

A FIRST LOOK AT THE KATY ISD FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
SPORTS | A8

Katy Times



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THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

City council boosts public safety programs

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Public safety programs in the City of Katy got a boost at Monday night's city council meeting.

Council members voted unanimously to authorize the mayor to sign a proposal for the purchase of a new fire truck. The 2024 Pierce Impel Pumper will be purchased through an agreement with Siddons Martin Emergency Group LLC in the amount of \$1,113,731.00, which includes delivery and training on the operation of the vehicle.

Katy Police Department will benefit from a new agreement with Tyler Technologies for software, products and services that will enable all department data to be moved to the cloud, according to KPD

police chief Noe Diaz.

The old Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be remodeled into three new offices at a cost of \$49,975.00, which was approved unanimously by council members.

In other actions, council approved drainage improvement projects in Village Green West Phase 1 and Y Street ditches, which are due to be completed by the end of the year. Also approved were road repairs to Townpark Rd and the Bartlett expansion from 10th to Cane Island.

Mayor Dusty Thiele also issued a proclamation declaring July 30, 2023 as the official day of celebration for the 20th anniversary of the opening of Katy Heritage Park. Members of the Katy Heritage Society were present to receive the proclamation.



SUSAN ROVEGNO

At the June 24th meeting of Katy's city council, Mayor Dusty Thiele read a proclamation designating July 30, 2023, as the "Official Day of Celebration" for the 20th anniversary of the opening of Katy Heritage Park. Mayor Thiele invited citizens to come to the park on Saturday, July 29th from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. for a special event commemorating the occasion. Pictured are Kevin Browne, city of Katy parks director; Diane Walker; Mayor Thiele; Marilyn Frishman; Linda Mikeska; Jerrilyn Rheman; Adrienne Davitz, president of the Katy Heritage Society; and Brenda Hunter Martin.

Home for the Holidays Gift Market announces expo in Katy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Stacie Henry, organizer of Home for the Holidays Gift Market, has announced the inaugural Community Expo Event, a unique initiative by Home for the Holidays Gift Market designed to unite local businesses, artisans, and the community of Katy. This new event will take place August 26-27 and will be a fundraiser for the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce.

"The Community Expo Event is more than just an exhibition; it's a celebration of everything Katy has to offer. It's a chance to find your "go-to" for all things local, from local service providers, pet care, great outdoors, health and wellness, and handmade crafts, from food and beverage vendors to home décor," said organizer Stacy

See EXPO, page A3

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SUSAN ROVEGNO

Many KISD employees, parents and community members turned out for the Katy ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Monday.

Trustees approve 3% pay raise for teachers and staff

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In a board room filled to capacity by KISD employees, parents and community members, the Katy ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve a compensation increase calling for a 3% mid-point pay

raise for all employee groups during the July 24th Work Study Meeting.

"The financial information we received this evening shows that the district is in much better financial shape than the previ-

See KISD, page A3

MAUD MARKS LIBRARY CELEBRATES MILESTONE



The Maud Marks branch of the Harris County Public Library System, 1815 Westgreen, observed its 30th birthday with festivities on July 24th. Pictured are Director Edward Melton and Branch Manager Akhila Bhat. Left: The HCPL Curiosity Cruiser was a hit with younger attendees, who also enjoyed cake and square dancing.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

L.D. Robinson Scholarship recognizes outstanding FFA seniors

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The L. D. Robinson Scholarship celebrates 53 years honoring Katy ISD FFA seniors for their outstanding achievements. Six 4-year scholarships and official LDRS jackets were presented at their year-end FFA Awards Banquet. The 2023 recipients are: Jaime Hahn, Texas A&M, major Animal Science; Madailein Fitch, Texas A&M, major Animal Science; Delaney Keller, Texas A&M, major Animal Science; Madailein Fitch, Texas A&M, major Agriculture Engineering; Hanna Huntoon, Texas Tech, major Nursing; and Grayson Schneider, Texas A&M, major Animal Science/Agri Business. Selections are based on the following: completion of on-line application requirements, must be a member of the FFA/Agriculture Science Program at least three years, GPA, SAT &/or ACT scores, LDE's, CDE's, SAE's, FFA projects and activities, leadership positions, service projects, school and community activities, and interview by the LDRS Board. The scholarship is open to the college and major of choice.

The L. D. Robinson Scholarship was established in 1970 by former FFA members and community leaders to honor Robinson's 44-year commitment to Texas Education and the development of the Katy FFA, Agriculture Education Program where he served for 29 years. These former students served on the first L. D. Robinson Scholarship Board of Directors and presented the criteria and by-laws to the Katy ISD School Board before Mr. Robinson retired which was unanimously approved. It was also endorsed by

See SCHOLARSHIP, page A3



Displaying the coveted LDRS jacket are (left to right) Diana Elder, LDRS Advisor; scholarship recipients: Madailein Fitch (TAMU), Grayson Schneider (TAMU), and Hanna Huntoon (Texas Tech); Suzy Copeland, LDRS Director; Jay Elder, Advisor.

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Community Calendar

AUGUST

AUGUST 1 FIRST ALL LEAGUE MEETING OF THE SERVICE LEAGUE OF KATY-FULSHEAR

The Service League of Katy-Fulshear is a new non-profit group for women in the Katy-Fulshear area to provide community service and social connection. Members must be 21 years old by June 1, 2023, to join. The League will hold its first all member meeting on Tuesday, August 1 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Hub510, 10419 W. Hidden Lake Lane, Richmond. This will be the last opportunity to join for the 2023-2024 league year.

AUGUST 3 SUMMER PLAY DAYS AT HOLY COVENANT UMC

Come enjoy adult conversation and an iced coffee bar while your kiddos burn off some summer steam on August 3 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Healthy snack options for the kids, air conditioned restrooms, water, and a fully fenced and age appropriate play area make this free summer event a huge hit. Holy Covenant UMC is located at 22111 Morton Ranch Road in Katy. For more information, go to hckaty.org.

AUGUST 5 CATS & COFFEE

Enjoy a cup of coffee while socializing with free-roaming adoptable cats at Citizens for Animal Protection. A coffee bar will be set up in the Education Center with fun-loving adoptable cats roaming the room. Although this is a free event, space is limited; please register on the CAP website to attend: <https://www.cap4pets.org/support-us/donation-programs/fundraising-events>. CAP is located at 17555 Katy Freeway.

BIBBIDI BOBBIDI DISNEY BRUNCH

World of Beer, 2643 Commercial Center Blvd Suite 8390 in the LaCenterra Center, will host a Disney-themed brunch August 5th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Treat yourself to something sweet with Moana's Bananas Foster French Toast and replace a mimosa with a Bibbidi Bobbidi Bellini. Dressing as your favorite Disney character is encouraged! More information: worldofbeer.com/Disney-brunch/.

HANGAR HANG OUT

On the first and third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the CAF Houston Wing opens its hangar and museum to the public to share the history of WWII aviation. No admission fee. The hangar is located at 18000 Groschke Rd. Hangar B-5 near the West Houston Airport.

BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH AT CENTRAL GREEN PARK

Willow Fork Drainage District's Central Green Park kicks off a night of fun on August 5 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The elementary/junior high band, Z Alpha, opens the event with a 30-minute set, followed by a talented high school band, RPM. College band Shock Machinery takes the stage from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event will have face painters, a balloon artist, games and more. Central Green Park is located at 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd in LaCenterra; for more information, go to centralgreenpark.com.

AUGUST 9 FULSHEAR KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY MEETING

Begin your day with networking at 7:30 a.m.



FILE PHOTO | GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski, Royal ISD Superintendent Rick Kershner and Lamar Consolidated ISD Superintendent Roosevelt Nivens pose for a photo at the 2022 State of the Schools luncheon hosted by the Katy Chamber of Commerce. This year's event will be held Aug. 10.

on August 9 at the FKACC meeting at the Parkway Fellowship Church at 27043 FM 1093, Richmond. The keynote speaker will be Jack Warkenthien, CEO and Founder of NextStep Solutions, who will demonstrate that "Life's a Sales Call!" Breakfast will be provided by KTX Window Cleaning. For more information, please go to fulshearkaty.com.

AUGUST 10 KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS "STATE OF THE SCHOOLS"

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce presents its annual panel discussion on the "State of the Schools" at 11:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Houston West, 16435 Katy Freeway. Featured speakers will be Dr. Ken Gregorski of Katy ISD, Rick Kershner of Royal ISD and Dr. Roosevelt Nivens of Lamar CISD. Cost of the luncheon is \$40.00 for chamber members and \$50.00 for prospective members. For more information, call the chamber at 281-391-5289.

AUGUST 11

BROOKWOOD CASSEROLE KATY AREA PICK-UP
Pre-order and pick up delicious Brookwood casseroles on Friday, August 11th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Gateway Church, 25024 Katy Mills Drive, Katy. Each

casserole is \$35.00 and feeds four. Casseroles may be ordered at https://brookwoodstore.org/products/brookwood-casserole-grand-parkway-pick-up-aug-4?_pos=1&_psq=casser&_ss=e&_v=1.0. Receive a 5% discount using code 5CASS if purchasing five or more casseroles or get a 10% discount with code 10CASS for the purchase of 10 or more casseroles. Proceeds benefit the Brookwood community.

COUNTY BUMPIN TOUR WITH BUBBA SPARXXX, DUSTY LEIGH, BEZZ BELIEVE & JAMIE RAY

This 21 and up event will be held at the Wildcatter Saloon, 26913 Katy Freeway, Katy, at 8 p.m. on August 11th. Doors open at 7 p.m. General admission tickets are \$25.00 and may be purchased at seetickets.us/event/The-Country-Bumpin-Tour/558857

AUGUST 12 UKRAINIAN FUNDRAISER

The US Dance Company, 20621 Westheimer Parkway, will host a fundraiser on August 12th from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event, designed to raise money for medical supplies for Ukraine, will feature dances and Ukrainian entertainment. Food, pastries and fun activities for all children will also be available. Suggested ticket price is \$35.00.

AUGUST 19 KATY MARKET DAY

Come visit over 100 vendors and enjoy food trucks and activities for the kids at the monthly Katy Market Day in historic old town Katy, 5717 Second Street. Local shops will be open. Summer hours have been changed to 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PROJECT HALO BREWING FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This small and nimble brewery which curates artisan lagers and ales one small batch at a time, will celebrate their first year with special beer releases, collaboration beers, delicious food and fun activities. The event will be held from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 6520 FM 359 Suite 500 in Fulshear. Dogs and fellow beer lovers are welcome.

AUGUST 23 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE SCHOFIELD TO SPEAK AT KBA



MIKE SCHOFIELD

Join the Katy Business Association for lunch and networking at the Club at Falcon Point, 24503 Falcon Point Drive, Katy, August 23rd from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. State Rep. Mike Schofield, who represents the Katy area in the Texas House of Representatives, will be the keynote speaker. For tickets, go to thekba.org.

WORLD SERIES COMEDY SHOW TO BE HELD AT HOME RUN DUGOUT

World-class talent comes to the hottest new venue in Katy --- Home Run Dugout at 1220 Grand West Blvd. The comedy line-up stars Rich Williams (as seen on "The Real"), Andy Huggins (from "America's Got Talent"), Blame the Comic (from BET's "Coming to the Stage") and is hosted by Enrique Chacon (seen on the "Kill Tony" podcast). For tickets, go to http://www.outhousetickets.com/Event/22036-The_World_Series_Comedy_Show

AUGUST 24 KACC AND KAEDC PRESENT THE "STATE OF THE COUNTIES"

Hear an update on developments in Harris, Fort Bend and Waller Counties at the annual "State of the Counties" panel discussion, with presentations from Vincent Morales, Fort Bend County Commissioner Precinct 1; Leslie Briones, Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner and Trey Duhon, Waller County judge. The program, which is co-sponsored by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Katy Area EDC, will be held August 24th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Embassy Suites by Hilton West Houston, 16435 Katy Freeway, Houston. Tickets are \$50.00. For more information, please call the chamber at 281-391-5289.

AUGUST 26-27 KATY COMMUNITY EXPO

Experience an event that combines the joy of shopping with the ultimate "give and receive" collaboration between a town and its residents. Enjoy an interactive, festive and fun "walk in the park" while you discover the best businesses in Katy. The event is open Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Merrell Center, 6301 S Stadium Ln, Katy. Free admission and free parking.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Bonus materials
- Formal names
- Free from restraints
- One who scrapes away
- Type of device
- Skin cancers
- The Show Me State
- Plate glasses
- Red-brown sea bream
- Small (Fr.)
- Flightless Australian birds
- High IQ group
- Stiff structures
- Revolutions per minute
- Where a bachelor lives
- Licensed for Wall Street
- A place to park
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- An important creed in Catholic Church
- 18-year astronomical period
- Furies
- Removes from the record
- Noted child psychiatrist
- Feline
- High schoolers' test
- Not happy
- They ___
- On top
- Precious stones unit of weight
- Moved quickly
- Seagulls
- A seed with hooks or teeth
- Partner to "oohed"
- Exclamation of surprise
- Most unpleasant
- Organization help service members
- Type of cockatoo
- Humorous criticisms
- Went through and organized
- Wakes up

CLUES DOWN

- Settle in tents
- Big
- Books
- Masses of eggs in fish
- Language
- Not standing
- Chinese philosophy
- Computer giant
- A device to catch
- Emits coherent radiation
- Actor O'Neill
- Smallest interval in western music
- Not lower
- Revolves
- Leavened bread
- Number above the line in a fraction
- Cable
- Adult male
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Bullfighting maneuvers
- Broadcast
- ___ Angeles
- Vehicle
- Not religious
- North American peoples
- A baglike structure
- Body art (slang)
- Picked for a role
- Actress Tomei
- Former hoopster "Big Country"
- Icelandic poems
- More pleasant
- It can add flavor to meat
- Self-immolation by fire rituals
- Spumante of annoyance
- ___ Spurgeon (Italian wine)
- Consumed
- Body part
- Thus
- In reply (abbr.)

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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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.



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Katy ISD's Board of Trustees met Monday, July 24.

KISD

from page A1

ous month," said Victor Perez, President of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees. "Thanks to the diligent effort of the administration to reduce expenditures and the open dialogue we received from Chris Smith, Chief Financial Officer, we are comfortable in approving this raise for our deserving employees," added Perez.

During the public comment period, Mark Grisdale, principal of Tompkins High School, spoke passionately as a representative of his fellow administrators. He implored the board to extend the 3% raise to all KISD staff, not just to teachers, stating that to do otherwise would send a clear message to non-teachers that "you are not important." The board, at its June 26th meeting, had originally considered only a 1% raise for administrators and support staff.

Approval of this compensation increase sets the starting teacher pay at \$62,400 which is among the highest starting teacher salaries in the greater Houston area.

Other public comments addressed the upcoming bond package and recommendations from the Community Bond

Advisory Committee, the Board's June decision to warehouse new books rather than sending them on to campuses and the disciplinary code.

Board President Perez noted that the board has an oversight responsibility over the bond package process, the responsibility to ask questions and a responsibility to the community. "This board is not a rubber stamp - I just want to make that clear."

There was extensive discussion about the district's proposed Chromebook "1 to 1" program and the associated costs. Board member Mary Ellen Cuzela questioned the need for elementary school students to have their own individual computers, noting each school has a computer lab where students can have access to technology. Trustee Dawn Champagne responded that the computer lab is great but it does not offer enough time for the student to learn to use computers.

The board will vote on the community bond advisory committee bond package recommendation at the next regular board meeting, which is July 31.

EXPO

from page A1

Henry. "Attendees can look forward to exclusive deals, freebies, samples, and coupons from our various local businesses. Best of all, customers can meet city officials for a meet and greet in our park, truly putting the UNITY in Community!"

The event will be held at the Merrell Center, located at 6301 S. Stadium Lane. The expo will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, allowing plenty of time for visitors to stroll through the park-like setting, filling their complimentary totes with goodies while sampling the market fare.

Children and adults alike will enjoy the Lego Show and Construction zone called Brick Fusion Fest, located on the upper level, where kids and adults can shop and play. Also featured the Lego Collectors show, where children can dive into

About Home for the Holidays Gift Market

Home for the Holidays Gift Market is a leading event organizer based in Katy, committed to creating events that foster community engagement, support local businesses, and provide unique shopping experiences. Their events are renowned for their high-quality exhibitors, diverse product offerings, and enjoyable atmosphere. The Christmas Market in November has become a tradition for over 10,000 shoppers each year and the 16th annual Christmas Gift Market will be held on November 17-19th at the Merrell Center.

a world of creativity and fun at the Lego station.

Attendees are encouraged to bring donations for local charities. "In the spirit of community support, we're introducing the Donation Station," Henry said. "We encourage attendees to clean out their closets and pantries and bring along clothing, dry goods, and more. Our train cars will be collecting these items to

benefit local charities."

Admission to the Community Expo Event is free with an RSVP on the ticket page of the event's website at homefortheholidaysgiftmarket.com. Parking is also free at the Merrell Center. For more information about the event, please visit the website at homefortheholidaysgiftmarket.com or contact Stacie Henry at 281-788-4297.

SCHOLARSHIP

from page A1

the TEA Director of Agriculture Education, J. A. Marshall, who recruited Mr. Robinson to come to Katy to save a flailing program. The scholarship is one of the oldest and most prestigious scholarships serving Katy ISD. To support students and the scholarship program, mail contributions to L. D. Robinson Scholarship Fund, Inc., P. O. Box 102, Katy, TX 77492 or go to website: www.ldrskaty.org

Recipients currently on scholarship in college '22-23: Jake D'Agostino, TAMU; Jennifer Lindgren, TAMU; Malory Peoples, TAMU; Cassandra Espinoza, SHSU; Caroline Jureka, TAMU; Skyler Weathers, TAMU; Camryn Wilder, TAMU; Hailey Tucker, TAMU; Kailey Kulhanek, Blinn; Kristen Justilian, TAMU; Kacki Kyrish, Blinn; and Lauren Sapp, TAMU.

The L. D. Robinson Scholarship honors the 80-year Legacy of Mr. Robinson who was founder of the Katy FFA Livestock Show and Rodeo in 1943 and first known FFA Chapter Agriculture Science Farm dedicated in 1947 that was totally self-supporting and operated



PHOTOS BY DIANA ELDER

Pictured (left to right) are Jay and Diana Elder, LDRS Advisors; scholarship recipients: Haleigh Triolo (Texas Tech), Jaime Hahn (TAMU), and Delaney Keller (TAMU); LDRS Directors: Suzy Copeland, Justin Beckendorff.

by the students. Mr. Robinson's FFA, Agriculture Education Program was recognized state and nationwide by the FFA Association as the "Model Program for other schools to follow" and "the school you had to beat in order to win."



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Pictured are (left to right) Officer Steve Kelleher, NextHome Top Realty broker Fran Summey, Officer Robert McQuarter, NextHome Top Realty agent Angela Shaver, Jim Turpin and Kiko.

Katy PD accepts donation on behalf of 'Luke Day'

The Katy Police Department received a donation of \$1,254.70 on Friday, July 21, thanks to Luke, the dog.

Luke is the mascot of NextHome Realty. His birthday is June 15 and every year, NextHome celebrates the day by encouraging community outreach. Katy's NextHome Top Realty, together with the Lions Club and Palace Markets, adopted the Katy Police Department K9 department for "Luke Day" 2023. A craft show was held on June 10th at Southland Bar &

Grill to raise this year's funds.

"Next year's event will be on June 8th and will be BIGGER and better," said Angela Shaver, NextHome Top Realty agent. "We're going to turn 'Luke Day' into 'Luke Weekend'!"

The KPD canine unit consists of two dogs (Kiko and Hero) and their partners, Officers Steve Kelleher and Robert McQuarter. A department spokesperson said that the officers had recently requested wi-fi temperature monitors for their vehicles, which can operate off their phones.



Luke the dog

Local nonprofit groups seek donations, volunteers

Area nonprofit organizations are asking for specific donations to assist clients during the summer months.

According to their Facebook page, Clothed by Faith, a 501c charity which provides gently used clothing to anyone in need, their donation bins are almost empty. The Facebook post continues that the charity is in desperate need women's medium and large short sleeve shirts, and mens shorts in small, medium and large sizes. Donations may be dropped off at 802 Dominion Drive, Suite 100, Katy. Clothed by Faith also has a location in Deer Park. Financial donations may be made by going to the web-

site <https://www.clothedbyfaith.org/give-financially>.

Hope Impacts, a ministry which helps the homeless, is requesting new and used backpacks. Hope Impacts located at 802 Dominion Ste 900, Katy. Donations may be dropped off Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The group is also looking for volunteers to help at their office with their cooling center, and ongoing volunteers to help with administrative work, reception area, and to build relationships with their clients -- including bringing meals for Tuesday, Thursday or Friday while the cooling center is open. For more information, go to www.hopeimpacts.org.

HCC and TAMU to host plant field day on July 28th

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office is collaborating with the Katy campus of Houston Community College to host a "Texas Superstar Container Trial" field day on July 28. The event, which looks at color annuals and how they perform in pots in the Houston heat through the summer, will be from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the HCC-Katy Campus at 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy. For more information, contact Paul Winski at paul.winski@ag.tamu.edu. The event is free to the public; register at <https://fieldday2023.eventbrite.com>.

Running Club to host 5K race Labor Day weekend

The Katy Area Running Club is hosting its annual Back to School 5K on Sept. 5 at the Villagio Town Center, 22764 Westheimer

Parkway, Katy.

In addition to the 5K, there will be a 1K race for younger kids. The event benefits Ainsley's Angels, an organization that promotes inclusion of individuals with all levels of abilities and which has provided wheelchairs to facilitate inclusion of these individuals in racing.

For more information, please go to the KARC website at katyarearunningclub.com/katy-back-to-school-5k.

Fort Bend County Fair expands free admission days

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Free family fun is expanding at the Fort Bend County Fair. The Fair will offer two free gate admission opportunities for children 11 years old and under. Opening day, Friday, September 29, and the last day, Sunday, October 8, will be free gate admission for children up to 11 years old who are accompanied by a paid adult 18 years old or older until 3 p.m.. The new free day policy will give families on a budget another opportunity to enjoy everything the Fair offers. Fort Bend County school-age students' long-standing tradition of free gate admission on opening day until 6 p.m. will be adjusted to accommodate only children 11 years old and younger. "As a board, we wanted to offer families additional opportunities to enjoy our fair, especially to include a weekend day. This also helps to take a step in maintaining the best safety and security for our fairgoers of all ages," said Fort Bend County Fair Association President Jennifer Williams.

The fair provides many kid activities throughout its 10-day run. Student Fun Day, Stick Horse Rodeo, Children's Tractor Pull, and Diaper Derby are just a few things families can participate in and enjoy. During fair days, Carnival rides, livestock shows, live music, and rodeo action will occur.

The fair will run from September 29 to October 8 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. For more information on the Fair's schedule, BBQ weekend, or tickets, visit fortbendcountyfair.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Maud Marks Library to hold book sale July 29th

The Friends of Maud Marks Library (FOMML) will be holding the seventh used book sale of 2023 at the library, 1815 Westgreen Boulevard, Katy, Texas 77450 on Saturday, July 29, 2023, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Presale viewing and sales (cash or check only) will be available to members of FOMML on Friday, July 28, from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Annual memberships can be purchased at the door for \$10.

All funds earned from the sale are used to support library programs that are offered to the community such as the Summer Reading Program.

Books (adult or children's, fiction, nonfiction, reference, foreign language, etc.) are now being accepted for donation to the sale. Please deposit them, during library hours, in the bins inside the entrance.

LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch welcomes two new tenants coming in Q1 2024

LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch, an outdoor lifestyle shopping center, announced July 20th that it is welcoming two new tenants to its lineup of restaurants and food tenants — Kilwins, set to open fall 2023, and Nando's, set to open early 2024. These tenants join the existing dynamic mix of retailers, restaurants and service tenants at the center including Kendra Scott, Sephora, Lovesac, Alamo Drafthouse Cinema and more.

"We are thrilled to be welcoming two incredible new tenants to LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch, expanding our restaurant and food offerings for the Katy community," said Norma Garza, General Manager at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch. "We look forward to celebrating Kilwins and Nando's openings and know that they will soon be crowd favorites."

Kilwins is a beloved sweets shop offering candy, fudge and ice cream and will open in a 1,014-square-foot space next to Starbucks. Beyond its delicious tastes, Kilwins offers a unique experience with an open kitchen for the guests to watch the creation of hand-crafted desserts.

Helping people find their spicy place one piece of chicken at a time, Nando's is the home of the legendary South African flame-grilled PERI-PERI chicken and sauces. Nando's will open in a 2,754-square-foot space next to Jamba Juice.

Additionally, Teal Poppy has re-opened in a new 2,572-square-foot location next to Athleta. A locally- and women-owned and operated boutique, Teal Poppy offers a unique selection of women's clothing, handmade jewelry, bags and more that are hand-selected and curated by the Teal Poppy team.

For more information, please visit <https://www.lacenterra.com/>.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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Congressman Hunt's office offering fellowship program to local veterans

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The office of Congressman Wesley Hunt, who represents the 38th Congressional district of Texas, is now offering opportunities for veterans and members of Gold Star families. The Green and Gold Congressional Aide Program is a two-year paid fellowship for veterans that would have the opportunity to work in Hunt's Houston office. Hunt's district includes a portion of the east side of the greater Katy area.

Candidates must be a veteran and meet all of the following requirements:

1. Honorably discharged;
2. Released from active duty within the last six years;
3. Pay grades at or below E-5/O-3/W-2;
4. Veterans promoted to the pay grades of E-6/O-4/W-3 WITHIN 6-MONTHS OF SEPARATION from active duty are eligible, granted they meet ALL other eligibility requirements.
5. Veterans who are in receipt of a 20-year or Temporary Early Retirement (TERA) retirement are not eligible for the program. No waivers will be granted.

Qualifications include the following: Detail oriented; excellent organization skills; excellent communication skills; strong computer skills; ability to complete projects within timelines and under minimal supervision. Ability to work well under pressure and maintain a professional and courteous work disposition; ability to exercise discretion and independent judgment



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Congressman Wesley Hunt, who is sponsoring a fellowship program to benefit veterans, met informally with about 50 constituents on June 16 at a "meet and greet" hosted by Fuzzy's Pizza, Mason at Kingsland. Hunt represents Texas's 38th Congressional district which encompasses a portion of the east side of the greater Katy area between Highway 6 and Westgreen, south of I-10.

in handling sensitive information; ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously. High School Diploma required. Some college level classes preferred but not required. Required Documents include a resume and the candidate's most recent DD 214

(Member 4 copy).

To apply, go to <https://hunt.house.gov/services/green-gold-program>. For more information, please contact Lisa Gilmore, District Director, at Lisa.Gilmore@mail.house.gov or (832) 357-0555.

TRIBUTE

RUNE SVEN PEARSON (PERSSON)

Rune Sven Pearson (Persson), 84 years old, passed away Thursday, June 29, 2023, in Katy, Texas. Rune was born in Sweden. His family immigrated to the United States when he was nine years old. His parents, Otto Bertil and Goldie Pearson and his older brother Arne B. Pearson, predeceased him.

Rune spent his early years in Los Angeles, California. He graduated in 1962 from the University of Southern California (USC) with a BS in Business and completed his education in 1964 with an MBA from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). Rune was a successful inventor, "problem solver," and designer of electro-mechanical products. He held several patents. His designs ranged from products used in the early electronics industry to a coin mechanism used by the Houston Chronicle in their racks in Houston and statewide. He made his home and business in Katy for 30+ years.

Rune leaves his wife of 50 years Elizabeth Gay, and 3 stepchildren Edw. S. Butler IV and Matthew Thomson Butler of Redondo Beach, California, and Nola Elizabeth Butler of S. Pasadena, California. Also three grandchildren: Matt's two children Samuel and Eva Butler of Portland, Oregon, as well as Nola's son Matas Kulikauskas of Houston, Texas. He leaves a sister, Anita Pearson Horne (Arthur) of Hemet, California, and her two sons Lars and Christer Lemminge and their families. He also leaves a sister-in-law, Inger Pearson, and her two children, Roy Pearson of Los Angeles, and Christina Pearson (Mike) of New Hampshire and their families.

A memorial service will be held in Torrance, California.

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Katy Rotary Club awards scholarships to 22 area students

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The Katy Rotary Club held its annual scholarship awards banquet Thursday, July 20th, at the community room in Legacy Stadium, handing out \$125,000.00 in funds to local high school graduates. Twenty-two students received scholarships in amounts ranging up to \$10,000.00.

Jeffrey Thompson, Katy Rotary Club Fund Board president, said the club had given out 176 scholarships since 2013 for a grand total of \$520,500. The total of \$125,000 for 2023 is an increase over the 2022 total of \$106,500 and the 2021 total of \$63,000. The scholarships

are funded through the events put on by the Katy Rotary Club, including the annual Katy Triathlon, the Wild West Brewfest and the Rice Festival.

Special scholarships were awarded as follows:

- The Todd Levin Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a local band student, was given to Clarke Skoby.
- The two highest scholarship awards -- \$10,000.00 each -- were presented to Chase Truex and Sommer Lopez.

The decision process for the awarding of the scholarships is a rigorous one, according to Thompson. Scholarship recipients must meet certain academic criteria:

- Minimum GPA of 3.5
- GPA exception for students meeting ACT/SAT minimum

Scholarship candidates must also demonstrate an understanding of commitment to "service above self."

- Essay on what "service above self" means to them
 - Interview process
 - Recipients must also demonstrate financial need:
 - Essay on why they need the scholarship and their goals for their continuing education
 - Interview process
- For more information on the Katy Rotary Club's scholarship program, go to katyrotary.com/page/2023-rotary-club-of-katy-scholarship.



Pictured Back Row L-R: Sommer Lopez (MRHS), Swati Misra (SLHS), Chidera Kalu-Uka (THS), Mia Moderski (CRHS), Sydnee Strohm (CRHS), and Kirsten Cox (MCHS). Front Row L-R: Celeste Larios Pineda (MRHS), Chase Truex (JHS), Payton Polnac (THS), Clarke Skoby (KHS), Cynetha Looper (THS). Not pictured: Madailein Fitch (THS), Connor Warfield (JHS), Mary Behringer (SLHS), Sarah Behringer (SLHS), David Safwat (MCHS), Carine Harb (KHS), Joshua Palacios (THS), Josephine Griffith (OHS), Jaime Hahn (KHS), Megan Anton (JHS), Marcel Davis (SLHS).

KATY ROTARY CLUB

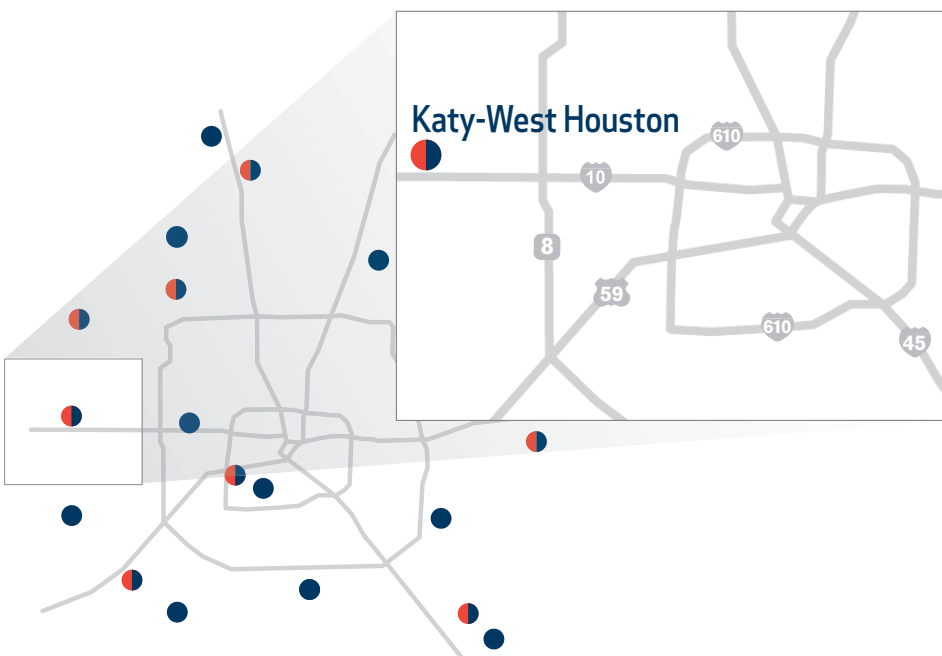
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NOTICE
The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 2023**, at 1:00 P.M. In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2023-05, The Application Of **Kristin N. Schmidt**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **5930 Franz CT**, In The "C-1" Commercial District. Property Description: Tracts 5D, 5F-2 & 5G, Abstract 1711, H&TCRR CO, Section 43, Block 2, Harris County, Texas.

It Is A Request For A Variance To The Requirement That A Principal Dwelling And Accessory Dwelling Unit Have All Utilities Under Single Metering As Required Under Chapter 6.1-9 Of The Zoning Ordinance.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

July 20 Puzzle Answers

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7	8	5	3	4	9	1	2	6

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NOTICE
The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2023-05, The Application Of **AANN Interests, LLC.**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **705 Thomas Avenue**, In The "C-2" General Business District. Property Description: Lots 1, 2 & the South 10 feet of Lot 3, in Block E of Katy Townsite, Fort Bend County, Texas.

It Is A Request For A Variance To The Required Rear Yard Setback Of Fifteen (15) Feet As Required Under Chapter 10.2-4 of the Zoning Ordinance.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

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NOTICE
The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 8, 2023

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, August 28, 2023

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance No. 621; By Amending Section 21 Sign Regulations.

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Above: Katy tight end Luke Carter (84) carries the ball after a catch for a first down during the Class 6A-DII state semifinal football game between Katy and Vandegrift on Dec. 10, 2022 in San Antonio. Below: Katy's Chase Johnsey catches a pass during a game between Katy and Tompkins at Legacy Stadium.

AN EARLY LOOK

2023 Katy ISD Football Schedule

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Football is nearly here and Katy ISD has a tremendous schedule of games throughout the season, stacked with talent both in the district and in non-district matchups.

From week one to week 10 there will be exciting matchups all around the district as all nine teams in District 19-6A battle it out to make the playoffs and go on runs and we will get an early look at how the teams will stack up with some great games happening in the first two weeks of the year.

Katy and Tompkins will be looking to stay on top

See **FOOTBALL**, page A9



PHOTO BY RAMS REYNA | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

KATY ISD 2023 DISTRICT SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

- Aug. 24**
- Morton Ranch vs. Eisenhower, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
 - Seven Lakes vs. Memorial, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

- Aug. 25**
- Cinco Ranch vs. College Park, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
 - Paetow at Conroe, 7 p.m., Moorhead Stadium
 - Taylor at Cy-Woods, 7 p.m., Berry Center
 - Jordan at Aldine Davis, 7 p.m., Leonard George Stadium
 - Mayde Creek vs. Westside, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

- Aug. 26**
- Katy vs. Clear Springs, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
 - Tompkins vs. Cy-Ranch, 7 p.m., Legacy Stadium

WEEK 2

- Aug. 31**
- Seven Lakes at Klein, 7 p.m., Klein Memorial Stadium
 - Morton Ranch at Kingwood Park, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium
 - Taylor vs. George Ranch, 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
 - Cinco Ranch vs. Klein Oak, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

- Sept. 1**
- Jordan vs. Kingwood, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
 - Paetow vs. Cy-Ranch, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium
 - Katy at Atascocita, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium

- Sept. 2**
- Tompkins at Bridgeland, 6 p.m., Berry Center
 - Mayde Creek vs. Waller, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

WEEK 3

- Sept. 8**
- Katy vs. Tompkins, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
 - Cinco Ranch vs. Taylor, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

- Sept. 9**
- Jordan vs. Mayde Creek, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
 - Paetow vs. Morton Ranch, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

WEEK 4

- Sept. 15**
- Taylor vs. Seven Lakes, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
 - Tompkins vs. Cinco Ranch, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

- Sept. 16**
- Morton Ranch vs. Katy, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
 - Mayde Creek vs. Paetow, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

WEEK 5

- Sept. 21**
- Seven Lakes vs. Tompkins, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

- Sept. 22**
- Cinco Ranch vs. Morton Ranch, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
 - Mayde Creek vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Sept. 23

- Paetow vs. Jordan, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

WEEK 6

Sept. 28

- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Tompkins vs. Taylor, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Sept. 29

- Seven Lakes vs. Morton Ranch, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Jordan vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

WEEK 7

Oct. 5

- Katy vs. Paetow, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Morton Ranch vs. Taylor, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Oct. 6

- Cinco Ranch vs. Jordan, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Seven Lakes vs. Mayde Creek, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

WEEK 8

Oct. 12

- Paetow vs. Cinco Ranch, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Jordan vs. Seven Lakes, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Oct. 13

- Mayde Creek vs. Taylor, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Morton Ranch vs. Tompkins, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

WEEK 9

Oct. 19

- Taylor vs. Jordan, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Cinco Ranch vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Oct. 20

- Tompkins vs. Mayde Creek, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Seven Lakes vs. Paetow, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

WEEK 10

Oct. 26

- Jordan vs. Tompkins, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Mayde Creek vs. Morton Ranch, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Oct. 27

- Paetow vs. Taylor, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Katy vs. Seven Lakes, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

WEEK 11

Nov. 2

- Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Morton Ranch vs. Jordan, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Nov. 3

- Tompkins vs. Paetow, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Taylor vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Cinco Ranch duo named to baseball Super Elite Team

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Two Cinco Ranch players were named to the 2023 Class 6A Baseball Super Elite Team, as Brock DeYoung and Gavin Rutherford were both selected among the top players in the state after terrific seasons.

The two helped the Cougars to a 33-7 record on

See **ELITE**, page A10



TYLER TYRE

Gavin Rutherford pitches during a Regional Quarterfinal game between Cinco Ranch and Ridge Point.

Top gymnasts compete in Katy for national qualification

BY TRI CHIEM
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The 2023 American Classic and Hopes Classic were held earlier this month at Stars Gymnastics in Katy, Texas. This competition officially marked the beginning of the elite gymnastics season and served as one of two remaining competition qualifications to the 2023 U.S. Championships, which will take place at the SAP Center in San Jose, California on August 24-27, 2023. Nineteen senior gymnasts competed.

See **GYMNASTICS**, page A10



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PHOTOS BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Above: Tompkins' Wyatt Young runs during Friday's game between Tompkins and Paetow at Rhodes Stadium. Below: Jordan's Colin Willetts looks to pass during Friday's game between Tompkins and Jordan at Rhodes Stadium.

FOOTBALL

from page A8

of the district and have tough non-district schedules to get them ready.

Katy will have a very interesting non-district schedule where they play one of the top teams in the state.

The Tigers start the year against Clear Springs for the fourth straight season. The Chargers went 8-4 last year, losing just one district game and making it to the second round of the playoffs. Katy won their season opener last year 49-16, going on to win 14 straight games to start the season.

The Tigers then will play one of their toughest opponents all year in the second week of the season when they face off against Atascocita. The Eagles went 11-3 last year and made it to the fourth round of the playoffs.

The two team's matchup was an exhilarating game last season. The game went back and forth, with Atascocita tying the game with 2:45 left, but Katy came out on top 35-28.

Tompkins will play Cy-Ranch week one. Cy-Ranch comes off a 7-4 year where the Mustangs finished third in district and it will be a good opener for Tompkins. The Falcons played Cy-Ranch in the teams openers last season, with Tompkins coming out 31-23 winners.

Tompkins will follow that up with another tough matchup against Bridgeland, who tied for first place in District 16-6A last year. Tompkins played the Bears last year as well, coming out on top 38-14.

Other big matchups during non-district

include a newly revamped Cinco Ranch squad playing College Park and Klein Oak and Paetow going up against Cy-Ranch in the second week of the season.

The first week of district will bring some great games as well, the biggest of which is Katy playing Tompkins in what is always one of the biggest games of the district season. Katy has won the game each of the past two years after Tompkins had a historic win over Katy in 2020.

Other early big district matchups include Tompkins playing Cinco Ranch in week four and Cinco Ranch playing Morton Ranch in week five. The Morton Ranch-Cinco Ranch game is a rematch of one of the most high-powered offensive games in Katy ISD history, where Morton Ranch outlasted Cinco Ranch 77-63 and Paetow will also play Jordan in the same week for an important matchup.

Cinco Ranch will take on Paetow in week eight in a matchup that may have playoff implications, while in week nine Taylor and Jordan will face off in what again might be an important game.

In week 10 Jordan and Tompkins will play each other for a game that could decide playoff positioning or a spot in the playoffs and in week 11, the Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes matchup could also end up being an important one.

Overall it looks to be an exciting season ahead, filled with great games and a playoff race that could come down to the wire.



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Katy Times

ELITE

from page A8

the season, including a 14-2 district record as Cinco won its first district title since 2006 and went further in the playoffs than it ever had.

DeYoung was awarded one of the biggest honors of the team, being named Gold Glove of Class 6A.

DeYoung had a great junior year. He had a .960 fielding percentage on the year, earning 24 putouts and 85 assists to just five hours, turning 12 double plays in the process. DeYoung also hit for a .362 average, scoring 49 runs out of his leadoff position after 46 hits on the season. He also drove in 18 runs, hit seven doubles, two triples and one home run while stealing 29 bases on 34 attempts.

Rutherford was the man at the heart of the order throughout his senior season and was at the helm of lots of their success as a team captain.

Rutherford hit .325 on the year and led the team with eight doubles and 35 RBIs while also tying for the team lead in home runs with six. He also stole 10 bases while defensively he had 185 put outs, 27 assists and



Brock DeYoung throws to first base during an area round game between Cinco Ranch and Memorial at Cy-Lakes.

TYLER TYRE

19 double plays while only committing six errors.

He also had just a .41 ERA in his six pitching appearances. In his two playoff starts, Rutherford pitched two complete games, including a complete game shutout with

12 strikeouts against Ridge Point to clinch Cinco's first ever regional semifinal appearance, and a one-run complete game against state finalist Pearland in the regional semifinals.

The two were the only ones that were named to the

Super Elite Team from Katy ISD.

Langan named Assistant Coach of the Year

Katy's Michael Langan was named an assistant coach of the year for his efforts in helping the Tigers

to the Class 6A Region III Final last season.

Langan, who has been with Katy since 2000, helped Katy to a 30-8-3 record, reaching the Class 6A Region III Final after finishing in third in district.

Katy went on an eight

-ame winning streak in the playoffs, sweeping past Fort Bend Austin, Cy-Fair, Tompkins and Clear Springs before narrowly falling to Pearland in the regional final. It was the Tigers furthest run in the playoffs since 2006.

GYMNASTICS

from page A8



TRI CIEM, SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The top eight finishers in the senior division all-around competition at the 2023 American Classic. Lew, Caylor, Pineda, Avery Moll, Disidore, Evelyn Lowe, Milton, Brooke Pierson.

Two senior gymnasts qualified to compete the all-around at U.S. Championships: all-around winner Myli Lew of San Mateo Gymnastics, who scored a 51.550, and Dulcy Caylor, a local gymnast at World Champions Centre in Spring, Texas, who scored a 51.000. Caylor, teammate of 2016 Olympic Champion Simone Biles, had a last-minute score adjustment from 50.850, narrowly meeting the 51.000 threshold to qualify to U.S. Championships. Another gymnast, Amelia Disidore, of Great American Gymnastics Express (GAGE), qualified to compete three events at U.S. Championships: vault, uneven bars and balance beam.

Lew won the uneven bars with a score of a 14.250 with a difficulty value of 5.700, while Disidore won vault with a score of 14.250, performing the most difficult vault at the

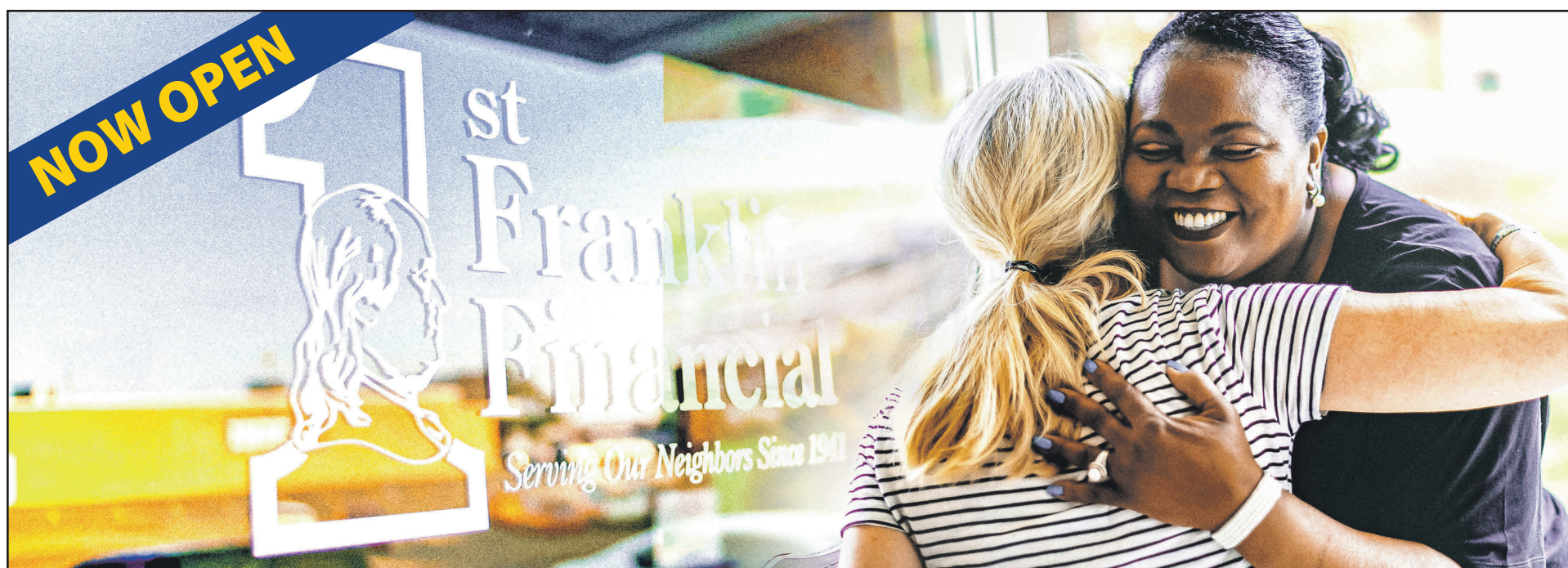
American Classic (a double twisting Yurchenko valued at 5.0 difficulty value). Malea Minton of GAGE won the balance beam with a score of 13.300 and a difficulty value of 5.600, and Michelle Pineda of Metrox Gymnastics won floor exercise with a score of 13.050 and a difficulty value of 5.100.

Of note, Sunday's competition marks the return of Kayla DiCello, 2020 Olympic team alternate and 2021 World Champion bronze medalist. DiCello competed on balance beam (13.000) and vault (13.250), where she finished 3rd and 4th, respectively. DiCello competed her freshmen year at the University of Florida and recently made known her intention to return to elite gymnastics to vie for a spot at the 2024 Olympics next year.

French elite gymnast, and 2019 European

all-around champion, Melanie de Jesus dos Santos, who currently trains alongside Caylor and Biles at World Champions Centre, also "exhibited" two routines on Sunday: a beautifully executed uneven bars routine (14.250) and a stellar balance beam routine (14.100). Due to Melanie's French citizenship, her scores do not count for 2023 U.S. Championships qualifications, nor for medal purposes. Melanie is coached by Laurent and Cecile Landi, former French gymnasts who also coach Simone Biles and 2020 Olympian, Jordan Chiles.

Gymnasts who did not qualify will have one final chance to do so at the 2023 Core Hydration Classic (formerly U.S. Classic) in Chicago. Simone Biles along with 2020 Olympic Champions, Sunisa Lee and Jade Carey, are slated to compete at the Core Hydration Classic.



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