

SEVEN LAKES CLINCHES FIRST REGIONAL TOURNAMENT BID IN 11 YEARS
SPORTS | B1

Katy Times



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THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

The Katy Police Department operates a drone, which in 2021 took this photo of the iconic Katy water tower, which had been updated to honor Katy High's 2015 and 2019 state championships in softball.



Eye in the sky

Council approves software purchase for police-operated drones

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council Feb. 27 approved the purchase of software that

enables the police department's drone program to broadcast a live video feed to police and other emergency management personnel, and improve safety of officers, first responders and the public.

In a memorandum to the council urging the purchase, Police Chief Noe Diaz wrote that the software would enable better allocation of resources and personnel

See **DRONES**, page A3

Ballots set for May 6 municipal, school board elections

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Area voters will have plenty of choices to make in the upcoming May 6 general election. Here is an overview of who has filed for what office in Katy, Brookshire and Pattison.

City of Katy

At its Feb. 27 meeting, the Katy City Council voted to declare incumbent Council Member-at-Large Chris Harris and Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson elected, as neither drew an opponent. Harris is a public safety consultant. Robertson is a financial advisor.

The third council member who is up for election, Janet Corte, a retired IT manager, drew an opponent in Cara Bonin, a contractor.

Harris and Corte are the longest-serving council members. Both were first elected to two-year terms in 2018 and re-elected to three-year terms in 2020 after Katy voters changed the city charter. Harris and Robertson will take office for their final terms in May, as will the winner of the Corte-Bonin race.

Harris and Robertson will be serving their final term under term limits, as will Corte if re-elected.

See **ELECTION**, page A3



Two chess players consider their possible moves during a Feb. 25 match at Paetow High. ADRIANA CAMPERO

Checkmate

“This would be a battle of the wits, as they say.”
—DAWOUD RIVAS, Paetow chess sponsor and English teacher

KATY ISD CHESS TEAMS HOLD FIRST DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

To hear Dawoud Rivas, a ninth-grade English teacher Paetow High, tell it, Katy ISD is known for its athletic programs. But as Paetow's chess sponsor, he and his team—and their peers around the district—are making moves of their own.

Rivas said that while Morton Ranch and Tompkins high schools do not have their own chess teams, the other seven Katy ISD high schools do. Those teams had a chance to show their stuff at the first-ever Katy ISD chess tournament, held Feb. 25 at Paetow High, 23111 Stockdick School Road.

“This would be a battle of the wits, as they say,” Rivas said.

See **CHESS**, page A3

Katy ISD parent and volunteer to lead bond committee

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Alejandro Avendano, a Katy ISD parent and volunteer, was announced as chairperson for the district's Community Bond Advisory Committee at the Feb. 27



ALEJANDRO AVENDANO

Katy school trustees meeting. Avendano will lead the 150-member committee as it assesses budgets and campus capital needs, as well as

through important decision-making processes leading to the development of a potential November 2023 school bond.

Avendano is known for his active involvement in numerous organizations. While he has lived in Houston for almost 22 years, eight of those years have been in Katy. He is a father of two high school students currently enrolled in Katy ISD and has been married to Ana Avendano for 22 years.

During any given week, Avendano volunteers in fundraising activities at his children's schools or giving of his time through the Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) program. He is a professional engineer by trade, previously working for an oil service company and an international oil company for over 21 years. Today he currently serves as mergers and acquisitions deal lead for an international oil company. Avendano possesses a wealth of knowledge in both commercial and financial projects.

“I am eager to work closely with the members of the Community Bond Advisory Committee,” Alejandro Avendano, Katy ISD parent and bond committee chairperson, said. “Just like other Katy ISD parents, I want to ensure every child receives the best education possible and that families understand clearly how the resources the district receives will provide the maximum value for their children. This includes access to high-quality teachers, needed resources, a safe and secure learning environment, among other items which will be a priority during our committee discussions. I'm honored to play a part in planning for Katy ISD's future and I encourage community members to get involved and follow along with the bond development process.”

The first CBAC meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. March 29. For more information on the committee, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/41tpBFr.

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March 2, 2023
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POLICE BRIEFS

Local boy expected to live after shooting

STAFF REPORT

A 17-year-old male is being charged with aggravated assault following a shooting that occurred Feb. 28 in the 1000 block of Apache Falls Drive in the Cimarron subdivision, the Harris County Sheriff said.

Nathan O'Rourke, the 17-year-old, was with a 15-year-old friend, handling a gun, that went off and wounded the 15-year-old, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said in a tweet. The 15-year-old was struck in the chest.

The 15-year-old was taken by LifeFlight to a local hospital, where he was reported in fair condition and expected to survive, Gonzalez said.

Fort Bend Sheriff's office arrests man for prostitution

Fort Bend Sheriff's Office Human Trafficking Unit detectives Feb. 23 arrested a woman on a prostitution charge at a massage business in the 25700 block of Westheimer Parkway.

The arrest came after detectives and the Fort Bend County district attorney's office investigated the business. The sheriff's office said Yan Yuan, 37, of Fort Bend County, was arrested, charged with prostitution and has been released on bond.

This case has been turned over to Fort Bend County Attorney's Office for further review.



DEBBIE PREJEAN

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Human Trafficking Unit detectives arrest Yan Yuan Feb. 23 on a prostitution charge.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Frost Bank in Katy to host chuck wagon breakfast March 3

In the spirit of rodeo season, Frost Bank in Katy is hosting a chuck wagon breakfast that is open to the public. The breakfast is set for 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the Katy Mason Financial Center, 21875 Katy Fwy.

Lions Field Day, Melvin Jones Fellowship Drawing set for March 5

The Katy Lions are holding their first-ever Melvin Jones Fellowship Drawing at their upcoming Lions Field Day. Tickets are \$5. The drawing is part of the Katy Lions Carnival, which runs March 3-5 at Southland Bar & Grill, 5990 Stockdick Road. For more information, call the Katy Lions at 713-714-6789 or visit the website katylions.org.

Fort Bend County libraries celebrate craft month with series of adult programs

In recognition of National Craft Month in March, Fort Bend County Libraries will present a series of craft-themed programs to introduce people to new hobbies and activities, and to give current crafters inspiration and new ideas. Here is the schedule of activities for the Katy and Fulshear areas:

- **Craft Club:** 2-4 p.m. on March 14 and 28 at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd, Craft enthusiasts of all experience levels who enjoy any type of crafting are invited to attend to get other crafters' perspectives, critiques, and suggestions. Chat and network with other crafters who enjoy anything from art and needlework to woodwork and much more. Those attending should bring their projects and their own crafting supplies. Crafters are invited to come and go as time permits.
- **Nifty Needlers:** 12-2 p.m. March 17 at the Bob Lutz Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library, 8100 FM



Fried catfish fillets are on the menu for the annual Katy Police Officers Association Fish Fry, which is set for April 18 at the Merrell Center.

359 South, Fulshear. Needlework enthusiasts of all experience levels who enjoy any type of crocheting, knitting, or sewing are invited to attend to get other needlecrafters' perspectives, critiques, and suggestions. Those attending should bring their own yarn, strings, and needles to start or finish a project, while chatting, networking, and enjoying the company of fellow needlecrafters. The group meets on the third Friday of every month. These programs are free and open to the public. Registration is

required for some of the programs. For more information, call the library system's communications office at 281-633-4734. To register online, visit the website www.fortbend.lib.tx.us, click "Classes & Events," select the branch library, and then find the program on the date indicated.

Katy Lions, Prevent Blindness Texas holding free state screener training March 20
The Katy Lions and Prevent Blindness Texas are holding a free

Texas state screener training and certification course from 4-7 p.m. March 20 at First Christian Church Katy, 22101 Morton Ranch Road. Registration is required. For more information, call the Katy Lions at 713-714-6789, **Katy Police Officer Association annual fish fry set for April 18**
The Katy Police Officers Association is hosting their Annual Fish Fry and auction from 5:30-7:30 p.m. April 18 at the Merrell Center,

6301 S. Stadium Dr. Tickets are \$20 for all you can eat catfish fillets, green beans, hush puppies, potatoes and ice tea. Children ages 6 and under have free admission. Raffle tickets are \$1 each. To purchase tickets, make a donation or provide an auction item for the silent/live auction, call the Katy Police Department at 281-391-4848 or visit the website katy-police-officers-association.square.site/.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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CLUES ACROSS

- Relaxing place
- Plant by scattering
- A type of explorer
- Unique traits
- Lady
- Dismayed
- Railway
- Type of whale
- Sodium
- Manning and Lilly are two
- Where golfers begin
- Entrapped
- Influential punk artist
- Hebrew calendar month
- Car mechanics group
- Undesirable rodent
- Minneapolis suburb
- Witch
- Get free of
- A written proposal or reminder
- British School
- Country on west coast of Africa
- Cool!
- Information
- __ route
- Jim Nantz's network
- Something to register (abbr.)
- Give cards incorrectly
- One who's learning on the job
- Stevenson adventure novel
- Taking careful notice
- CNN's founder
- Speak badly of

CLUES DOWN

- A person with unusual powers of foresight
- Single sheet of glass
- Portrays a character
- Expresses happiness
- Acquires
- "The Martian" author
- Degree
- 60-minute intervals
- A detective's pal
- Group of nations (abbr.)
- Popular Georgia rockers
- Fencing swords
- Basement
- Samoan monetary unit
- Male parent
- Finnish lake
- A smooth fabric
- Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- Very willing
- Expressed pleasure
- Lasso
- Hindu model of ideal man
- Move your head in approval
- Ill-__: gained illegally
- Die
- Accused publicly
- Precious stone
- Individual thing or person
- Behaved in a way that degraded
- Derogatory term
- No seats available
- Liability
- Popular beverage
- Tough outer skin of fruit
- __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- Troubles
- Negative
- Camper

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

CHESS

from page A1

Rivas, a 2009 graduate of Katy High, said he has had an interest in chess since childhood. By his own admission, he's "always been OK" at the game, which said he learned from his older brother.

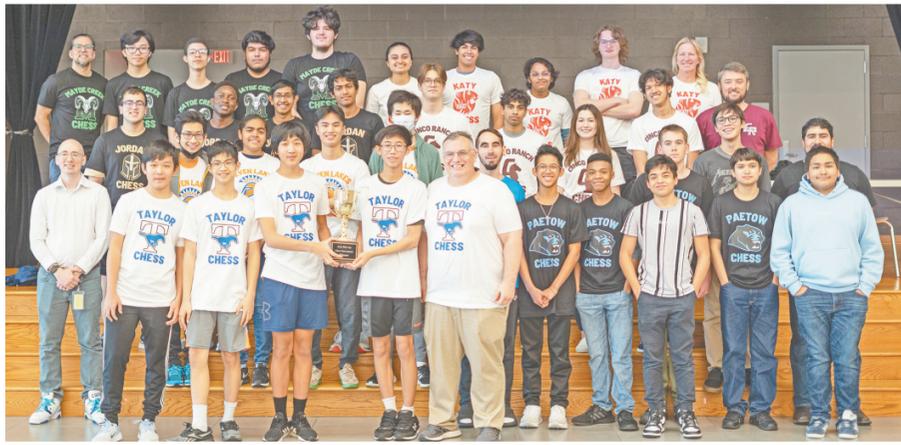
When he joined the Paetow faculty, he learned he wasn't the only one with an interest in chess. But having a school chess team? That was another matter.

"We started out not having a sponsor for chess," Rivas said. "One of my kids asked me if I wanted to be a sponsor. I was reluctant at first, but he was persistent."

Rivas went for it. He asked other sponsors around the school and district how to go about becoming a team sponsor.

Chess players make a commitment just as their athletic counterparts do, Rivas said.

"I can't speak for other clubs, but our players practice after school, from 2:35-4 p.m.," Rivas



ADRIANA CAMPERO

Chess teams from Cinco Ranch, Jordan, Katy, Mayde Creek, Paetow, Seven Lakes and Taylor high schools participated in the first Katy ISD chess tournament, held Feb. 25 at Paetow High.

said. "They come in and they play."

From his discussions with other sponsors, Rivas said, someone suggested holding a district chess tournament. Each team brought in its four best players. Include the sponsors, parents and volunteers, and suddenly the tournament

became an event that, ideally, can become an annual thing. Perhaps it could expand beyond that, to include teams from other districts.

"As I was looking into it, it looked as if many ISDs have tournaments," Rivas said.

Yet, contrary to what many

believe, chess is not an elite game. Anybody can play chess, Rivas said.

"All they need is to be steered in the right direction," Rivas said. "It doesn't matter what kind of background or knowledge you have. It's a great game."

ELECTION

from page A1

Katy ISD

Positions 3, 4 and 5 are on the ballot. Position 3 incumbent Ashley Vann, a longtime volunteer and board member, and Position 4 incumbent Leah Wilson, who is retired from the U.S. Air Force, are not seeking re-election. Position 5 incumbent Greg Schulte is seeking re-election.

Three candidates have filed for the position 3 seat. They are Bruce Bradford, a mortgage loan originator; Shana Peterson, who is retired, and Amy Thieme, a realtor.

Three candidates have filed for the position 4 seat. They are Erica Brettell, a stay-at-home mother; Morgan Calhoun, a stay-at-home mother, and Cicely Taylor, an education administrator.

In addition to Schulte, an engineer and business owner, two other candidates have filed for the position 5 seat. They are Mary Ellen Cuzela, a Katy ISD substitute teacher, and Shawn Miller, a professor.

City of Brookshire

The Brookshire city election features a rematch between former Mayor Eric Scott, who served from 2013-19, and incumbent Mayor Darrell Branch, who defeated Scott that year.

Position 1 incumbent Monique Taylor is unopposed in her re-election bid.

Position 2 incumbent Lyndon Stamps is not seeking re-election. Running for the seat are Tony McAnelly, a retired nonprofit executive, and Jimmy Sanders, a write-in candidate.

City of Pattison

The incumbents holding positions 3, 4 and 5—Robert McCallum, Seth Stokes and Randall Flowers, respectively—are not seeking re-election. Only one of the three races is contested.

For position 3, Ken Coulter, who is retired, is running unopposed.

For position 4, Wesley Sandy Buller, who is self-employed, is running unopposed.

For position 5, Daphney Kirby, who is a business owner, faces Princella Beckley Lazard, who is a bus monitor.

Royal ISD

Royal ISD trustee terms are decided in the November election. However, the district has a \$144 million bond on the May ballot for voters to consider.

DRONES

from page A1

to better manage active scenes, whether they be disasters, looking for wanted, lost or missing persons and search and rescue operations.

"If there's a lost child, an elderly person missing from home, we can pop it up in infrared and we can get there before the helicopter does," Diaz said.

Speaking to the council at its meeting, Diaz said the purchase the council was being asked to make was just for software. Eventually, he said, new, more sophisticated drones would be needed, but not at this time.

"This is just a software," Diaz said. "We're getting way ahead of other police departments with this science. The software that we're purchasing allows us to track everything we use the drones for."

Diaz told the council that



CITY OF KATY

This picture of Katy City Hall by the police-operated drone was shown to council members and the public as part of a live demonstration.

the drone has about a three-mile range because of nearby airports. He said police needed flight controller permission before using the drones, but such approval was regular.

While discussing what the

drones could do, the drone was actually in operation just outside City Hall. An officer was operating the drone and council members could see the live feed of City Hall, the Katy Harvest Plaza across the street, and local

traffic. He said the drone was primarily for the city's business district, and also for Katy neighborhoods. A key difference of the new software, he said, was that the police can track data it could not in the past.

In his memo, Diaz wrote that the software integrates with the drones that the police already own. It maintains flight logs and all pertinent data that exceeds what the FAA requires. In this way, Diaz wrote, the department is relieved of potential liability in case of audit or accidents.

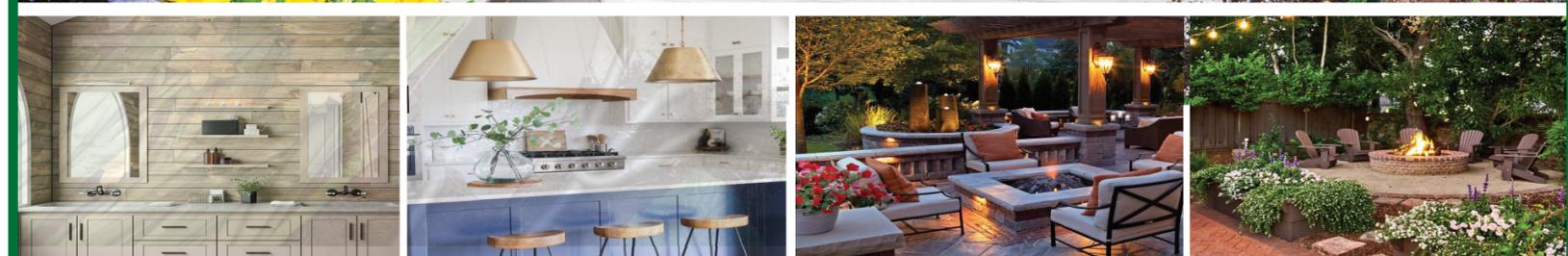
The contract is with Drone-Sense Software, an Austin-based company. Diaz said agencies around the state use the software. Diaz recommended that the initial contract be purchased through the police department's asset forfeiture fund.

"It's time for us to really step up and protect the community," Diaz said.

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My baby is 240 months old

In many of my writings, I've discussed my "three teenage daughters." It was a neat, concise way of referring to the people who made me what I am today—deeply in debt.

Seriously, though, they made me a dad and added a new level of purpose, joy and relentless anxiety to my life. Well, my eldest and most expensive daughter recently nullified that succinct phrasing by turning 20. (The anxiety hasn't let up.)

For the past 19 years, we've observed each of her birthdays by throwing elaborately-themed celebrations with designer cakes (usually featuring "horsies"), multiple trips to the local party store and (sometimes) frantic do-it-yourself plumbing in the aftermath of a slumber party.

One of her more memorable parties was a birthday fiesta when she was a toddler. We had maracas, mariachi music, Tex-Mex food and Tex-Mex food. (I'm pretty sure I was just trying to re-create my favorite restaurant at home.)

The highlight of the party (other than the Tex-Mex food) was a piñata that was apparently constructed with bullet-proof armor. After I fumbled around with a box cutter, my dad pulled out what he called a "real knife" for some piñata modifications to keep the kids from ruining their rotator cuffs. (I was able to grab most of the Snickers bars.)

We hosted another "little girl" party at a local horse stable where the kids rode ponies, and I spent most of my time trying to keep everyone from eating hay and ruining their footwear.

Our greatest success might have been when my daughter turned 18 and we managed to pull off a surprise party that included her high school friends—whom we had to invite in secret by creepily messaging them on Instagram. Oh, the horror!

She actually loved the party, and my consolation for the expense was that it was held at Fuzzy's Taco Shop. Our daughter seemed truly appreciative and impressed by our efforts—for a minute or two.

Since she's now off at college, we thought we might avoid a birthday party this year, but we caved when she texted us to request "another cool cake," followed by a manipulative heart emoji. Our first mistake was allowing her to handle ordering

JASE GRAVES
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



For the past 19 years, we've observed each of her birthdays by throwing elaborately-themed celebrations with designer cakes (usually featuring "horsies"), multiple trips to the local party store and (sometimes) frantic do-it-yourself plumbing in the aftermath of a slumber party.

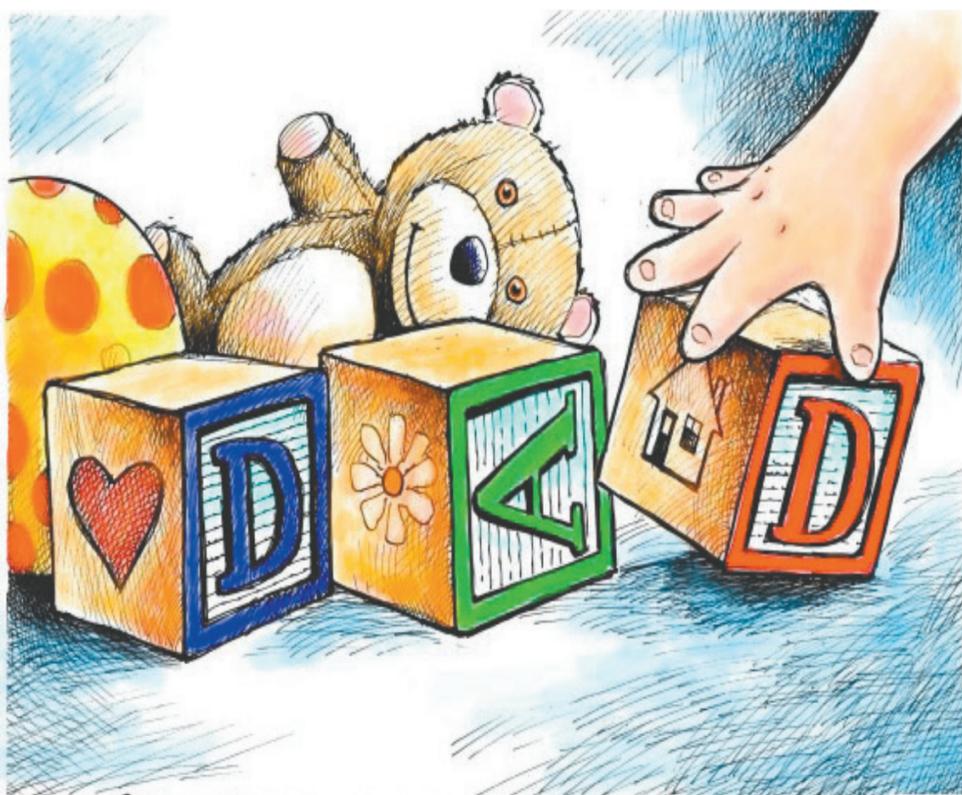
the cake, which cost roughly the same as my latest round of dental work.

The "cool cake" quickly morphed into a birthday picnic brunch at a lakeside park (near a coffee shop—of course) with some of her college friends. The cake was accompanied by an extravagant fruit tray and a large arrangement of "the Lord's" Chick-n-Minis from Chick-fil-A. She even invited me and my wife to attend—as long as we kept our distance and pretended to be groundskeepers.

When the party was over and I had finished pulling weeds, she gave us a big hug and thanked us for making her feel special, which made the whole thing worth it.

Since I no longer have three teenage daughters, I guess I'll start calling them my "three mostly-grown daughters" or my "three semi-adult daughters." And maybe they'll forgive me if I slip once in a while and call them my three little girls.

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



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Have you ever taken your business somewhere else?

Just heard about a local business losing a major customer over a trivial misunderstanding.

Most of us hate change and maintain loyalty to a brand or retailer through thick and thin. True, this veers into creepiness in extreme cases, such as refusing to outgrow your old pediatrician. ("But I don't trust anyone else with my ED issues, doc. Do you happen to have a lollipop and the latest 'Humpty Dumpty' magazine to ease my mid-life crisis?")

And I know it's difficult to relinquish trusted lawyers, accountants or other professionals. Which reminds me of my friend Dinsdale, his recently deceased insurance agent and the whole séance thing. ("Is that you that Madame Zelda conjured up, Frank? I figured you could give me some advice since you've looked at term life insurance from both sides now...")

But occasionally, either an unforgivable one-off customer service faux pas or the steady drip, drip, drip of aggravations pushes consumers to the breaking point and unleashes their righteous indignation.

I know my wife and I switched propane companies because of the way management fired a sick employee. And we have sworn off a local restaurant because the waiter refused to honor the price posted on the front door (and the manager was never available when we tried to get satisfaction).



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Cost, quality and timeliness can all be areas of concern. Have you ever had a relationship with an independent contractor that never quite got off the ground? ("This is Joe from The Turbo-Charged Handyman. Am I speaking to Mr. Eduardo Hickenlooper? Oh, Mr. Eduardo Hickenlooper the third? I guess that was your grandfather and father who left so many messages. Anyhow, we're ready to schedule installing your asbestos...")

Sometimes an obnoxious or incompetent individual employee is the bone of contention. Sometimes a systemic new store policy is the straw that breaks the camel's back. Such policies might include having to scan your own groceries, losing the right to free drink refills, discovering that the business automatically tacks on gratuities for the store mannequins, etc.

Sometimes clerks, mechanics, etc. are clearly in the wrong. Sometimes the customer is demonstrably unreasonable. And sometimes there is a gray area. But if the gray area involves 10 acres of

landscaping, refer back to the first point.

Don't get trigger-happy with the old "The customer is always right" gambit. Think about it. You mean all those fun-loving Gestapo agents were invariably in the right when they ran their errands? ("Ve haff vays of making you validate parking.")

I'm not sure which is worse: the irate customers who launch into a profanity-laced spectacle in a crowded business or the people who fade away without telling management why or warning their peers. ("Hey, look at the headline, honey. Someone ELSE disturbed that nest of boa constrictors in the restroom at O'Malley's Gym. Guess maybe I should've sent that Yelp review after all. Live and learn.")

Strive for an amicable resolution of problems. Count to 10 before saying something you may regret, but don't forget to show some backbone. Understandably, this is difficult if the backbone is the issue. ("I know this was just supposed to be a root canal, but somehow I removed your spine as well. My bad.")

Discuss your problems like adults. Unless some booger-head has already colored all the pictures in 'Humpty Dumpty'! Then tantrums are downright upright.

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

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I DON'T KNOW! SOMETIMES I WONDER MYSELF IF I TRULY HAVE THIS MUCH HATE IN MY HEART, OR IF I'M JUST DOING IT FOR THE LIKES.



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P. BYRNES

TRIBUTES

Mary Ruth Harrell, age 77, passed away after a hard fought battle with cancer on February 15, 2023. She was born May 10, 1945 to Shirley and Paul Vaughan in Bryan, TX. Mary was preceded in death by her husband Dick Harrell and her father Paul and mother Shirley.

Mary, affectionately known as "M.R.," grew up in Katy, TX where she enjoyed a lively childhood full of wonderful friends and family, graduating from Katy High School, and the Sam Houston State University, receiving her bachelor's degree in education. She enjoyed a long career teaching in Fort Bend county until retirement.

M.R.'s children consisted of her horses, dogs, and the occasional stray cat. Her passion for horses and the cowgirl lifestyle originated at an early age. At 8 years old, her grandfather Luke Senior would saddle her horse in the barn (still standing) at his ranch along side Bessie Creek in Simonton, TX. She was free to roam from there, her only boundary being the Brazos River, and her only rule was "get back before sundown". M.R. spent the last 40 years of her life in Simonton encircled by a host of wonderful friends, riding her horses, caring for her dogs, growing daylilies, and going to rodeos with her beloved husband, Dick.

During the last couple years of her battle with cancer she remained surrounded by her beloved and loyal friends and family. Among her wonderful friends were also a few special "Angels": Ted and Sheila Kasmerski, Amy Stilwell, and Jess Hawkins who can never be thanked enough for their support and kindness. M.R. faced her final days showing no fear and never giving up the fight like the true Texas cowgirl she was. As now the lone survivor from her Katy home, M.R.'s brother, David, prays this obituary honors her life and the wonderful friends that were a part of it. We will miss her dearly.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.



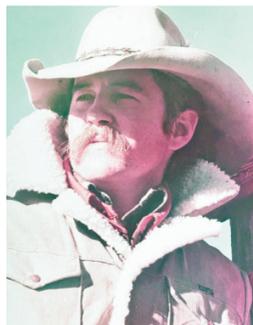
MARY RUTH HARRELL
1945-2023

Leslie Cletus Brown III passed away on February 19, 2023, in Houston, Texas. Cletus III was born in Houston on August 4, 1952, to Leslie Cletus Brown Jr. and Betty Showers Brown. He attended Katy High School and Schreiner Institute Military Academy Preparatory School, graduating in 1970. He went on to study business and graduated from the University of Houston-Downtown.

Cletus III met the love of his life, Ann Lacy Brown, on the Kokernot 06 Ranch, and they married on August 5, 1978. Together, they raised three children.

Cletus III helped with the Boy Scouts and was involved with his church, Brookshire First United Methodist Church. Later he was also active at Christ Church Cathedral. He also served on several community boards and was active in his children's schools. He and Ann enjoyed many trips to the ranch with family and friends. They also enjoyed country and western dancing.

Cletus III leaves behind a legacy of integrity, solidarity, hard work, compassion, and caring that was bestowed on relatives and friends who received many blessings, thanks to



LESLIE CLETUS BROWN III
1952-2023

his values and the love he passed on. He was a proud law-abiding Texan and mentor who loved history, books, and fishing. Cletus III was happiest when he was working for his mother on the Brown family farm and spending time with her.

Cletus III will be remembered as a larger-than-life man whose spontaneous smile and infectious laugh made an incredible impact on every heart he touched. He was a kind and generous soul with a positive attitude who always believed everything was going to work out for the best.

Cletus III is survived by a loving family and many friends. He was "Popi" to his children and grandchildren. We know that he is rejoicing in heaven with those who

preceded him in death: his father Leslie Cletus Jr., his brother Edward Showers Brown, and his sister Betty Ann Brown Davis, as well as many beloved friends and relatives.

Cletus III is survived by his loving wife Ann Lacy Brown, his mother Betty Showers Brown, his sister Kathy Armstrong Lang and her husband Danny, and Cletus and Ann's children: Leslie Cletus "Cuatro" Brown IV and his wife Meaghan Frazier Brown; Edward Showers Brown II, his wife Stephanie Greenfield Brown, and their children Hannah and Meyer; and Lucile Cooper Lacy Brown-LaPoint, her husband Michael LaPoint, and their children Rixon and Everitt.

A visitation was held from 5-8 p.m. on (Tuesday) Feb. 28, 2023, at Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, 13001 Katy Fwy, Houston 77079. The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on (Wednesday) March 1, 2023, at Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Ave., Houston 77002, with a reception to follow. Guests can attend the service via livestream at the following link: <https://christchurchcathedral.org/cletusbrown>

Cletus III will be interred at the Kokernot 06 Ranch in

West Texas at a future date. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Christ Church Cathedral.

Cletus will be revered in heaven for his love of horse-back riding and working cattle for his mother, the Kokernot 06 Ranch, and many other ranches, which gave him fodder for his many marvelous stories. In honor of his appreciation for the life of the cowboy, we share this excerpt from the Cowboy Prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we pause at this time, mindful of the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. We ask, Lord, that you will be with us in this life. We ask that you help us to compete in life as honestly as the horses we ride and in a manner as clean and pure as the wind that blows across this great land of ours. Help us, Lord, to live our lives in such a manner that when we make that last inevitable ride to the country up there, where the grass grows lush, green, and stirrup-high, and the water runs cool, clear, and deep, you will take us by the hand...

Amen
Fond memories and expressions of sympathy will be shared at www.memorialoaksfunerals.com for the Brown family.

The Katy Times

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Katy Home & Garden Show set for March 25-26

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The 17th annual Katy Home & Garden Show and Barndo Expo will be March 25-26 at the Katy ISD's Gerald D. Young Agriculture Services Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cutoff Road.

Bright colors and natural warmer palettes are on trend for 2023, plus the bath as a home sanctuary and enhanced outdoor entertainment spaces. It's time to make those home dreams a reality with a visit to the largest home and garden show in the West Houston area. Comparison shop on everything for the home from windows to doors, floors, outdoor living areas, landscape, pools, kitchens, baths, and more. Featured attractions include the Barndominium Expo with leading barndominium designer Stacey Lynn and Barndo Builder Josh Helms; the RV Zone, Pet Central, Garden & Outdoor Living, the Cheese Chica and much more.

Is it time to give the house a fresh coat of paint? Renovate the kitchen or bath or finally build that long-awaited outdoor living area? Fresh ideas are always on trend at the Katy Home & Garden Show.

The Barndo Expo features not only products and services for the Barndo Lifestyle, but also the foremost barndominium designer in the U.S., Stacey Lynn, aka The Barndominium Lady. She has designed more than 200 barndominiums across the U.S. Barndominiums are metal structured buildings designed as homes for people seeking expansive space, high ceilings, low maintenance, faster construction time and energy efficiency.

Stacey Lynn will be featured on both Saturday and Sunday on the Fresh Ideas Stage presented by Culligan Water.

Chat with Barndo Builder and Texas Best Construction owner Josh Helms, who is considered one of the leading builders in the barndo space who was awarded the Best Barndominium Builder in Texas. Josh will be featured on the Fresh Ideas stage on Saturday.

Want to split your time between home and the open road? Take a spin through the RV Zone and tour travel trailers and RVs from Explore USA to find your home away from home. Explore over 10,000 sq ft of Garden & Outdoor Living and spruce up your yard with beautiful colors at The Brookwood Community's Spring Plant Sale. Don't forget the fur baby has a home in Pet Central. And for home entertainment fans, The Cheese Chica will return with delicious tips on



KATY HOME & GARDEN SHOW

The Katy Home & Garden Show will feature exhibits and vendors that can provide inspiration for landscaping ideas.



Stacey Lynn and Josh Helms will be among the speakers at the Katy Home & Garden Show, which is set for March 25-26



KATY HOME & GARDEN SHOW

the latest in charcuterie boards.

"We're really excited about our upcoming show," Robyn Cade, RJC Productions president, producers of the Katy Home & Garden Show, said. "There are many new exhibits and loads of great ideas whether

you're a new or existing homeowner or renter looking to buy or simply spruce up your space. We've assembled an all-star team of industry experts with a tremendous passion for sharing tips and trends. Plus—who doesn't love

pouring over new ideas to enhance the place where we spend most of our lives with friends and family. We always encourage show attendees to bring photos and ideas as this is a great place to comparison shop all under one roof,"

This year even kids mean business. A new feature is the Youth Entrepreneur Market featuring over 20 Katy-area students ages 6-17 selling their unique products. These kids have their own small business models and have learned things like idea implementation, product cost, packaging, budgeting, ROI and so forth. Come shop with them and support young entrepreneurs in the making.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 25 and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 26.

To register for a \$250 shopping spree or for additional information, directions to the Katy ISD Ag Center, seminar times and hours visit the website katyhomeandgardenshow.com or call 832-392-0165. Tickets are \$9 at the door. Parking is free.

Sunday is hero day where all active military personnel, veterans, fire department, police force and first responders, Katy ISD and Cy-Fair ISD employees receive free admission for two by showing a valid ID at the box office.

Baker Katz executes real estate leases in Katy, Fulshear

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston-based Baker Katz, a full-service commercial real estate brokerage firm specializing in retail tenant representation, investment sales, and project development and leasing, announced the firm has executed four real estate leases to serve the Katy and Fulshear communities.

Two leases were executed on behalf of Alpha Male Low T Centers, a healthcare clinic focused on empowering men's health through treatments for underlying conditions. The first lease is a 2,214-square-foot clinic located at The Crossing on FM 1463 and FM 1093 in Fulshear. The second lease is a 2,500-square-foot clinic and will be a part of the new development on Fry Road and Tuckerton Road in Cypress. Fulshear will open later this year.

Piada will open a 2,387-square-foot lo-

cation at FM 1463 & Fulshear Bend Drive inside of The Market at Cross Creek Ranch. Piada provides fast-casual Italian cuisine. This location will open later this year and is Piada's fifth location in Houston.

Another lease was executed on behalf of Charleys, a Philly cheesesteak restaurant chain with over 600 stores nationwide and the most locations in Texas. The 1,317-square-foot restaurant is located in Morton Ranch Town Center at 22850 Grand Parkway and Morton Ranch Road in Katy. The location will open later this year.

"Our firm is proud to support the expansion of new businesses to surrounding communities in Houston," John Frazier, Baker Katz retail broker, said. "We continue to leverage our expertise in the commercial real estate market to provide tenants with the opportunity to secure high-visibility and quality space to maximize their growth in Texas."

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office expanding Project Lifesaver

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Program teamed up with the Harris County Sheriff's office to conduct Project Lifesaver training for the Katy Police Department. This initiative comes after the Fort Bend and Harris county sheriff's departments conducted training for the Katy ISD Police Department to become a search team.

Project Lifesaver is a free resource for individuals who suffer from cognitive disabilities such as Autism, Alzheimer's or dementia who are prone to wandering. The individual is registered with their local law enforcement agency and receive a bracelet that is equipped with radio-frequency technology. In the event they wander, law enforcement has their information ahead of time and can track the individual's bracelet using the latest technology to bring them home safely.

In a two-part training session, Katy Police officers learned about the Project Lifesaver program and were given a written test. The second session consisted of hypothetical scenarios where officers were put to the test on their capabilities using a receiver to find the missing subject during a practice search.

"Project Lifesaver is a great resource for our community and we are excited to share



FORT BEND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan, in hat, and his department worked with Harris County Sheriff's deputies and Katy city officials, including Ward A Council Member Janet Corte, center, and Police Chief Noe Diaz, fifth from left, to expand the Project Lifesaver program.

it with our surrounding law enforcement partners," Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan said. "In situations involving people with cognitive disabilities, time is of the essence."

To enroll your loved one in this free program with the Fort Bend County Sheriff's office, visit the website at fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments/sheriff-office/programs/project-lifesaver.

"Project Lifesaver is a great resource for our community and we are excited to share it with our surrounding law enforcement partners. In situations involving people with cognitive disabilities, time is of the essence."

—ERIC FAGAN, Fort Bend County Sheriff

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SHARING WISDOM, ENCOURAGEMENT

Katy ISD elementary school namesakes Cindie Faldyn and her husband Russell Faldyn visited the construction site for the school that will be named in their honor. They toured the site and each took a moment to share some wisdom. Russell and Cindie Faldyn Elementary is one of two elementary schools set to open this fall. The other will be named in honor of long-time Katy ISD educators David and Terri Youngblood.

KATY ISD



KATY ISD

Robertson Elementary Principal Martha Pulido and Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski join Robertson Elementary namesakes Steve and Elaine Robertson for the unveiling of their portrait, which will be displayed in the school named in their honor.

Katy ISD dedicates new Robertson Elementary School

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Former Katy ISD educators Steve and Elaine Robertson were joined by the Robertson "Bulldog" Family during the Feb. 21 official dedication ceremony of the district's newest elementary school. During the ceremony, the school community enjoyed performances from the Bulldog Choir, presentations from elected officials, and heard heartfelt remarks from district leadership and the Robertsons.

"We are so proud of this school and everyone in it. It has been such a privilege to be a part of this wonderful school as it was being built and when it opened its doors," Steve Robertson said. "The joy on the faces of our staff, students and their families will always be remembered in our hearts."

Steve and Elaine Robertson have dedicated a combined 64 years of service in public education. Steve Robertson began his career as an elementary teacher in Spring Branch ISD in 1985. His passion for school leadership led him to roles in Conroe ISD and then Katy ISD, where he served as an elementary, junior high and high school principal, and eventually as an assistant superintendent for secondary school leadership and support. In these roles, Robertson led school improvement efforts, increased student performance and provided support and mentorship to staff and campus leadership.

Elaine Robertson began her career with West 10 Cooperative in 1987 as a deaf education elementary teacher. She chose to focus on her family for a few years but returned to education in 1997 as a parent-infant advisor for Katy ISD.

In 2022, she assumed the role of instructional officer for deaf education, vision and assistive technology, where she wrote grants to fund innovative instruction, provided staff development, and served on inclusion teams and site-based management teams. She also organized extra-curricular programs to bridge academic and social gaps between the deaf and hard of hearing and other students and was instrumental in establishing Katy ISD's Audiological Center. In 2020, both educators retired from Katy ISD.

"The Robertsons have demonstrated a lifetime of exemplary service and commitment to the Katy community," Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski said. "Steve and Elaine's spirit of service is already embedded in the culture of Robertson Elementary."

As part of the ceremony, a school portrait that will hang at the entrance of the school was revealed and the couple was presented with a framed picture of the Robertson staff, surrounded by fingerprints of all current Robertson students.

Steve & Elaine Robertson Elementary is located at 7400 Innovation Drive in the Cane Island subdivision.



KATY ISD

Robertson Elementary students sing as part of the official dedication for Robertson Elementary, 7400 Innovation Drive. The school, the district's 44th, is in the Cane Island subdivision.

KATY ISD NAMES ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR



Krista Gillaspia of Jeanette Hayes Elementary and Jeffrey Carrus from the Opportunity Awareness Center have been named assistant principals of the year in Katy ISD for elementary and secondary schools, respectively.

KISD STUDENT EARNS AWARD FOR ESSAY



Vishnu Siripurapu, an Adams Junior High student, has been selected to receive the Harris County Department of Education's American Voices Nominee Award for his personal essay and memoir entitled, "The Insight of Reality." Over 5,200 student writing pieces were submitted from the region. Only five were selected as "Best of Show" at the regional level, Katy ISD said.

KATY ISD NAMES PARAPROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR



Brenda Gideon (left) from the Katy ISD Educational Support Center's Financial Services Office and Rowena Yap from Miller Career and Technology Center have been named paraprofessionals of the year for the central office and the secondary instructional staff, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR



Pennylane Lara from Pattison Elementary has been named instructional coach of the year.

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Royal ISD provides update on Feb. 10 shooting incident at Royal Elementary

Royal ISD has issued clarifications about a Feb. 10 student in which a Royal Elementary student brought a gun to campus and shot, but did not hurt, two other students.

In a statement, the district said it was notified after its initial report that the item was an air soft gun and not a BB gun. At no time was the campus in an active shooter status. After the incident, a student hid the air soft gun in a backpack.

The district said the campus principal searched the child's backpack, where the air soft gun was found and confiscated. District police were notified as well. The incident has been addressed with the students who were involved. Counseling services are available for any students in need of assistance.

The district recommended that Royal ISD families encourage their child to report concerning incidents and to monitor their child's backpack. The district said no weapons of any kind are allowed in any Royal ISD facility.

Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show enjoys record-breaking year

The 2023 Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show auction totals have officially been announced. Student livestock projects raised a record-breaking \$945,000 at auction, \$130,000 more than in 2022. This year's livestock show consisted of over 430 student exhibitors. Top auction winners included:

Rabbits

- Grand Champion, Emilie Drake, Katy High School, \$5,000
- Reserve Champion, Alexis Grosz, Mayde Creek High School, \$3,500
- Grand Champion Showman, Elizabeth Mahady, Cinco Ranch High School, \$3,500
- Reserve Champion Showman, Ellis Capiro, Katy High School, \$3,000

Broilers

- Grand Champion, Greer Gibson, Katy High School, \$8,000
- Reserve Champion, Jaime

Hahn, Katy High School, \$7,999

- Grand Champion Showman, Jaime Hahn, Katy High School, \$7,999
- Reserve Champion Showman, Chris Garcia, Katy High School, \$4,500

Goats

- Grand Champion, Austin Carr, Cinco Ranch High School, \$5,500
- Reserve Champion, Regina Gonzalez, Cinco Ranch High School, \$5,499
- Grand Champion Showman, McKenna Guyton, Cinco Ranch High School, \$4,000
- Reserve Champion Showman, Prince Mendez, Mayde Creek High School, \$5,499

Lambs

- Grand Champion, Grayson Schneider, Taylor High School, \$8,000
- Reserve Champion, Ariyanna Strong, Cinco Ranch High School, \$4,000
- Grand Champion Showman, Grayson Schneider, Taylor High School, \$8,000
- Reserve Champion Showman, Danielle McCarthy, Taylor High School, \$7,999

Swine

- Grand Champion, Kylie Wingfield, Jordan High School, \$7,500
- Reserve Champion, Rachel Grant, Cinco Ranch High School, \$4,499
- Grand Champion Showman, Isaac Maya, Cinco Ranch High

School, \$4,000

- Reserve Champion Showman, Daisy Stovall, Cinco Ranch High School, \$5,000

Steers

- Grand Champion, Halie Johnson, Morton Ranch High School, \$14,000
- Reserve Champion, Emily Evans, Jordan High School, \$9,000
- Grand Champion Showman, Riley Silves, Paetow High School, \$7,500
- Reserve Champion Showman, Alexandra Gonzalez, Taylor High School, \$13,999

THECB offering new loan to help students complete high-demand degrees

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is now offering a new low-interest loan option for Texas students. The Future Occupations & Reskilling Workforce Advancement to Reach Demand (FORWARD) Loan Program is designed to increase the number of students who obtain high-value credentials in high-demand occupations.

The program is structured to help students complete their degrees with manageable to low debt levels and for students to be able to repay the loan within 10 years.

"The FORWARD Loan Program will help more Texans secure careers in high-demand fields and complete their degrees with manageable debt as they enter the



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Jean Warnke, left, is an award-winning quiltmaker from Spring. She created this quilt to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show. Here, she poses with Diana Robinson Elder, daughter of L.D. Robinson, who created the present-day Katy ISD FFA program. The quilt was auctioned to raise money to support FFA students. Steven P. Clark bid \$12,000 for the quilt.

workforce," Harrison Keller, higher education commissioner, said.

"We are committed to increasing educational attainment for Texans of all ages, with the goal of 95% of all undergraduates completing their credentials with manageable or no debt. This program can be a key piece in achieving those goals."

The program is open to students who are enrolled in a high-demand credential program that the student will be able to complete in two years or less. Eligible programs include technology, nursing/patient care, teaching, supply chain/transportation and logistics, and energy.

"Texas' economic competitiveness depends on an educated workforce," Fred Farias, coordinating board chairman, said.

"The FORWARD Loan is one more program that will help more Texas students enter high-demand jobs and allow them to contribute to, participate in, and benefit from our world class economy."

For additional information, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/41ldjPv.

ARTreach receives Challenge America grant from National Endowment for the Arts

ARTreach, a local nonprofit organization that delivers meaningful art programs to the underserved, announced today that it is

the recipient of a \$10,000 Challenge America grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The NEA awards grants to organizations that reach historically underserved communities with rich and dynamic cultural identities. ARTreach will use the funding for one of its signature programs, Books Alive Literacy Through the Arts, which brings the magic of theater and the gift of literacy to youth by adapting children's literature into fully staged, original musicals performed by professional actors. The NEA grant will specifically support the production of Too Many Frogs at 20 Houston Public Library branches.

For more information, visit the website artreachtexas.org.

Katy-area student named to University of Arkansas dean's list

Emma Drury of Katy was named to the Fall 2022 dean's list in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

Drury joins nearly 2,500 additional Fulbright College students on the Fall 2022 Dean's List. To qualify, students must achieve at least a .375 grand point average for the semester while completing at least 12 credit hours.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



KATY ISD

Halie Johnson of Morton Ranch High School was top auction winner at the 2023 Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show.

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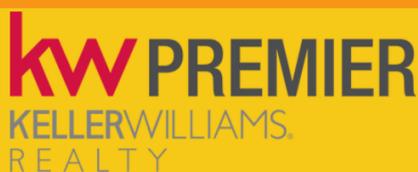
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WEEK OF MARCH 3

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Scores

REGIONAL SEMIFINALS
• Pearland 56, Katy 30

BOYS BASKETBALL

Scores

AREA
• Seven Lakes 68, Heights 56
• Jordan 46, Bellaire 45
• Cy-Creek 91, Tompkins 63

REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS
• Seven Lakes 66, Stratford 61
• Jordan 81, Cy-Creek 62

Friday

REGIONAL SEMIFINALS
• Seven Lakes vs. Clear Creek, 6 p.m., Campbell Center
• Jordan vs. Beaumont United, 7:30 p.m., Campbell Center

SOFTBALL

Thursday

• Paetow at Cy-Park, 11 a.m.
• Katy vs. Alvin, noon
• Taylor vs. Columbia, 12:30 p.m.
• Paetow at Cy-Lakes, 1 p.m.

Friday

• Paetow vs. Katy, 6 p.m.
• Mayde Creek vs. Seven Lakes, 6 p.m.
• Morton Ranch vs. Taylor, 6:15 p.m.
• Jordan vs. Cinco Ranch, 6:15 p.m.

Saturday

• Taylor vs. Terry, 10 a.m.
• Taylor vs. Manvel, noon
• Paetow vs. Oak Ridge, 1 p.m.
• Paetow vs. Tomball Memorial, 9 p.m.

Tuesday

• Cinco Ranch vs. Paetow, 6 p.m.
• Seven Lakes vs. Jordan, 6 p.m.
• Taylor vs. Mayde Creek, 6:15 p.m.
• Tompkins vs. Morton Ranch, 6:15 p.m.

BASEBALL

Thursday

• Seven Lakes vs. Cy-Lakes, 9 a.m.
• Morton Ranch vs. Lee, 9 a.m.
• Morton Ranch vs. Cy-Springs, 11:15 a.m.
• Tompkins at Lamar, 12:30 p.m.
• Seven Lakes at Cy-Fair, 11:30 p.m.
• Katy vs. Clear Springs, 1 p.m.
• Taylor vs. Waller, 1:30 p.m.
• Cinco Ranch at Cy-Fair, 2 p.m.
• Mayde Creek at South Houston, 3 p.m.
• Katy vs. Atascocita, 3:30 p.m.
• Cinco Ranch at Cy-Lakes, 4:30 p.m.
• Jordan at San Marcos, 5 p.m.
• Paetow at Fulshear, 6:30 p.m.

Friday

• Tompkins vs. Santa Fe, 9:30 a.m.
• Seven Lakes at Langham Creek, 10 a.m.
• Mayde Creek at Pasadena, 10 a.m.
• Cinco Ranch vs. Whitehouse, 11:30 a.m.
• Mayde Creek vs. Alief Hastings, 12:30 p.m.
• Seven Lakes vs. Crosby, 12:30 p.m.
• Katy vs. Clear Falls, 1 p.m.
• Paetow vs. Strake Jesuit, 1:30 p.m.
• Cinco Ranch vs. Fort Bend Austin, 2 p.m.
• Tompkins vs. Klein Cain, 2:30 p.m.
• Katy vs. La Porte, 3:30 p.m.
• Paetow at Bellville, 4 p.m.
• Taylor vs. Cy-Ridge, 4 p.m.
• Taylor at George Ranch, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday

• Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Park, 10 a.m.
• Paetow vs. George Ranch, 10 a.m.
• Mayde Creek vs. MacArthur, 10 a.m.
• Taylor vs. Foster, 10 a.m.
• Taylor vs. Clements, 3 p.m.
• Paetow vs. Fort Bend Travis, 3 p.m.
• Katy vs. Dickinson, 3:30 p.m.
• Tompkins vs. Episcopal, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

• Katy vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.
• Cinco Ranch vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
• Paetow vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
• Jordan vs. Mayde Creek, 6 p.m.



AJ Bates goes up for a dunk during Monday's Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal between Seven Lakes and Stratford at the Merrell Center.

Seven Lakes clinches first regional tournament berth in 11 years

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes is out to make history. The Spartans have set their sights high from the beginning of the season and have met their expectations every step along the way. From a district title, to an unbeaten district season, to getting further in the playoffs than the team did last year, Seven Lakes has found a way to keep reaching its goals. The biggest challenge came Monday, as the Spartans faced Stratford in a matchup where the winner clinched a spot in the Class 6A Region III Tournament. Seven Lakes once again found a way, as the Spartans came out 66-61 winners over Stratford, overcoming a stiff test and clinching

a spot in the regional tournament for the first time in 11 years. "It's the best feeling, it's great," said junior point guard A.J. Bates. "For us to be able to get to this point and for us all to be together, it's just special. This was what we set out to do. We wanted to go and put our name in the record books and we've done that. But we want to keep making history." It's the first time since 2012 that the Spartans will be making the trip to the regional tournament, and it's a team advancing that is already putting its name in the record books at Seven Lakes, as the win on Monday, the 34th of the season, set the record for the Spartans most wins in any season ever. "This is just a huge accomplishment and

See SPARTANS, page B3

Tigers' historic run ends with loss to Pearland

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It's been a historic year for Katy. A regular season with only two losses, a district championship for the first time since 2019 and the program's first regional tournament were all huge accomplishments the Tigers made this season. Katy had faced every challenge head on and in most cases came out on top, as a senior led group were able to accomplish a number of firsts for the program. The Tigers came into Friday confident they could find a way to keep things going this season and pick up another win, and even though they were unable to do that, falling to Pearland 56-30 in the Class 6A Regional Semifinals, that doesn't change how successful this year or this team was for the Tigers. "This team, this run meant everything to all of us," said senior forward Lyric Barr. "From the first round of the playoffs to now, it was just an experience that I'll never forget and that I loved so much. I love this team and we all gave everything we had. This season was special."

Katy struggled with the Pearland press early, but two first quarter three-pointers from Ella Robinson kept the Tigers in things despite six turnovers, as Pearland led 12-9. Katy worked to find anything in the second quarter, but the Pearland defense continued to suffocate them with a zone and the Oilers defense held the Tigers without a point the entire second half while going on a 13-0 run to go up 25-9.

See TIGERS, page B2



Ella Robinson shoots a 3-pointer during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Katy and Pearland at the Campbell Center.

Jordan clinches first regional tournament berth with win over Cy-Creek

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Charlie Jones has told his team all season that they could compete with anyone. The Jordan head coach saw the vision of what this team could be from the start and built his players' belief all year. It didn't matter if the Warriors were in their first ever Class 6A season, that it was only the Warriors' second ever varsity season or that they were younger than many of their competitors. Jones saw the talent and his players bought in. The Warriors have made huge

steps along the way and accomplished what they set out to do, finishing second in district and earning the program's first playoff win. But nothing was as big of an accomplishment as what the Warriors did Tuesday, as Jordan beat Cy-Creek 82-61 in the Class 6A

Regional Quarterfinals, as Jordan clinched a spot in the regional tournament for the first time as a program. "All year I've been telling these guys, 'you are good enough to make it to the regional tournament if you believe in it,'" Jones said. "We had a lull in the second half of

our district schedule and we have some young kids, but these guys just weathered the storm. They didn't like it when people counted them out or doubted them and they responded. They're just a great group of kids, I love them and

See JORDAN, page B3



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TYLER TYRE

Elijah Black goes up for a layup during Tuesday's game between Jordan and Taylor at the Jordan gym.

Seven Lakes, Jordan boys teams move on to regional quarters

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes and Jordan each won their area round games on Friday, as both teams moved on to the regional quarterfinals after huge days. The Spartans earned a 68-56 win over Heights in what was a close contest that Seven Lakes was able to pull away from late. The Spartans went up by six after the first quarter, but a big second quarter by Heights gave them a lead and the Spartans went into the locker room down 27-26. But Seven Lakes turned things around in a big way in the second

half, going up by 14 at the end of the third quarter before sealing things in the fourth. Jordan was also in a tight contest that came down to the final seconds, with the Warriors pulling out a 46-45 win over a very talented Bellaire team. It was a tight game throughout, with Jordan holding a six point lead at halftime and having to hold on down the stretch to earn the win. Tompkins had its season come to an end on Friday, falling 91-63 to Cy-Creek. The Falcons put up an admirable performance while they were shorthanded but were unable to pull out a win.

Hicks, Waller named to Whataburger Super Team

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Two Katy ISD players were named to the 2022 Whataburger Super Team, as Paetow's D.J. Hicks and Taylor's Jackson Waller were both named to the team for the 2022 season. Both were among the 40 student-athletes from the state of Texas chosen for the team, with over 900,000 votes being cast for players. Hicks was a huge part of the Paetow defense this past year, leading a team that made a hot run down the stretch and nearly made the playoffs. The Panthers had a dynamic defense all season, making things hard on every team in District 19-6A. Hicks was named first team all district and second team all state after his senior season. Waller was a force on the special teams for Taylor, helping the Mustangs consistently put teams in bad field position and being named to the third team in the All-District 19-6A team. Following is the full Whataburger Super Team.



PHOTO COURTESY JACKSON WALLER

Taylor's Jackson Waller was named to the Whataburger Super Team.

2022 Whataburger Super Team – Offense

Quarterback: Jackson Arnold, Denton Guyer
Running Back: Rueben Owens, El Campo
Running Back: Dalton Brooks, Shiner
Receiver: Johntay Cook, DeSoto
Receiver: Lonnie Adkism, Corpus Christi Miller
Receiver: Jaden Greathouse, Austin Westlake
Offensive Lineman: Colton Thomasson, Smithson Valley
Offensive Lineman: Connor Stroh, Frisco Wakeland
Offensive Lineman: Jaydon Chatman, Killeen Harker Heights
Offensive Lineman: Harris Sewell, Odessa Permian
Offensive Line: Ian Reed, Austin Vandegrift

2022 Whataburger Super Team – Defense

Defensive Lineman: David Hicks Jr., Katy Paetow
Defensive Lineman: Colton Vasek, Austin Westlake
Defensive Lineman: Riley Van Poppel, Argyle
Linebacker: Taurean York, Temple
Linebacker: Zylor Jones, Cuero
Linebacker: Anthony Hill, Denton Ryan
Defensive Back: Malik Muhammad, South Oak Cliff
Defensive Back: Daevon Iles, Port Arthur Memorial
Defensive Back: Bravion Rogers, La Grange
Defensive Back: Javien Toviano, Arlington Martin
Punter: Owen Levesque, El Paso Coronado
Utility: Peyton Bowen, Denton Guyer
Utility: Warren Roberson, Red Oak
Utility: Tyler Turner, San Antonio Brennan
Utility: Princewill Umanmielen, Manor

2022 Whataburger Super Team – Fan's Choice

Quarterback: Jacob Vaughan, Argyle Liberty Christian
Running Back: Jayden Walker, McKinney North
Wide Receiver/Tight End: Justin Navarro, Edinburg Vela
Offensive Lineman: Will Hutchens, Lindale
Defensive Lineman: Boone Morris, Mount Vernon
Linebacker: S'Maje Burrell, North Crowley
Defensive Back: Randon Fontenette, Brazosport
Kicker: Cub Patton, Lubbock-Cooper
Punter: Kyle Chambers, Cy-Fair
Punter: Jackson Waller, Katy Taylor



Paetow's DJ Hicks celebrates after catching a touchdown pass against Conroe earlier this season.

KELLY RICHMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

TIGERS

from page B1

"We struggled with making our first shots today and with Pearland's size, we also struggled to get on the boards after that." Said Katy head coach Shanna Marhofer. "We didn't handle the ball well either, and all of Pearland's secondary players stepped up tonight. You have to hand it to them — that's a really good team."

The Tigers though, didn't stop fighting in the second half — they found their offensive rhythm, scoring 13 in the third quarter. But the Pearland offense was also potent and the Tigers still trailed by 19 heading into the fourth, where the Oilers were able to see out the game.

"I just told them in the locker room that this game doesn't define them as people or as a team," Marhofer said. "They did some incredible things this year that they should be proud of. The school and the community are proud of them and they should be proud of themselves. It's the first time they've gotten here and they were so strong all season. They can keep their heads high and be proud that they got to this point."

Katy will graduate eight seniors from a very senior dominant team, but will bring

back two starters and welcome a number of talented newcomers next season. This group has given all of the underclassman something to strive to and gives them heights they will want to reach and surpass, while the seniors have passed on a legacy of success and hard work.

"It's all about hard work and that's what I just wanted to teach all of them," Barr said "Always work hard, have fun while you're out there and enjoy every second. You only have four years of high school, so go out there, make the most of it and don't take it for granted."

Class 6A Regional Semifinal

**PEARLAND 56,
KATY 30**

Points: (K) Ella Robinson 12, Lyric Barr 6, Nyla Wold 5, Ashlynn Alexander 3, Brianna Nelson 2, Hailynn Obregon 2; (P) Paige Bonner 14, RyLee Grays 14, Janae Tucker 14, Nyah Hardy 7, La'Niah Thornton 6, Elice Perry 2;

Halftime: Pearland 25-9; 3-Pointers: (K) Robinson 4, Barr, Alexander; (P) Tucker 2, Thornton 2; Records: Katy 32-3; Pearland: 34-3;

Nyla Wold drives towards the basket during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Katy and Pearland at the Campbell Center.

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JORDAN

from page B1

I'm so happy they get to experience this."

Jordan shot the lights out of the gym from the start of the game and never slowed down. The Warriors made seven six three pointers in the first half and finished with 10 threes in the game. Misaia Herrera came out of the gate by hitting two early threes and Jordan built an early lead, but Cy-Creek had its offense rolling early as well and ended the first quarter up one.

But Jordan was relentless and kept coming at the Cougars both offensively and defensively, getting the lead back and building up a 40-31 lead at halftime.

"We work on shooting so much in practice and it just translates with everything we do," said senior forward Trevor Martz. "When we're making shots like we were today it boosts us in every way. Our bench gets involved, our guards are able to attack off the dribble and everyone on the court just gets an energy boost. We were feeling it out there and it was fun."

Jordan continued to pull away in the third quarter, building the lead to 59-46 and the Warriors saw things out in the fourth to earn their first trip to the regional tournament.

"We just wanted to get a win and finish out strong," said sophomore guard Jaden Holt. "I told myself that I had to keep going, we had to keep playing well and we knew that there was no way we were going to let go of that lead. The biggest thing was we locked in on defense, that's what got us the win."

Holt finished the night with 25 points while Herrera had 20, including six three pointers and Martz had 17 points.

The Warriors will face their biggest challenge yet when they get to the regional tournament, as they will meet back-to-back state champion Beaumont United on Friday, at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Center in Aldine.

But the Warriors are used to a challenge, and they aren't about to stop believing in themselves at this point.

"We have to treat it like any other game," Jones said. "They're one of the top teams in the state and everyone will pick them to win, but we believe. We believe that we can play with anybody, on any day you can beat, and on any day, you can beat somebody. We're going to prepare and be ready for the next challenge."

Class 6A Regional Quarterfinals

JORDAN 82, CY-CREEK 61

Points: (J) Jaden Holt 25, Misaia Herrera 20, Trevor Martz 17, Elijah Black 10, Jude Oluokun 8, Tyler France 2; (CY) Corey Hadnot 24, Taurus Baugh 12, Noah Martin 11, Miles Williams 5, Jayphon Duncan 4, Andrez Lara 4;

Halftime: Jordan 40-31; 3-Pointers: Herrera 6, Martz 2, Holt 2; (CY) Hadnot 2, Duncan, Martin; Records: Jordan 28-8; Cy-Creek 29-8;

Jaden Holt shoots a layup during Tuesday's Regional Quarterfinal game between Jordan and Cy-Creek at the Berry Center.

TYLER TYRE



ROYALS WRAP UP SEASON



PHOTO COURTESY SHERREL ROGERS

The Royal girls basketball team's season came to an end last week, as the Falcons lost to Navarro in the area round of the playoffs, 55-23. It was a very successful year for Royal, which finished with a 23-8 record and an 11-1 record in district play. The Falcons finished second overall in District 25-4A and won their bi-district game over Iowa Colony 67-47, it was the teams fourth straight season with a playoff win.

SPARTANS

from page B1

it's been amazing being part of this team," said senior center Josh Akpovwa. "To be here as a senior and be a part of this team setting all these records is amazing. The hard work pays off, but it's not done yet."

It was a tightly contested battle from the opening tip, as Seven Lakes came out blazing offensively, but so did Stratford as both teams traded buckets throughout the first quarter, as Seven Lakes led by one. The Spartans kept things going into the second quarter to hold a 34-27 lead heading into the half.

Stratford was not done though, as they came back to make things a one point game again at the end of the third quarter and stayed in things until the final seconds, when Bates sealed the game by hitting two free throws with under a second remaining.

"We knew that defensively we didn't play a completely clean first half and we could play better," Akpovwa said. "We had to go out and show what we worked for in practice. We came out and we locked down when we had to and it really helped us get that win."

Seven Lakes had faced Stratford earlier this season and had won handily, but they knew Monday would be a different story and that Stratford was a much improved team.

"We pounded that into the guys' brains and repeated it about 100 times in the past few days," said Seven Lakes head coach Shannon Heston. "In their last three games, Stratford has won convincingly with two of them coming against state ranked



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Brett Norton shoots a layup during Monday's Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal between Seven Lakes and Stratford at the Merrell Center.

teams. We had to realize this was not the same team we played in November. They played fantastic, but our guys were ready and up to the challenge."

Bates finished the night with 26 points while Akpovwa had 18 and Brett Norton had 13 points in the win.

Seven Lakes will play Clear Creek at 6 p.m. in the regional semifinal on Friday at the Campbell Center. For the Spartans its another chance to make history, as they are one of just three Seven Lakes teams to ever reach this point in the playoffs, and with a win could be the first Spartans team to make a regional final.

"We talk about history and the history of our program a lot," Heston said. "We want to honor the guys who came before us and

this is the first time since we made the regional tournament back to back years that we've gotten there. It's something you can't take for granted and is really special. We're super pumped and excited but we have to focus and make sure we're ready. It's a special thing."

Class 6A Regional Quarterfinals

SEVEN LAKES 66, STRATFORD 61

Points: (SL) A.J. Bates 26, Josh Akpovwa 18, Brett Norton 13, Nasir Price 6, Tillman Jaramillo 3; (S) Cameron Cronin 22, Tristan Williams 16, Deanu Dawes 8, Kamari Stanfill 7, Pal Skoutelakis 5, Wes Wohlfahrt 3;

Halftime: Seven Lakes 34-27; 3-Pointers: (SL) Bates, Norton, Jaramillo; (S) Cronin 3, Wohlfahrt, Skoutelakis; Records: Seven Lakes 34-4, 23-12



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February 23 Puzzle Answers

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Notice is hereby given of the intention to introduce in the Regular Session of the 88th Legislature of Texas a bill relating to the governance, powers, and authority of Twinwood Municipal Utility District No. 1, including road powers pursuant to Article III, Section 52 of the Constitution of Texas. This publication was paid for by Twinwood US, Inc.

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Notice is hereby given of the intention to introduce in the Regular Session of the 88th Legislature of Texas a bill relating to the powers and authority of Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 2, including road powers pursuant to Article III, Section 52 of the Constitution of Texas. This publication was paid for by Twinwood US, Inc.

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Legal Notice
SEDALCO Construction Services, serving as Design-Build Contractor, will be receiving proposals from subcontractors and suppliers for Waller County, Texas for the following project until the date and time stated: **County Swing-Space Renovations (Old Julio's Restaurant), 425 FM 1488, Hempstead, TX 77445 by 3:00 PM on Friday, 3/17/23.**
This project is the first step in replacement of the existing courthouse. The county has purchased this property and intends to convert the existing restaurant for their temporary administrative and courthouse functions while the old courthouse is demolished and replaced. The work on this project is anticipated to begin in late March 2023 and complete by May 2023.
Proposals are to be received in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 271.118 of the State of Texas Local Government Code at SEDALCO's corporate office, 4100 Fossil Creek Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137 via email to bids@sedalco.com.
Documents related to this Solicitation may be obtained from SEDALCO, David Ritz via request at bids@sedalco.com or via phone at 817-831-2245.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
The County of Waller is soliciting requests for qualifications for:
ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES AND INSPECTIONS
Requests for qualifications will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 pm March 13, 2023 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Submittals shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. March 15, 2023, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on March 22, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.
Submittals for these services will be accepted until 2:00 pm on March 13, 2023 at 836 Austin St, Hempstead, TX, 77445, Attn: Alan Younts, County Auditor or a.younts@wallercounty.us. The County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises including Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. The County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County.
Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at www.co.waller.tx.us.
ALAN YOUNTS
County Auditor
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Houston Dash sign Tompkins graduate Olivieri

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Houston Dash found their newest midfielder and it's a familiar face for those around Katy ISD.

The Dash announced last week that they had signed Tompkins graduate Bárbara Olivieri to a one-year deal with an option for the 2024 season.

Olivieri was a three-year letterman at Tompkins, where she led the Falcons to two state final appearances and a 64-9-6 record over the course of her career. She had 59 goals and 37 assists during her high school career and was named the Gatorade Texas Player of the Year in 2019.

"Bárbara is an exciting young player who brings creativity on the ball as an attacking midfielder and a range to score goals from all over the pitch," Dash general manager Alex Singer said. "She can break lines, find space to create and combine with teammates, or create chances for herself. We're thrilled to bring her back to her hometown and see her development with the club."

Olivieri signs with Houston after a year in the Liga MX Femenil in Mexico with Monterrey CF. She made 19 appearances in the league, scoring three goals during her time with the team.

She joined Monterrey after two years at Texas A&M, where she was a force for the Aggies. She earned SEC Freshman of the year honors in 2020, also being named to the All-SEC first team. In her 26 appearances for the school, she scored 13 goals. After her sophomore season she announced her decision to turn professional.

A Venezuelan international, she made her debut for the team in December of 2021, scoring the game winning goal while also adding an assist in her first appearance in a 2-1 win over India. Olivieri had played for the United States at the U16 and U14 levels before playing for Venezuela at the U17 level for Youth World Cup Qualifying and at the U20 CONMEBOL South American U20 Championships in Argentina.



Tompkins graduate Bárbara Olivieri signed with the Houston Dash on a one-year deal.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

"Bárbara is an exciting young player who brings creativity on the ball as an attacking midfielder and a range to score goals from all over the pitch. She can break lines, find space to create and combine with teammates, or create chances for herself. We're thrilled to bring her back to her hometown and see her development with the club."

—ALEX SINGER, Dash general manager

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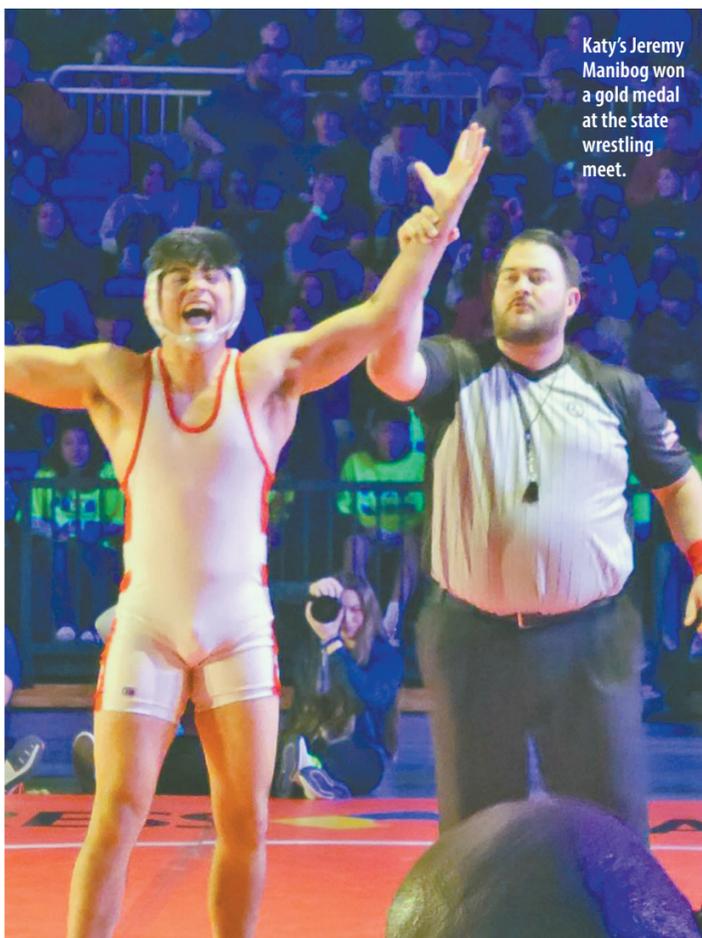
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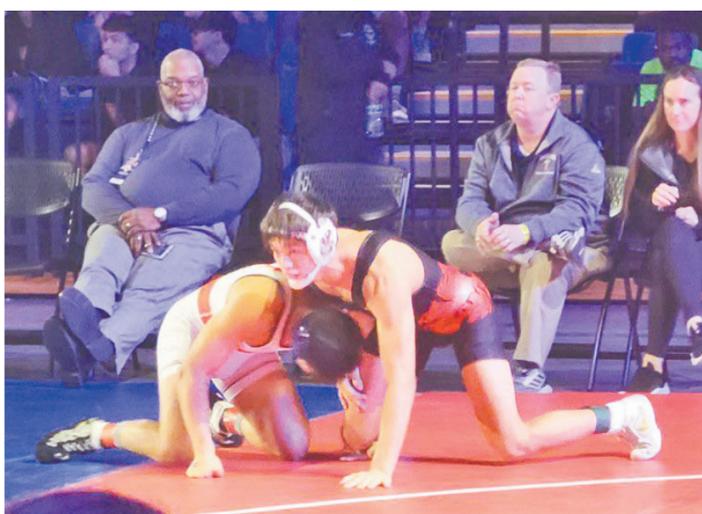


Katy's Jeremy Manibog won a gold medal at the state wrestling meet.

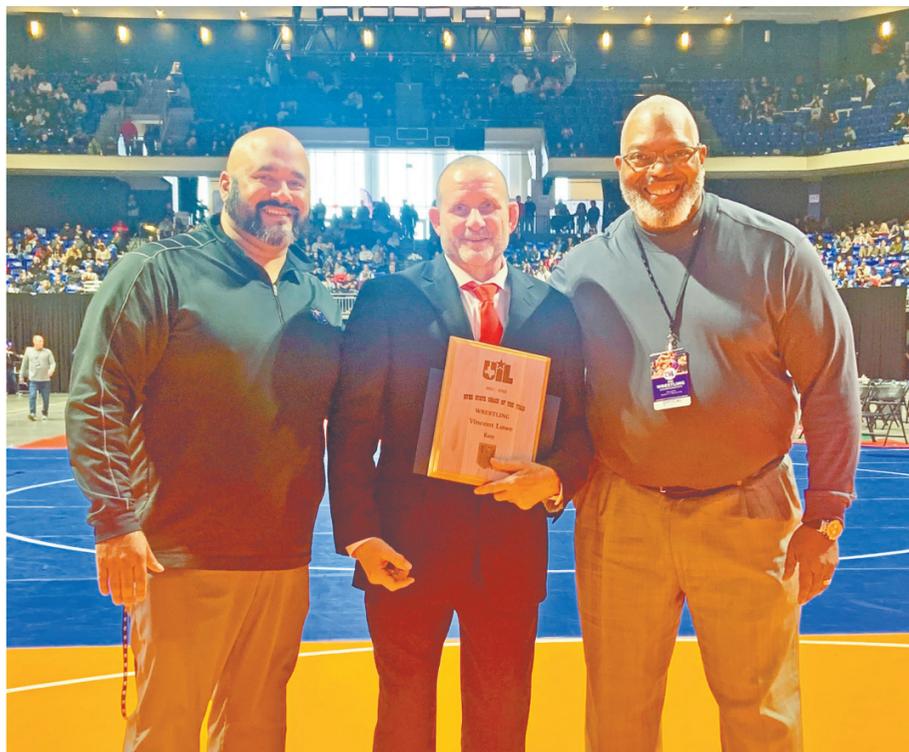


PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Katy's Jeremy Manibog won a gold medal at the state wrestling meet.



Katy's Juan Pablo Garica earned a silver medal at the state wrestling meet.



Katy head coach Vinnie Lowe (left) was named the National Federation of State High Schools Texas Wrestling Coach of the year.

Katy's Manibog wins state wrestling title

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy's Jeremy Manibog took home a gold medal on Saturday night, claiming first place at the Class 6A state wrestling tournament for the 165-pound weight class.

Manibog earned the state title with a pin of McKinney Boyd's Cameron Girard late in the first period to complete his undefeated season. He led the way for Katy ISD at the state wrestling tournament as the only gold medalist.

Katy ISD also had four different wrestlers claim silver medals at the meet, as Cinco Ranch's Richie Walsh, Jordan's Garrett McChesney and Katy's Juan Pablo Garcia and Rodney Turner all made their way to state title matches, before falling to eventual state champions.

In total, Katy ISD had seven different medalists at the event, as they also had two bronze medalists in Cinco Ranch's Kate Knight and Katy's Abby Fonseca. As both won their third place bouts to make the medal stand.

After having four wrestlers make their way to the medal stand, Katy head coach Vinnie Lowe was also named the National Federation of State High Schools Texas Wrestling Coach of the year.

Following are the full Katy ISD results from the State Wrestling Finals on Saturday.

AL FINISHERS CLASS 6A

Boys

- 106-pounds**
- 2. Richie Walsh, Cinco Ranch
- 138-pounds**
- 2. Garrett McChesney, Jordan
- 150-pounds**
- 4. Connor Timmons, Katy
- 157-pounds**
- 2. Juan Pablo Garcia, Katy
- 165-pounds**
- 1. Jeremy Manibog, Katy
- 215-pounds**
- 5. Dimitrios Katsigiannis, Katy
- 285-pounds**
- 2. Rodney Trotter, Katy
- 6. Jarra Anderson, Paetow

Girls

- 152-pounds**
- 3. Kate Knight, Cinco Ranch
- 185-pounds**
- 3. Abby Fonseca, Katy



Katy's Abby Fonseca earned a bronze medal at the state wrestling meet.



Cinco Ranch's Richie Walsh earned a silver medal at the state wrestling meet.



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Logan Pack earned a silver medal in the 100-yard backstroke at the state swim and dive meet.



Kailey Koval earned a silver medal in the 1-meter dive at the state swim and dive meet.



Connor Jones won a bronze medal in the 200-yard freestyle at the state swim and dive meet.

CLASS 6A STATE SWIM AND DIVE MEET RESULTS

Girls

- 1-Meter Dive**
- 2. Kailey Koval, Seven Lakes
- 9. Avery Coates, Katy
- 23. Alexandra Angue, Seven Lakes
- 100-yard freestyle**
- 9. Taylor Craft, Seven Lakes
- 100-yard breaststroke**
- 4. Mariana Diaz Ponce, Taylor
- 7. Taylor Craft, Seven Lakes
- 10. Marley Barnard, Cinco Ranch
- 200-yard freestyle**
- 12. Kaeli White, Jordan
- 200-yard individual medley**
- 12. Emma Aumagher, Jordan
- 15. Marley Barnard, Cinco Ranch
- 500-yard freestyle**
- 19. Kaeli White, Jordan
- 200-yard freestyle relay**
- 17. Jordan
- 200-yard medley relay**
- 13. Seven Lakes
- 400-yard freestyle relay**
- 15. Tompkins
- 20. Jordan

Boys

- 50-yard freestyle**
- 6. Logan Pack, Taylor
- 20. Jason Li, Seven Lakes
- 100-yard butterfly**
- 4. Joel Nace, Seven Lakes
- 100-yard breaststroke**
- 11. Derek Wintergrass, Katy
- 20. Carter Gray, Tompkins
- 100-yard backstroke**
- 2. Logan Pack, Taylor
- 11. Aaron Tran, Tompkins
- 300-yard freestyle**
- 3. Connor Jones, Seven Lakes
- 4. Joel Nace, Seven Lakes
- 200-yard individual medley**
- 15. Jonas Dark, Cinco Ranch
- 17. Carter Gray, Tompkins
- 500-yard freestyle**
- 7. Connor Jones, Seven Lakes
- 200-yard freestyle relay**
- 4. Seven Lakes
- 13. Cinco Ranch
- 21. Taylor
- 200-yard medley relay**
- 12. Tompkins
- 400-yard freestyle relay**
- 5. Seven Lakes
- 10. Tompkins

Pack, Koval, Jones earn medals at state swim meet

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD had three medal winners at the Class 6A state swim and dive meet on Friday and Saturday, as Kailey Koval, Logan Pack and Connor Jones each earned top three finishes at the meet.

Koval of Seven Lakes finished second

overall in the 1-meter dive to earn the Spartans a silver medal. Jones finished third in the 200-yard freestyle to earn a medal from the event.

Pack took home a second place medal in the 100-yard backstroke to earn the Mustangs only medal of the state tournament.

There were also plenty of finishers from Katy ISD in the finals, with Katy, Seven Lakes, Jordan, Tompkins, Taylor and Cinco Ranch all having swimmers place as finishers in the finals of their events.

At right are the finishers from Katy ISD at the Class 6A State swim and dive meet.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

Houston WBB: Bria Patterson scored 27 points in the University of Houston's loss to East Carolina.

Houston loses to East Carolina, falls to third place in conference

STAFF REPORT

In a battle for second place in the American Athletic Conference standings entering the final seven days of the season, East Carolina topped Houston 88-83 in triple overtime on Wednesday night in Williams Arena.

Senior Bria Patterson scored a career-high 27 points and set a school record by playing 54 minutes in the game while redshirt senior Britney Onyeje nearly tallied a double-double with 19 points and a career-high eight steals. Graduate Tatyana Hill registered her sixth double-double of the season with 10 points and 14 rebounds.

Plagued by five key players fouling out in the game, Houston (11-15, 8-5 American) scored just three points in the third overtime. The Cougars now lead the country by playing their fifth overtime game and they have played a nation-leading eight overtime periods this year.

East Carolina (20-8, 11-4 American) received 34 points from Danae McNeal who made 13 of 15 free throws as the Pirates clinched their first 20-win season since 2014-15. The Pirates were picked to finish last in the league in the Pre-season Coaches Poll.

Houston started the first quarter slow, allowing East Carolina to score the first six points of the game off two Cougar turnovers, but Houston shot its way back into the game and took a lead into the first quarter break going on a 16-7 to end the first frame.

The Pirates' Micah Dennis quarterbacked their offense in the first half, dishing out nine assists in the

first 20 minutes but Houston was able to dish out nine assists of its own in the first 20 minutes, a tick under its season average (10.9).

Patterson led all scorers through the first half, scoring 11 points, including the final bucket of the half on a three-point buzzer beater off an assist from junior Tae'Lor Purvis.

Six different Cougars scored in the first half. Six different Cougars recorded a rebound in the first 20 minutes and seven different Cougars recorded an assist in the first half, flexing Houston's diverse scoring options.

Only two Cougars scored in the second quarter as Patterson posted nine points with Onyeje adding eight as Houston added to its lead through 30 minutes, 51-44, although the Pirates finished the third quarter on a 7-0 run.

East Carolina scored the first basket of the fourth quarter, but then Houston's defense locked in, holding the hosts scoreless for 3:48. The Pirates then went on a 9-2 run of their own to cut the Cougars' lead to just five points with 1:20 remaining and finished the game on a 10-1 run to tie the game and force overtime.

East Carolina took the lead with 20 seconds left in the first overtime period, but a slicing Tiara Young dished the ball off to Kamryn Jones for a layup to tie the game at 73 apiece.

Houston had the ball with two seconds remaining in the second overtime.

The Pirates scored five unanswered points in the third overtime with a basket 28 seconds into the period and then three free throws and then outscored the Cougars 8-3 in the period.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

The University of Houston lost to UTSA last Wednesday

Houston drops first road game of the season to UTSA, 12-23

STAFF REPORT

University of Houston Baseball dropped its first road contest of the season, falling 12-2 in seven innings at UTSA from Roadrunner Field.

UTSA (3-1) jump-started the scoring in the first inning before tacking on two more in the third and fifth frames as part of a 13-hit day.

The Cougars (1-3) threatened to score multiple times but could not break through until the seventh inning. With runners on the corners, sophomore Nate Price reached on a fielder's choice, sending junior Nick Collins home.

Junior Dylan Post immediately followed with a single to the pitcher to load the bases. Junior Zach Arnold

drew a bases loaded walk to bring junior Jacob Schoenvogel across the plate to make the score 11-2.

In his first start of the season, Houston sophomore Malachi Lott (0-1) permitted just one unearned run without a hit while walking a pair with one strikeout. UTSA reliever Simon Miller (2-0) worked around two hits in 2.0 innings.



Chris Ageh (center) was named a finalist for the Houston Touchdown Club Scholar Athlete Award.



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Marcel Davis, above, was named a finalist for the Houston Touchdown Club Scholar Athlete Award.

Tompkins' Ageh, Seven Lakes' Davis honored by Houston Touchdown Club



Chris Ageh was named a finalist for the Houston Touchdown Club Scholar Athlete Award.

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD had two players honored at the Houston Touchdown Club as scholar student-athletes last week, as Seven Lakes' Marcel Davis and Tompkins' Chris Ageh were both named finalists for the Club's Scholar Athlete Award.

Finalists are chosen after

demonstrating academic excellence and examples of giving back to their community, which Davis and Ageh embodied throughout their high school careers.

The two were among 26 honorees at the event ± each received a \$500 scholarship from the Houston Touchdown Club, with the top three getting additional scholarship money.

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Cinco Ranch honors Hayes at girls soccer game

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch honored Bruce Hayes on Tuesday at their girls soccer game against Morton Ranch, as players saluted their favorite teachers during the game.

Hayes died in October of 2022 after a long battle with cancer. He was a big part of both the football and girls soccer programs, coaching kickers and helping as an assistant on the girls soccer team.

Hayes spent 20 years as a teacher and coach at Cinco Ranch and had a huge impact on the girls soccer players that came through the program.

The Cougars have battled to stay in playoff position so far this season and currently sit in fifth overall in District 19-6A. Cinco came out with a 5-0 win over Morton Ranch Tuesday with Hayes' wife, Sharon Hayes, on hand to watch the victory. The team all signed a ball to give to Sharon and show what Hayes meant to the team.



Cinco Ranch honored the late Bruce Hayes during the girls soccer game against Morton Ranch on Tuesday.

COURTESY LORI JORDAN



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