meaning ear
58. To the ___ degree
59. Residue of something burned
61. It cools your home

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

FORT BEND

from page A1

ty Emergency Operations Center.

"The key message that we hope everyone takes away from the information that we have shared today is to be safe," George said. "Take precautions as the weather continues to heat up. Check on loved ones and neighbors."

Fagan urged parents to be vigilant in monitoring their children's activities and response to emergencies since they are out of school for the summer. Helpful tips include watching children's social media interactions and making sure they aren't being asked to physically meet with unknown persons, securing home doors and windows and telling children not to open doors for strangers, even those who claim to be utility providers unless you have set an appointment and are expecting them.

Additionally, Fagan urged parents to take precautions to not leave children in vehicles. Temperatures can get as high as 120-150° within minutes, causing brain damage and death. Fagan suggested placing color-coded tape on the car dashboard as a reminder to check the vehicle before exiting.

Flathouse said the county's burn ban remained in effect and outdoor open burning is prohibited. Since July 1, Fort Bend County emergency crews have responded to 46 fires in the area. As temperatures continue to rise, Flathouse said the county expects to set up multiple cooling centers throughout the county to help provide relief from the heat. He urged residents to check the Office of Emergency Management and county judge's social media pages for updates.

Petrilla gave water safety tips to prevent drowning incidents. He urged parents to teach their children to swim with a partner. He also



Fort Bend County Judge KP George

urged parents to actively supervise children around water, adding that Fort Bend Emergency Medical Services has responded to eight drownings this year.

Petrilla described how to recognize the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Signs of heat exhaustion include dizziness, headache, excessive sweating, nausea, vomiting, pale, and clammy skin. Signs of heat stroke include hot dry skin, confusion, disorientation, slurred speech and high body temperature. He urged residents to call 911 immediately if they experience these symptoms.

Williams urged residents to exercise COVID precautions as the number of confirmed COVID cases reported in Fort Bend County increased by about 2,000 cases from last week.

Fort Bend County residents needing COVID testing and immunization are urged to call 832-471-1373 for help.

McAnally urged pet owners to leave their pets at home when running

errands. The hot temperatures in a car, even with the windows down, can harm pets and might result in their death.

McAnally urged pet owners to keep their pets hydrated when they are left alone and watch for signs of heat exhaustion, which can lead to heat stroke. If a pet begins to pant heavily, has labored breathing, becomes lethargic and their gums turn pink, she urged residents to contact a veterinarian immediately because the dog might be in heat distress.

Elsayed said residents facing financial hardship can receive short-term assistance to help with utility bills, rent, mortgage, medication or food needs. She said additional assistance is available for the homeless population, crime victims and the elderly. Emergency shelter, food assistance and case management services are also available. For more information, call Social Services at 281-238-3502 or 281-403-8050.

CONSPIRACY

from page A1

be transferred to a U.S. Bureau of Prisons facility.

Officials said several law enforcement agencies were involved in the case. The Drug Enforcement Administration, Harris County Precinct 5 Constable's Office and Fort Bend Sheriff's Office conducted the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDEF) operation, which was dubbed Operation Shadow Theory.

These agencies worked with the IRS-

Criminal Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Office of Inspector General and the Katy and Houston police departments, officials said.

OCDEF identifies, disrupts and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach.

CITY

from page A1

problems acquiring some of the supplies, Diaz said.

The new dog runs will enable more space for dogs to run around. In this way, pets and their prospective adopting families have a chance to see if they are a good fit for each other. Also, Diaz said, representatives from 501(c)(3) organizations, who coordinate the adoptions, either visit the shelter or bring their own animals for a family to consider adopting.

Diaz said the internal kennel areas have been repainted and praised the organi-

zations who have donated supplies to the shelter.

Volunteers are still needed. For more information, prospective volunteers must call the shelter at 281-391-4740.

Council appoints board and commission members

The council approved appointments to city boards and commissions. A complete list of these boards, commissions and their members has been posted to the Katy Times website.

CHAIRMAN

from page A1

is being conducted.

"It's to figure out what makes the most sense," Pechukas said. "Right now, we've got this big map and the road could go anywhere from here to here. This is going to help us narrow that down and it's something that we hope will help facilitate being able to put something down on paper at some point. I want to say very clearly there is nothing on paper right now. There is no route that we think is the best."

The need for more north-south routes becomes clearer as Freeport, and its port, continue to grow. Such routes could have economic implications for Sealy, Brookshire, and Katy, among other communities. Pechukas praised Phyllis Saathoff, Port Freeport's executive director/CEO.

"She's doing a great job of building that port and getting traffic out there," he said. "You are seeing a port that has modernized very quickly that has turned into a

major player in the Houston area and with that comes more traffic on the roads and I would think that State Highway, 288 even with the expansion project that they did, could always use relief. The Brazoria folks out there need help. I think they want the help. It's just a matter of being able to provide the mobility solutions."

Pechukas said that recent redistricting efforts at the county and state levels of government means the coalition must educate people on what it hopes to do.

"You've got a lot of people who may not be familiar or as familiar with this project as you have in the past," Pechukas said. "So, it's our job to reach out, to advocate with them, for them and I'm going to see what we can get out of it. To continue to work with the people that are either new to this area but not newly elected, or are going to be newly elected and to build off of that. The legislative session is going to be really exciting for us."

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Time to take a review and be honest with yourself. Do you have enough funds set aside for retirement?

Talk to your advisor about ways you can be better prepared to handle life's curveballs.

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

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Concerts: Yea or nay?

Believe it or not, my wife and I haven't attended a concert in nearly 25 years.

(Elton John's January 1998 appearance at Nashville Arena was our last outing.)

I realize such an admission strikes a discordant note with most "normal" people. "Don't you want to be able to say that you saw (fill in the blank) in person?"

Get serious. Most of the applause at concerts is lavished upon songs celebrating substance abuse, promiscuity, adultery or anti-establishment violence. If you can approve the other naughtiness, why not tell a few white lies about concerts you didn't, technically, attend? ("Yeah, Garth called us onstage. But the CIA made the TV crews delete the video; so, alas, there's no record of it. Yeah, that's the ticket.")

The major obstacle to our attending more concerts is that my wife is particularly bothered by loud noises and flashing lights. Granted, this meshes with the "more decibels, please" concert mantra "I... wanna rock and roll all night, and suffer migraines every day." Music is supposed to change the world, not rewrite your genetic code.

I realize we could bring earplugs and dark glasses, but that's like dining at a five-star restaurant after laminating your taste buds.

Things are looking up for us financially, but concert tickets have traditionally been a low-priority budget item. More power to the people who think nothing of enriching ticket scalpers, but I would lose sleep over it. Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, but it doesn't cut much ice with debt collectors.

I doubt I am the only person who dreads the hassle of concerts: tickets, hidden fees, traffic, parking, security, etc. If you do enjoy hassles, an economical compromise might involve staying home and putting together a backyard swing set ("some assembly required") while your spouse bites the head off a bat.

It's especially hard to get enthusiastic about bands that have undergone one lineup change too many. You know, where the backup cowbell player has somehow obtained ownership of the name and is the only remaining original element. Here's an idea: I could just ship my baby teeth to the venue and say I attended.



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

I doubt I am the only person who dreads the hassle of concerts: tickets, hidden fees, traffic, parking, security, etc. If you do enjoy hassles, an economical compromise might involve staying home and putting together a backyard swing set ("some assembly required") while your spouse bites the head off a bat.

Spare me the legendary artists who attempt staying relevant. ("I know you came to hear a selection of my 56 chart-topping hits, but first here's a new 45-minute stripped-down dirge about my angst over the banking system in Lithuania.")

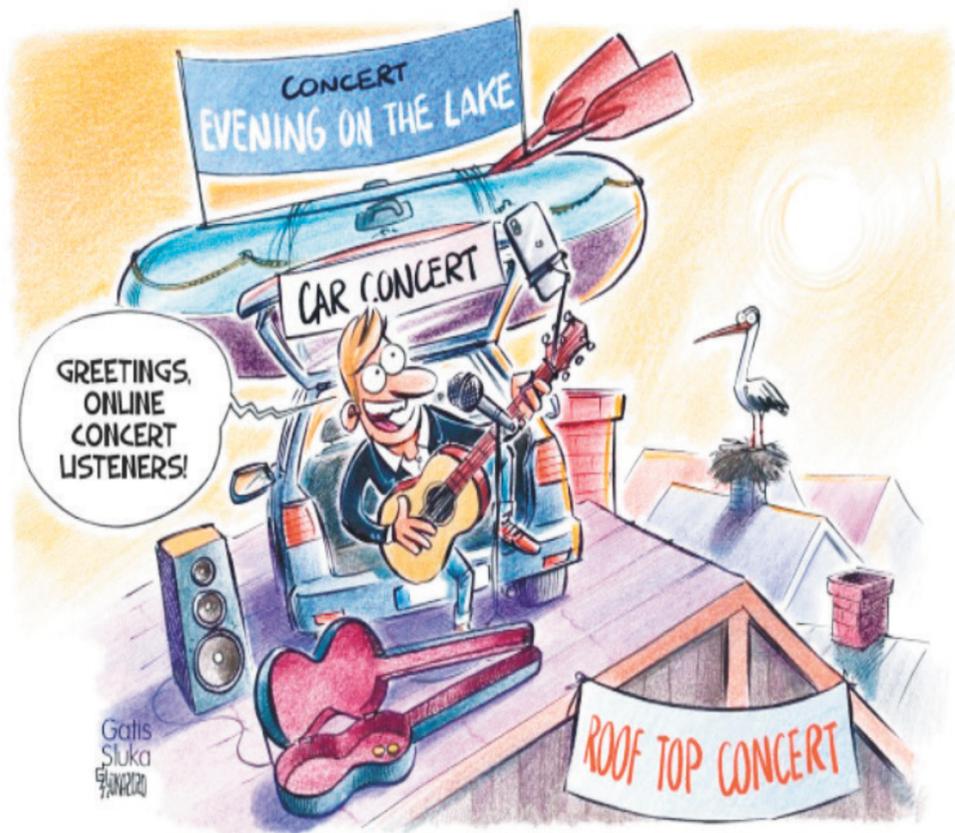
Two down-to-earth guys (my father and my wife's grandfather) influenced us not to get too starstruck. I enjoy the radio and my MP3 files without pursuing closer celebrity relationships. I mean, I appreciate the work of the time-and-temperature lady on the phone, but I don't feel obligated to see her in an arena or buy the T-shirt. ("Forecast: tomorrow you'll feel like a total fool. But with the heat index, you'll feel like a 110 percent fool.")

I do get wistful about a handful of missed opportunities (I wouldn't mind seeing Barry Manilow perform someday), but then I get on with my life.

Regrets? I've had a few, but then again, too few to mention. I did what I had to do and saw it through...

Hey, that reminds me. Did I ever tell you about the time Elvis and Sinatra regaled me with stories of getting John Philip Sousa so wasted he threw up in 76 trombones? Pull up a souvenir seat cushion...

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."



The need to vacate this summer

I sure could use a vacation about now—but I have no plans to take one this summer.

That's the breaks for self-employed people like me who do not enjoy paid vacation benefits. When I do not work, I do not get paid.

However, nearly one in four American workers are not taking a summer vacation, either—in part because we're the only advanced economy in the world that doesn't mandate employer-paid vacations for them.

This is the time each year when I envy my friends in vacation-rich countries around the world.

In Kuwait, according to Far and Wide, employees receive 30 days of paid vacation. When including days off for religious holidays, employees can enjoy up to 64 days of paid leave—13 weeks off a year.

In France, the government mandates every employee get at least five weeks of paid vacation. French workers average 37 days of vacation a year—and 22 paid holidays on top of that.

Austria requires employers to give their workers 25 days off and 30 days off to those who have worked 25 years or more.

The Austrians also require one of the great job perks of all time: Employees can clock out at 3 p.m. on Fridays rather than suffer on until 5 or 5:30 as we Americans do.

Compare these generous time-off policies to America, where employees average about 15 vacation days a year.

We Americans really can't



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Vacating, or vacation, is good for each of us — and America. It restores our equilibrium and helps us become more productive, civil and poised when we return to our daily lives.

complain. We're world famous for being a nation of workaholics, even in good times.

In tough economic times such as now, when costs are soaring and the buying power of our paychecks is shrinking, we have to work even harder to keep revenues coming in.

We don't like our government telling us or our employers how we ought to conduct our business or how many vacation days employers must provide.

Our style has been, for the most part, to favor freedom over mandates of any kind.

Goodness knows our government has been so busy handing out goodies to citizens, it's just a matter of time before the freedom lovers are overrun by the benefit lovers.

It will be a sad day if that ever

happens. We'll have a perpetually anemic economy, and all of us will have to struggle more to find the job opportunities that'll bring us happiness and wealth.

That said, we Americans could learn a thing or two from our vacationing friends around the world.

"Vacating" from the stresses, responsibilities and worries of our daily lives is great for our health.

We know we should take off work and go somewhere with our loved ones or friends and completely get lost for a week at a beach or lake.

We know we should find more time to sit at an outdoor restaurant as the sun goes down, enjoying good wine, conversation and the delicious foods we never have time to prepare.

We know we should step off the earth just for a little while, laugh heartily and sleep until we are fully rested.

Vacating, or vacation, is good for each of us—and America. It restores our equilibrium and helps us become more productive, civil and poised when we return to our daily lives.

Ah, heck, I've talked myself into it. I'm going to plan a trip to the ocean this summer and let its powerful waves wash my daily worries away — for a day or two, anyway.

Tom Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

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GEORGE SLAUGHTER | News Editor
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DEBBIE PREJEAN | Office Manager/
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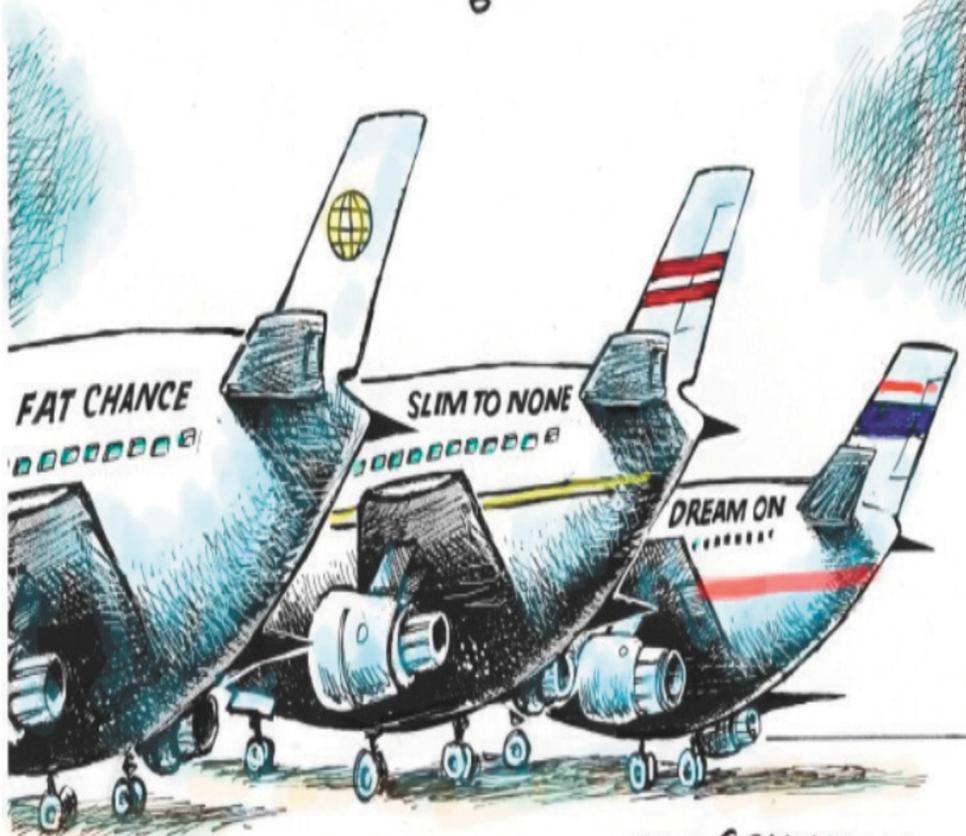
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TRIBUTE



MARK THOMAS DENKER
1959-2022

Mark Thomas Denker was born on November 19, 1959 in Beloit, Wisconsin to Norma Cox and Donald Joe Denker. He grew up in Janesville, Wisconsin, where he graduated from Craig High School in 1978. Mark came to Houston from Wisconsin in 1983, 39 years ago, after the downturn in the economy. He enjoyed fishing and woodworking and was an avid reader. He loved traveling in his RV and had a great love for animals. Mark met Brenda, the love of his life, and they married on June 22, 2018 in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was a wonderful husband with a kind loving heart. He will be remembered for being driven, self-motivated, with an excellent work ethic. Mark had a huge heart and always gave 100 percent regardless the project, whether it was work or home related. He was a fantastic mentor that enjoyed teaching while helping those truly in need.

Mark enjoyed spending his time in Galveston on the beach, fishing, RVing and camping. He was an avid reader with a love of all genres of music from country to rock and roll and his fabulous cooking and barbeque will be missed.

Mark Thomas Denker passed away on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at his home in Katy, at the age of 62.

He is survived by his loving wife, Brenda Denker of Katy; sons, Christopher Hetherington of Katy and Colby Newton of Katy; beloved granddaughter, Emily Smith; sister, Patricia Lynn Ridley of Katy; dogs, Hollie, Lacey, and Bentley; and his cat, Rosie Kitty; as well as numerous other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Steven Donald Denker; and beloved dogs, Sasha and Chloe.

A memorial service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel, in Katy, with Dr. Chris Hopf officiating. A reception will follow in the reception suite.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the Houston Humane Society, 14700 Alameda Rd. Houston, Texas 77053. <https://www.houstonhumane.org/>

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

Three Katy-area students awarded National Merit Scholarships

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Three Katy-area students were among over 1,200 announced as winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by colleges and universities. These Merit Scholar designees join more than 2,600 other college-sponsored award recipients who were announced in June.

The students are:

- Jack Lee, of Seven Lakes High School, will attend Texas A&M University, where he is expected to study nuclear engineering.

- Gray Alan Podolak, of St. John XXIII College Preparatory, will attend Texas Tech University, where he is expected to study chemical engineering.

- Mary N. Rumsey, of Seven Lakes High School, will attend the University of North Texas, where she is expected to study education.

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program who will attend their institution. College-sponsored awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

This year, 155 colleges and universities are sponsoring over 3,800 Merit Scholarship awards. Sponsor colleges include 82 private and 73 public institutions located in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

This is the last group of National Merit Scholar designees to be announced in 2022 by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. In three spring releases, the corporation announced winners of corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards, National Merit \$2,500 scholarship awards, and the first group of college-sponsored Merit

Scholarship awards.

This final group of winners brings the number of 2022 National Merit Scholars to more than 7,200. These high school graduates will receive scholarships for undergraduate study worth a total of nearly \$28 million. In addition to college-sponsored awards, two other types of National Merit Scholarships were offered—2,500 National Merit \$2,500 scholarships, for which all finalists competed, and about 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for finalists who met criteria specified by their grantor organizations.

This year's competition for National Merit Scholarships began when high school juniors took the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. In September 2021, more than 16,000 semifinalists were named on a state-representational basis in numbers proportional to each state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors. Semifinalists were the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represented less than one percent of the nation's seniors.

— CIVIL JUDGE —

Mike Engelhart

FOR
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Four Katy-area students receive scholarships

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Four Katy students were among the 19 national recipients of academic scholarships from Havenpark Communities, an operator and developer of manufactured home communities in Katy and across the country. The awards are part of Havenpark's expansion of its Education Success program, which offers financial support, mentoring, and other education initiatives to increase education access and opportunity for residents.

All four recipients — Evelyn Guerrero Sanchez, Daysi Mandujano, Andrea Gallegos, and Israel Gallegos — are first-generation college students.

Havenpark announced the scholarship recipients in April, where winners were awarded up to \$10,000 annually to cover post-secondary expenses for colleges, universities, trade, and vocational schools. In its second year, the initiative has grown exponentially from its pilot in 2021, which awarded two scholarships to residents in Indiana and Ohio. Havenpark's program pledges at least \$500,000 annually to support education initiatives.

Scholarship recipients participate in Havenpark's

mentoring program, which provides students — many of whom are first-generation college students — with encouragement, support, and resources to succeed in their journey to certificate or degree attainment.

"These students have the most inspirational stories, and I am excited to see where their future takes them," Jason Hale, Havenpark's Education Success Program director, said. "Awarding them a scholarship is great, but our goal is getting them all the way to the finish line and where they want to be."

Evelyn Guerrero Sanchez, who just completed her first year at the University of Texas at Austin, said that personal motivation fueled her to apply for this scholarship. In her first year, Guerrero Sanchez successfully navigated university life and took advantage of everything the college experience has to offer, including active participation in several school and community organizations. She is currently involved at the local church and the Hispanic Business Student Association.

"I just want to make a better life for myself, and give my parents a better life," said Guerrero Sanchez, who



Evelyn Guerrero Sanchez



Daysi Mandujano



Andrea Gallegos



Israel Gallegos

was on her high school cross country and track teams, and was also involved in National Honor Society, National Math Honor Society, and the student council. "I really think that sports helped me develop my character. Especially with cross country with endurance — being able to endure everything that was going on and the struggles with college applications."

Daysi Mandujano, who also just completed her first year at the University of Texas at Austin, is participating in the school's pre-med program. She says that her mother pushed her to continue her education and her parents were thrilled when they learned that she had earned Havenpark's renewable scholarship.

"Ever since I was little my

parents always told me to go to school and be somebody in life," said Mandujano. "That was my biggest motivation and they have always been very supportive. They always said, 'If we have the money, we will help you out and do everything.' It's not just my parents, but also my grandparents will try to do everything for the kids."

Andrea Gallegos, who just finished her second year at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina, studies fashion merchandising and design while running cross country and track.

Though her first semester was difficult as COVID resulted in online courses and canceled athletics, she navigated successfully with the help of school mentorship programs. Going forward, Havenpark's scholarship will

help her with the high cost of room and board.

"What I mostly worried about was housing — that's really expensive," Gallegos said. "I would feel bad because I chose to come all the way out here (out-of-state). I know with this scholarship, it definitely helped me cover a lot of my housing payments for the next year."

Israel Gallegos, Andrea's younger brother, is also a scholarship recipient who plans to attend Sam Houston State University and major in political science. He says that his sister provided guidance as he looked to continue with his education. While counselors could be busy, she made time to push him toward college. At first, he was discouraged and didn't know if he'd become a recipient.

"God really helped us," he said. "If I didn't win it, I would probably go to community college because [universities] are expensive. With the money from the scholarship, I have a leg-up from what I thought I would have."

Each Havenpark scholarship recipient will receive up to \$10,000 per year which may be renewed for three additional years or until a bachelor's degree is earned. A little more than two-thirds of this year's recipients plan to attend a four-year college or university, and about one-third plan to attend a two-year or vocational-technical school.

Havenpark Communities is an operator and developer of manufactured home communities.

Katy's hottest new community, Sunterra, takes its turn in the Sun

BY LEROY JOHNSON AND TIMOTHY GENE SOJKA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

One of Katy's newest master-planned communities is rising in west Katy. Created by esteemed developer Land Tejas, Sunterra rests west of Pitts Road and will run from Clay Road to just north of Beckendorff Road. The community features some of the nation's top builders.

Fantastic Amenities

The jewel of Sunterra's amenity crown is a 3.5-acre lagoon designed for swimming, kayaking and paddle boarding. The lagoon features the latest technology to make it safe for swimmers and the environment. The community's master plan also features miles of walking trails, over a dozen lakes, recreational areas, and fantastic community parks.

Sought-After Schools

The Katy Independent School District services Sunterra. The community is zoned to some of the area's most sought-after schools. Sunterra's growth plan ensures a vibrant community/neighborhood relationship.

Sunterra's Home Values/Builders

Most of the homes range in price from mid \$300s to the high \$600s. Sales have already been brisk thanks to the strength of the Land Tejas development plans.



TIMOTHY GENE SOJKA
A diagram showing the Sunterra layout.

The strong builder portfolio includes Adams, Ashton Woods, CastleRock, Centex, Chesmar, Colina, Davidson, DR Horton, Empire, Gehan, Hamilton Thomas, Highland, HistoryMaker, KB, Long Lake, Perry Homes, Pulte, Shea and Westin.

Is Sunterra for you?

Sunterra is close to the fast-growing Grand Parkway 99 corridor and about halfway between I-10 and U.S. 290. The community's outdoor theme and amenity portfolio lend themselves to an active lifestyle. Early homebuyers have been excited about the community's current and proposed water features and gated sections.

"Buyer response has been tremendous in Sunterra," James Henrie, Land Tejas chief operating officer, said. "The location, Katy

ISD schools and exceptional builder line-up are enough of a draw, but add in an amenity package that includes a planned Crystal Lagoons amenity, and Sunterra has it all."

Remember, you're not just selecting a home, you're selecting your children's school, where you eat, and accessibility to parks. So select carefully, and reach out to a real estate professional if you have any questions.

Leroy Johnson is a U.S. Army veteran, former police officer, top performing realtor and one of Sunterra's top supporters.

Timothy Sojka is 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 Politickill.



KATY ISD

The Katy ISD Financial Services Department was honored for excellence in financial management.

Katy ISD Financial Services Department recognized for excellence in financial management

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Katy Independent School District's Financial Services Department has been recognized by the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) with the 2022 Award of Excellence in Financial Management.

In Texas, there are over 1,000 public school districts, and only 13 districts earned the Award of Excellence in Financial Management. Established in 2020, the award is given to educational entities that demonstrate professional standards, best practices and innovations in the areas of financial management and reporting.

The criteria to qualify are based on financial accounting and reporting guidelines identified by the Texas Edu-

cation Agency (TEA) Financial Accountability System Resource Guide (FASRG). Applicants must submit documentation across 11 key areas, which are reviewed by a TASBO accounting subcommittee.

"The financial aspect of managing day-to-day monetary operations and long-term district goals is a process overseen by a group of dedicated staff members in the Financial Services Department," Christopher J. Smith, Katy ISD chief financial officer, said. "The entire financial services department plays a crucial role in ensuring that funds are being efficiently used and accounted for so that unparalleled learning experiences continue for the more than 90,000 students in our district."

The department was recognized in March during the TASBO annual conference in Grapevine, Texas.

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Paetow's Alexander Kilgore #46 gets the sack on Galveston Ball QB Seth Williams #7 during a playoff game between Paetow and Galveston Ball at Legacy Stadium.
PHOTOS BY MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy ranked fifth in DCTF preseason poll

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD will be home to a loaded district this year. With the addition of Paetow and Jordan to make a nine-team district in District 19-6A, things will only get tougher and having four top 50 teams in the Class 6A classification. Katy was named a top five team in the state in the classification, coming in at No. 5 in the Dave Campbell Texas Football's Class 6A preseason rankings, as the Tigers once again were lauded as one of the best teams in the state entering the season. The Tigers were only topped by No. 1 ranked Austin Westlake, No. 2 North Shore, No. 3 Southlake Carroll and No. 4 ranked Duncanville, with North Shore being the only Region III and Houston area team ranked higher than Katy. The Tigers will be a formidable team this upcoming season, bringing back much of their offensive line as well as their top two running backs and starting quarterback. After a run to the state semifinals last season, the Tigers have big goals and the preseason ranking backs that up. Tompkins came in at No. 22 on the list, while Paetow was ranked No. 24 in the state.

Tompkins will return much of its running talent this year with each of the Falcons' top three leading runners coming back this year along with two of the team's top three leading receivers. The Falcons will have work to do to replace some of the talent lost on defense, but they are confident they can have a great year.

Paetow, the reigning Class 5A, Division I state champions, also returns a formidable roster. The Panthers bring back a very strong defense, with what could be one of the strongest defensive lines and linebacker groups in the state, including Alex Kilgore, Daymion Sanford and DJ Hicks. Offensively, the team will have to replace key positions, including the starting quarterback and running back, but will bring back depth at receiver; the offensive line is expected to be strong as well. Paetow has a chip on its shoulder and wants to prove what it can do, jumping up to Class 6A.

See **PRESEASON**, page B3

TOP 5

FOOTBALL GAMES TO LOOK FORWARD TO



Cinco Ranch's Sam McKnight #26 rushes scoring a TD during a conference game between Cinco Ranch and Morton Ranch at Rhodes Stadium in Katy.



TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

This year's football season will be an exciting one in Katy ISD.

District power Katy brings back a strong core, but District 19-6A has plenty of other teams, with challengers looking to take the Tigers' throne as district champions.

Katy comes in to the year as favorites according to Dave Campbell's Texas Football, but Tompkins has already proven once that they can dethrone the Tigers as District champs and will be out to do it again, while Cinco Ranch returns one of the most electric offensive attacks in the state and Paetow is out to prove it can dominate Class 6A just as they did at the 5A level en route to a state championship last season.

Then there's Seven Lakes, which has made the playoffs each of the past two years and has no interest in letting a newcomer take that spot, while Morton Ranch narrowly missed out on the playoffs last year and is determined to get there this time around.

Not to mention Mayde Creek, which is excited to show their development under second year head coach J Jensen and Jordan, which is out to prove it has what it takes to compete at any level.

With that being said, there are too many exciting games to count

See **FOOTBALL**, page B3



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins #21 Caleb Blocker rushes in for a TD during the first half of the UIL area playoff game between Tompkins and Jersey Village at Pidgeon Stadium in Houston.

Katy ISD student-athletes named TTCA All-State

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Four Katy ISD schools placed student athletes on the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Academic All-State team for the 2021-2022 school year.

Seven Lakes, Tompkins, Mayde Creek and Cinco Ranch all placed athletes on the team, which awards graduating seniors that have a cumulative GPA of 92 or higher.

The TTCA is made up of high school tennis coaches from around the state of Texas and hands out awards each year, including All-Academic, scholarships, coach of the year and special recognitions.

Cinco led the district with 13 selections: Emma Donaldson, Camila Meza Ellerbrock, Ishaan Gupta, Christian Healy, Anshu Lakshman, Connor Oberg, Janette Phan, Anabelen Pons, Cydney Rice, Tejas Sachdeva, Aaryan Sagar, Kayla Wan and Jiawei Zhang.

Mayde Creek had 11 athletes named to the team: Carlos Ascenio, Ashley Chucks-Nwosu, Frida Fanini, Grace Lee,

See **ALL-STATE**, page B3



COURTESY KATY ISD



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Paetow installs new state championship sign

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

There's some new bling that every Paetow student will see when entering the school this fall. A new sign has been put up at the main entrance of the high school, celebrating the 2021 foot-

ball team for winning a Class 5A state championship last December.

The sign of state champions is the first for Paetow, as the football teams state championship was the first in the schools history after opening five years ago.

The Panthers went 15-1 on the

year and 7-1 in district, clinching their first ever district title in football and winning their final seven games en route to the state championship, which they won 27-24 in overtime over College Station.

On the heels of their state championship year, the Panthers will gear back up for fall practice

in the second week of August, before opening the season and being celebrated as state champions against Conroe at Legacy Stadium. Paetow, which makes the jump to Class 6A this season, will play Morton Ranch in its first ever District 19-6A game on Sept. 9 at Rhodes Stadium.



KATY ISD

Paetow installed a sign to celebrate its 2021 state championship football team at the main entrance of the high school.



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950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 35, Attention Victoria A. Battistini, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Tuesday, August 2, 2022, and then publicly opened and read at the offices of Quiddity Engineering LLC., located at 6330 West Loop South Suite 150, Bellaire, TX 77401 for "Construction of Paving Facilities in Sunterra Section 46 for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 35"

In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams). To join via Microsoft Teams:

Phone Number: 832-856-3756
Phone Conference ID: 948 681 858#

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Construction of Paving Facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **electronically** on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time. To join via Microsoft Teams:

Phone Number: 832-856-3756
Phone Conference ID: 597 826 457#

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. 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.

Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all 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 using 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.

WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY
DISTRICT No. 35

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 35, Attention Victoria A. Battistini, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Thursday, July 28, 2022, and then publicly opened and read at the offices of Quiddity Engineering LLC., located at 6330 West Loop South Suite 150, Bellaire, TX 77401 for "Construction of Paving Facilities in Sunterra Section 49 for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 35"

In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams). To join via Microsoft Teams:

Phone Number: 832-856-3756
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Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Construction of Paving Facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **electronically** on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time. To join via Microsoft Teams:

Phone Number: 832-856-3756
Phone Conference ID: 874 943 754#

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.

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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.

WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY
DISTRICT No. 35

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 35, Attention Victoria A. Battistini, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Friday, July 29, 2022, and then publicly opened and read at the offices of Quiddity Engineering LLC., located at 6330 West Loop South Suite 150, Bellaire, TX 77401 for "Construction of Paving Facilities in Sunterra Section 50 for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 35"

In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams). To join via Microsoft Teams:

Phone Number: 832-856-3756
Phone Conference ID: 134 887 760#

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Construction of Paving Facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **electronically** on Friday, July 22, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time. To join via Microsoft Teams:

Phone Number: 832-856-3756
Phone Conference ID: 564 726 095#

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. 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.

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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.

WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY
DISTRICT No. 35

FOOTBALL

from page B1

happening within the Katy ISD schedule, but there are five that stick out above the rest as must see for anyone in the Katy area.

5. Mayde Creek vs. Jordan, Sept. 9

I think that the Mayde Creek vs. Jordan game in week one of the district schedule is one of the most underrated matchups of the entire season.

From the outside looking in, it might seem like a game that won't tell you much early in the district schedule, but for these two teams, this matchup means everything.

For Mayde Creek, the team is looking for is looking to bounce back after going winless in district in 2021, while for Jordan, it will be the school's first district game in history and they will be out to prove that they have what it takes to belong in a highly competitive District 19-6A. For one of the schools it will be an added bonus, as Jensen is in search for his first district win as a head coach, and Jordan's Mike Rabe will be in search for his first district win in charge of the Warriors.

But the biggest reason this will be such an intriguing game is that it will be the first time Mayde Creek will face off against Rabe since he left the school to become the head coach of Jordan in 2020, and the Rams will surely be out to prove what they can do.

4. Katy vs. Atascocita, Sept. 2

Katy and Atascocita will continue their non-district rivalry by facing off against each other in the second week of the season. The Tigers, who were state semifinalists last year will take on an Atascocita team that lost just three games and made it to the Regional Final in Class 6A, Division II last year.

The Eagles return lots of talent and the game will be a very competitive one that will give an early look at both teams outlook once playoffs come around.

3. Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins, Sept. 16

Last year's Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins game went all the way down to the wire and I wouldn't expect anything different out of this

year's rendition.

Both teams return plenty of firepower on offense, but both will have to retool on defense after losing many key pieces.

This has a chance to be one of the most high scoring games we see this season and also will show what Cinco can play at a high level against top end competition, which they will need to do if they make the playoffs in Class 6A, Division I. For Tompkins it will be an early chance to show that they are again serious competitors in District 19-6A.

2. Paetow vs. Tompkins, Nov. 4

The final game of the District 19-6A regular season may just be one of the most important as well.

Two teams that expect to compete for a playoff spot this year in Paetow and Tompkins will face off in the final games before playoffs begin, with a chance that it could affect playoff seeding or put one of the teams in or out of the playoffs.

Paetow in all likelihood will be locked in to the Division II playoffs if they are still competing for it at that point, while there is a chance that Tompkins could be knocked down to Division II as well, depending on who is in the playoff race at that point, with both Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes having a higher enrollment than the Falcons.

1. Katy vs. Paetow, Oct. 6

One of the most exciting and talked about matchups this year will be when Katy takes on Paetow for the first time.

Paetow looks like it will have one of the best defenses in the state to go along with a strong run game, and although Katy will need to replace many key pieces on defense, the Tigers always field a strong unit on that side of the ball, while Katy returns plenty of strong pieces offensively.

The game between the two will show just how strong Paetow is this season and will be an exciting test for both teams, as both team's players know each other as well if not better than with any other matchup in the district.



Katy's Caleb Koger delivers a pass for a TD during a game between Katy Tigers and Tompkins Falcons at Legacy Stadium in Katy.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

PRESEASON

from page B1

Cinco Ranch rounded out the selections for Katy ISD, as the Cougars were ranked No. 38 in the top 50 after a strong showing at the state 7-on-7 tournament.

The Cougars bring back a huge amount of playmaking, returning their starters at quarterback and running back as well as their top two receivers from a team that reached the regional semifinals in Class 6A, Division II last year.

The Cougars expect to have an explosive offense next year but do have work to replace key figures on defense. Despite the relatively low number of starters returning, the Cougars' defense is confident in their ability heading into the fall.

Overall, there were 19 Houston area teams ranked in the top 50 of the poll, and two within the top five of the pre-season rankings.

Following are the full Dave Campbell's Texas Football Preseason Top 50 Rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Austin Westlake | 13. Allen |
| 2. North Shore | 14. Austin Vandegriff |
| 3. Southlake Carroll | 15. Arlington Martin |
| 4. Duncanville | 16. Cibolo Steele |
| 5. Katy | 17. Ridge Point |
| 6. Denton Guyer | 18. The Woodlands |
| 7. Lake Travis | 19. Dickinson |
| 8. DeSoto | 20. Highland Park |
| 9. Spring Westfield | 21. Eules Trinity |
| 10. Rockwall | 22. Tompkins |
| 11. Atascocita | 23. Shadow Creek |
| 12. San Antonio Brennan | 24. Paetow |
| | 25. Rockwall Heath |
| | 26. Prosper |
| | 27. Midland Lee |
| | 28. Temple |
| | 29. C. E. King |
| | 30. Cedar Hill |
| | 31. Jersey Village |
| | 32. Summer Creek |
| | 33. Harker Heights |
| | 34. Round Rock |
| | 35. Stratford |
| | 36. San Antonio Reagan |
| | 37. Pflugerville Weiss |
| | 38. Cinco Ranch |
| | 39. Klein Collins |
| | 40. Waxahachie |
| | 41. Dripping Springs |
| | 42. Spring |
| | 43. Flower Mound Marcus |
| | 44. Cy-Ranch |
| | 45. Lewisville |
| | 46. Clear Falls |
| | 47. Converse Judson |
| | 48. Houston Lamar |
| | 49. Bryson Nelson |
| | 50. Odessa Permian |

ALL-STATE

from page B1

Dreylon Nguyen, Kimberly Paniagua, Timothy Park, Rohan Patel, Jordyn Rabon, William Tu and Cindy Ventura.

Seven Lakes placed nine student-athletes on the team: Anna Bouleau, Brian Ho, Fabiola Jaimes, Mehek Jain, Tanav Kalra, Liska Knight, Estee Nwana, Mihir Patil and Nicole

Tapia.

Tompkins placed six on the team: Dhruv Amiani, Nathalia Ciliberto, Gavin Gibson, Natalie Kha, Charles Kuchler and Abhijay Setlur.

Team tennis is set to gear back up in August, with everyone in Katy ISD eyeing for a shot at a district championship.

Midsummer Festival

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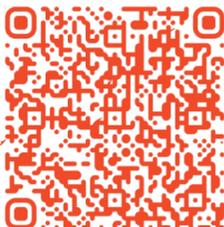
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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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July 7 Puzzle Answers

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

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

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.

Katy Independent School District
6301 South Stadium Lane
Katy, TX 77494

Katy Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees and its agents, officers and staff members shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids may be submitted either (i) electronically using the CivCast USA ("CivCast") website (www.civcastusa.com), or (ii) Paper copy in duplicate. Bids will be received by Harris-Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 3 at the office of the Engineer for the District, EHRA, 10011 Meadowglen Lane, Houston, Texas 77042, and electronic bids delivered via the CivCast website, until 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 26th, 2022, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read for the construction of the project:

HARRIS-WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 3

CANE ISLAND - SECTION 13 AND FRANZ ROAD PHASE 3

Project No. 015-235-21
A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom Conference Call. Zoom Conference Call information will be provided at www.civcastusa.com.

The combined areas of the streetscape scope consist of sidewalk, entry monument, planting space and irrigation infrastructure zoning.

The above-described construction will be performed in accordance with plans and specifications and any addenda thereto which may be issued prior to the opening of bids. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge or the option to purchase hard copies on the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Documents are also available for review at the office of the Engineer or Houston area plan rooms.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier's Check, from a responsible bank in the State of Texas, or a Bid Bond, issued by a surety legally authorized to do business in the State of Texas, equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid amount. Make the Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Bid Bond payable to the Owner.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid deemed advantageous to it and waive informalities in bidding. All bids received after the closing time above designated will be returned unopened.

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Quiddity Engineering, LLC, attention Travis W. Miller, PE, will be electronically received until 10:00 a.m. local time, August 4, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of Paving Facilities in Sunterra Sec 44 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 830-269-969# when prompted.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Paving facilities

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on July 28, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 457-217-565# 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.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Quiddity Engineering, LLC, attention Shawn C. Sturhan, PE, will be electronically received until 9:00 a.m. local time, July 27th, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of Paving Facilities in Sunterra Sec 43 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 536-594-050# when prompted.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Paving Facilities

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on July 20th, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 210-179-788# 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.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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

APPLICATION: Santos and Sonia Quinteros, owners, are requesting to be allowed to revise Tract 4 of Quinteros Subdivision. The revision will be to partition Tract 4 into two lots. These newly configured lots would consist of Tract 4-A (1.000 acre) and Tract 4-B (1.428 acres). Quinteros Subdivision is situated in the Samuel C. Hady Survey, A-31, Waller County, Texas recorded in Instrument No. 1507489, in the Official Public 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 27, 2022 at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin St., Hempstead, Texas, 77445.

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Katy ISD swimmers, divers named NISCA All-Americans



Taylor's relay team of Logan Pack, Reinaldo Obando Machado, Nick Schmid and Andrew Lee were named NISCA All-Americans in the 100-yard medley relay, 200-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay.



Taylor's Mariana Diaz Ponce was named a NISCA All-American in the 100-yard breaststroke.



Taylor's Nick Schmid was named a NISCA All-American for his individual efforts in the 100-yard breaststroke and the 100-yard butterfly.



Tompkins' Matthew Aigner was named a NISCA All-American in the one-meter dive.



Seven Lakes' Kailey Koval was named a NISCA All-American in the one-meter dive.



Katy's Avery Coates was named a NISCA All-American in the one-meter dive.



Cinco Ranch's Marley Barnard was named a NISCA All-American in the 100-yard breaststroke.

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association released its All-American team over the past week, honoring student-athletes from across the country that had the best times of the year.

Swimmers and divers from public schools with the best 100 times in swimming or results in diving were named to the team and Katy ISD reached double digits by having 10 swimmers and divers selected.

In the 100-yard medley relay, Taylor's team had the 57th best time nationally, as Logan Pack, Reinaldo Obando Machado, Nick Schmid and Andrew Lee put together a time of one minute, 32.76 seconds. Taylor's relay team also made the list for the 200-yard freestyle relay, in which Pack, Schmid, Lee and Machado placed 40th in the country with a time of one minute, 23.93 seconds. And the Taylor boys notched a third All-American result by having the 44th best time in the 400-yard freestyle relay, as the same four players were named to all three relay teams.

Pack also was named an All-American in the 100-yard backstroke, where he finished 77th in the United States with a time of 49.44 seconds.

Schmid was named an All-American in the 100-yard breaststroke, finishing 38th overall with a time of 55.2 seconds and also was named to the team in the 100-yard butterfly, having the 80th best time in the nation, with a time of 48.97 seconds.

Tompkins placed two on the All-American team in the one-meter dive, as Matthew Aigner and Daniel Barrientos both were named to the NISCA team.

On the girls side, Cinco Ranch's Marley Barnard placed 67th overall with the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of one minute, 2.86 seconds and Taylor's Mariana Diaz Ponce placed 80th overall with a time of one minute, 3.05 seconds.

In the one-meter dive, Katy's Avery Coates and Seven Lake's Kailey Koval were named to the team to round out the Katy ISD selections.

Sarkisian, Longhorns riding wave of recruiting momentum

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Steve Sarkisian has had a pretty good summer so far.

The second-year Texas football head coach has had a flurry of commitments come in, highlighted by Arch Manning, the New Orleans quarterback who is the consensus No. 1 player in the Class of 2023.

"This has been a great run," Sarkisian said in an interview with ESPN. "Hopefully it's not over. I don't think it is. We may have a few more to go here this week. Hopefully we can continue to capture some of the momentum that has been created."

Since Manning announced his commitment via his first and only Tweet, the other commits have flowed in.

The Longhorns picked up five recruits on Sunday. Five-star defensive back Derek Williams, the No. 37 overall recruit, committed on Monday, and South Oak Cliff



PHOTO BY LIZ PARKE/BIG 12 CONFERENCE

Steve Sarkisian and Texas are on a recruiting hot streak at the moment, headlined by the commitment of Arch Manning.

edge rusher Billy Walton joined him on Tuesday.

Five-star receiver Johntay Cook II continued the wave of momentum when he committed.

Texas currently has the No. 3 for the 2023 class, according to 247Sports.

"It used to be getting hot in November and December is what you

wanted to do," Sarkisian told ESPN. "Nowadays, it feels like June or July is a really good time."

Manning has been one of the most sought-after recruits of all time and picked the Longhorns over the likes of Georgia, Alabama, Clemson and LSU.

Manning comes from one of football's most recognizable families. He's the nephew of future NFL Hall-Of-Famers Eli and Peyton, grandson of Archie, and the son of Cooper.

He's thrown for 5,731 yards and 72 touchdowns in three years as quarterback of Isidore Newman School in New Orleans.

There have been three recruits with a perfect ranking generated by 247Sports: Manning, Vince Young and Quinn Ewers. Young is a Longhorn legend, while Ewers transferred to Texas after spending the 2021 season at Ohio State.

"Last year, getting Quinn on board, even though he was a transfer, he was the No. 1 player in that class prior to him reclassifying,"

Sarkisian said. "A lot those kids knew who Quinn Ewers was. It's always helpful when it's the quarterback that is the big fish. I think (the 2023) class is very similar, it's just different timing."

Sarkisian's first year as Texas head coach did not go well, as the Longhorns lost six of their last seven games to finish 5-7 overall and 3-6 in Big 12 Play, tied for their worst conference record ever.

Texas begins the 2022 season at home against Louisiana Monroe on Sept. 3, and Alabama comes to Austin on Sept. 10.

With a move to the SEC looming, the war chest continues to grow for Sarkisian.

"We are going to become a great program because we're going to sign a great class in 2023," Sarkisian said. "That's what great programs do. They stack recruiting classes on top of one another. This class is a really key one, just like the 2024 class will be a year from now."

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Katy Times

HOUSTON VOLLEYBALL
2022 SCHEDULE



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

The University of Houston released its volleyball schedule for the upcoming season.

Cougars to face five tournament teams in 2022

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Houston revealed its 2022 volleyball schedule, featuring 31 matches over the course of the regular season — including six matches against five teams that made the 2021 NCAA Tournament field and the 11th Annual Flo Hyman Collegiate Cup.

Texas, Mississippi State, Rice, South Alabama and two matches against conference foe UCF make up the five 2021 NCAA Tournament teams the Cougars will match up against in 2022.

Houston will open the 2022 season on the road against Rice at the LSU Tiger Classic August 26-27. The Cougars will also face LSU and Samford, a 2020 NCAA Tournament team, in Baton Rouge, La.

Flo Hyman Collegiate Cup will feature two Power 5 teams in Alabama and Oregon State as well as Central

Arkansas Sept. 2-3.

The Cougars will then go on the road to another SEC school to again play two 2021 NCAA Tournament teams in Mississippi State's Maroon and White Invite Sept. 9-10. Houston will open the four-team tournament against South Alabama, a 2021 NCAA Tournament team, before playing Mississippi State, a team the Cougars beat in 2021 and made the NCAA Tournament, and then wrap up the weekend with Kennesaw State.

A singular road match at perennial power Texas on Sept. 15 features the first meeting between the two teams since 2010, a matchup that will be played yearly for at least three years beginning in 2022 as the Cougars join the Longhorns in the Big 12 in 2023.

Houston will return home for a singular match against High Point on Sept. 18 in Fertitta Center.

American Athletic Conference play

will begin on the road for the Cougars as they will play at Tulane Sept. 21 before opening The American home slate against Cincinnati Sept. 25.

Houston will host two-time defending The American champions UCF Oct. 7 in Fertitta Center, a match that will pit the winner and runner up of The American 2021 regular season early in conference play. The Cougars will make the return trip to Orlando in the final regular season match of the year Nov. 25.

A five-match home stand will take place Oct. 21 through Nov. 2, beginning with Wichita State and featuring Tulsa, Temple, East Carolina and Tulane, a six-team grouping the Cougars went 10-2 against in 2021.

The 31-match slate features seven teams that won 20-plus matches in 2021, and four that won 25-plus. UCF and Texas each won 27 matches in 2021.

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