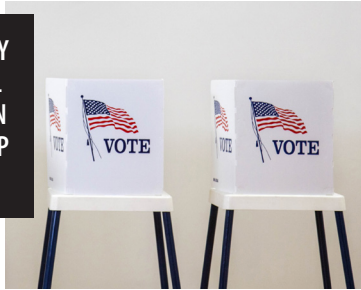


Katy Times

KATY CITY
COUNCIL
ELECTION
ROUNDUP
PAGE A2



VOLUME 108, ISSUE 11

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

Pattison council supports census

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Pattison's City Council unanimously approved a resolution in support of all city residents participating in the 2020 census at their March 3 meeting. Council members and City Secretary Christa Molloy expressed concern that a lack of participation reduced the population count for the 2010 census which may have reduced grant funding opportunities for the city.

"This is what the state and federal government use to examine whether a community qualifies for things," Pattison Mayor Joe Garcia said. "Whether that be grants or any number of other benefits."

Several issues from the 2010 census were issues that the city hoped to avoid moving forward, Molloy said. She cited data from the 2010 census which indicated only about 66% of residents in census tract 6802 - which includes both Pattison and Brookshire - had responded to the 2010 census. Molloy said that conversations with US Census Bureau staff indicated that a lack of understanding of the census as well as a lack of access to the internet had decreased the tract's response rate to the bureau's request for census information.

A statement on the US Census Bureau's website indicates that

See **CENSUS**, page A3



R. HANS MILLER

Pattison Mayor Joe Garcia listens to Pattison City Secretary Christa Molloy explain concerns that can arise when city residents do not respond to the 2020 census at the city council's March 3 meeting.

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"I just want to send a clear message to people in our county. If you are abusing animals, you are leading any kind of animal cruelty activities, we are going to come after you and we are against you, and we are going to prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law."

— FORT BEND COUNTY JUDGE KP GEORGE

UNPRECEDENTED



PHOTOS BY FORT BEND COUNTY CONSTABLE PCT. 3

More than 220 animals were seized from a Katy area home in late February. The condition of the home did not support good health for the resident of the home nor the animals, officials said.

227 animals seized from Katy area home

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

In a joint effort led by the Fort Bend County Constables Office for Precinct 3's animal cruelty investigator, 227 animals were seized from a home in the 2000 block of Saddlehorn Trail in Katy, just south of Katy Mills, Fort Bend officials said. Taking the animals from the owner was prompted when Fort Bend County Animal Services officials requested help from the investigator after looking into a report about the home Feb. 27.

"Today we are marking an animal cruelty case in Katy, Texas which is the largest animal [cruelty] case in the county so far," Fort Bend County Judge KP George said.

George said the animal cruelty officer was one of several people working on the case which includes assistance from Fort Bend County Animal Services, Houston PetSet, Harris County Constables Office Precinct 5, the Fort Bend County Attorney's Office, the Fort Bend County District



See **UNPRECEDENTED**, page A3

A wide variety of animals were taken into custody including rats, dogs, cats and exotic animals such as tortoises and turtles.

Fort Bend, Harris take on novel coronavirus

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Fort Bend County announced its first case of the novel coronavirus - also known as COVID-19 - March 4. Harris County authorities notified the public of two additional cases of the virus the following day and as of March 10 at 3 p.m., Fort Bend County was reporting six cases while Harris County reports four cases.

"The threat of COVID-19 to the general public in [Greater] Houston remains low and there is currently no need to cancel local events or classes," said Dr. Umair Shah, executive director of Harris County Public Health.

According to the World Health Organization, coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Novel coronavirus is prevented in the same way as similar viruses by regular hand washing, avoiding touching the face, covering coughs and sneezes, cooking meat and eggs thoroughly and disinfecting surfaces that are touched or handled regularly. Authorities continue to emphasize that there is no evidence of public spread of the virus.

"You can continue going to

See **CORONAVIRUS**, page A3



There are a total of ten cases of COVID-19 in Harris and Fort Bend counties combined as of March 10.



City council candidate roundup

By **R. HANS MILLER**
SENIOR REPORTER

The deadline to file for Katy City Council passed Feb. 14 and eight candidates filed for office in total. After no candidates filed to run against Chris Harris, he will serve another three years in the council's At Large seat.

Katy City Council members may sit for two consecutive three-year terms in a given seat, including the mayor. Once two consecutive terms are served in that seat, members may run for other seats such as the At Large position but may not run for the particular position they've held again without skipping a three-year term.

This year, the At Large, Ward A and Ward B positions are facing elections with incumbents in Ward A and Ward B facing multiple opponents in the race.

This piece is just the start of coverage for the Katy City Council election. Katy Times will be hosting a candidate forum on March 25 at Snappy's on downtown Katy from 6-9 p.m. The event will also be streamed via the Katy Times Facebook page with the assistance of our audio-video sponsor, Allegiant Gaming.

Katy Times asked candidates for their basic contact information and asked them to indicate why they are running for office. Responses were limited to 125 words to ensure each candidate had a fair amount of space in the paper. Responses have been lightly edited to correct typos and fit them into the space allotted to each candidate. Each candidate was provided with a deadline which they all met.

AT LARGE CANDIDATES

Chris Harris

Website: www.facebook.com/charris0911
Phone: 936-825-5824
Email: charris911@yahoo.com

Thank you, citizens of Katy, for the trust you have placed in me. My goals on city council this next term remain to prioritize flood mitigation projects, maintaining and strengthening public safety and expanding our parks and greenspaces.

Dealing with growth and our city's role and place in Houston's westward expansion is priority. How do we as a community, maintain our small-town image and unique identity as a community? We do this by encouraging quality commercial growth at the peripheral of our city limits, a vibrant downtown Katy and quiet residential areas. Working with our partners at Katy ISD, county and state for quality schools and transportation projects is imperative. Also important is having entertainment and shopping at our fingertips encouraging tourism to "Hometown Katy".



CHRIS HARRIS

WARD A CANDIDATES

Dharminder Dargan

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/dargan4katy>
Phone: Not provided.
Email: Not provided.

My name is Dharminder Dargan and I am running for Katy City Council member Ward A position. After having moved to Texas 20+ years ago, I have gained a deep appreciation and respect for this great state. By profession I am an engineer and small business owner. I have spent the past two decades engaged in a range of community development projects focusing on education, culture, and family values. I am ready to put forth my skills, aptitude, and wealth of experience towards building a better Katy for all. I am a proud father, a happy husband, and a loyal brother, but most importantly, a passionate citizen of Katy. It would be an honor to serve city of Katy community.



DHARMINDER DARGAN

Diane Robichaux Walker

Website: www.facebook.com/DianeWalkerforCityCouncil/
Phone: 281-969-3009
Email: dcwkaty@gmail.com

I have lived in Katy all my life and care greatly about the community. I would like to continue to focus on Public safety. I want to ensure that our Police Department and Fire Department have the funding needed for equipment, training, and technology. I would like to see sidewalks strategically placed throughout the City in high pedestrian areas. I also believe that the sidewalk installation and repair should have its own line item on the budget. I would like to see the City continue to expand our parks and recreational services. Additionally, I believe that we need to protect the values of our city while managing its inevitable growth. If anyone would like to speak with me you can call or email anytime.



DIANE ROBICHAUX WALKER

Janet Corte

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/447609639010832/>
Phone: 281-804-7705
Email: jcorte2020@gmail.com

I am running for reelection as a proven leader who has brought value to Council and my constituents. I am not afraid to ask the tough questions. I have accomplished

much in the last 2 years but there are projects in various stages of development that I want to ensure are completed/implemented such as additional detention, improved infrastructure, downtown revitalization and a system of connected sidewalks/pathways. My priorities remain flooding/drainage, aging infrastructure, public safety and improved parks/greenspace, and managed growth that provides a stable tax base for the future. I have worked hard developing knowledge and relationships to move the city forward in a positive direction and will continue to do so while still protecting its family-friendly, small town charm and heritage.



JANET CORTE

WARD B CANDIDATES

Durran C. Dowdle

Website: www.facebook.com/councilmemberdurran.dowdle.9
Phone: 281-757-3173
Email: Durran77@Aol.com

I seek reelection for what's been accomplished and further what's to be accomplished. There are challenges ahead and my Experience & Leadership will rise to the occasion; you can't lead others beyond where we are ourselves. Experience matters. I bring to you sound judgement, informed decision making, what the law allows, and I don't offer change for the sake of making change. My record reflects that I have reduced taxes, approved bonds for flood mitigation, provided strategic planning, increased revenue, installed an ethics policy and approved sensible budgets for our City. Our FD has the best ISO rating of 1 thanks to Chief Wilson. Police Chief Diaz has brought technology to community policing. Remember elections have consequences- Re-Elect Durran C. Dowdle to continue positive leadership.



DURRAN C. DOWDLE

Sam Pearson

Website: None
Phone: 832-618-5901
Email: sam.pearson47@gmail.com

Katy is a special town. This is why my wife, Lynne and I moved here. I grew up in a rural area. I know the importance of friends, family and community. I have a strong belief in God, the USA, and Texas. There is a great push today toward urbanization of morals and socialism. This is attempting to destroy history and traditional thinking. It is important that Katy's hometown feeling be preserved. Katy residents should feel secure and know the city has their backs. Being elected is a responsibility to serve the citizens, not a title or an entitlement. I have been in public service jobs all my working career. I would consider it a privilege to serve Katy's citizens and preserve the hometown atmosphere.



SAM PEARSON

Steve Pierson

Website: None
Phone: 832-661-8800
Email: None

To all of my fellow Katy residents, it has been an honor and privilege to be serving the public since 1977. I am a first responder. I have been on Katy City Council, Board of Adjustment, Katy Development Authority, Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, Mayor Pro Tem for two mayors and served on other numerous boards. I have a successful track record while serving as a representative of the public. The city of Katy needs Council Members that stay true to our core values while promoting managed growth for future generations. Yes, there are issues. Yes, things need to happen. I see that and want to be the one to stand up and push for that change. Vote Steve Pierson for Katy City Council! Steve Pierson (832) 661-8800



STEVE PIERSON

Rory Robertson

Website: www.facebook.com/RoryRobertsonWardB
Phone: 281-451-4052
Email: RobertsonWardB@gmail.com

After 43 years of living in Katy and my family's 116-year history here, I will say without hesitation that we live in the best community in Texas. However, to be a better government for the city, we must open up discussions with the residents of Katy. I will be a strong voice for all citizens of our city. We need a city that will listen more and talk less in regards to decisions affecting our lives. I will increase transparency and ensure that all votes will be based on how they will affect the citizens and the businesses of Katy first and foremost. Being a City Councilmember is about listening and representing our neighbors. This has been lost and I will bring it back.



RORY ROBERTSON

More Democrats voted than Republicans

By **ALEXA URA** and **MANDI CAI**
TEXAS TRIBUNE

For the first time since 2008, more Texans voted in the Democratic presidential primary than in the Republican primary — but just barely.

With all polling places tallied Thursday, Democrats had cast 2,076,046 votes in the pitched contest to take on President Donald Trump in November. Meanwhile, Republicans cast 2,008,385 votes in the presidential contest. Overall, a small majority of votes — 2,071,745 — came during early voting, and 2,012,686 were cast on election day, according to the Texas secretary of state's office.

(Those vote tallies remain unofficial. County election officials are still processing mail-in ballots that were postmarked by election day and working through which provisional ballots will be counted.)

More than anything, turnout in presidential primary elections has historically served as a measure of the competitiveness of the race and the heightened enthusiasm that comes with that. That was particularly true this year when the Democratic field narrowed significantly just before Super Tuesday, when Texas' massive haul of delegates came up for grabs.

Republicans voting in the presidential primary had outpaced Democrats during the state's early voting period. The opposite was true on election day.

The increased election day turnout was felt on the ground. In Bexar County, election officials said they averaged 6,000 voters an hour in the first three hours of voting.

To no one's surprise given the state's depressing turnout history, a small slice of Texas' total electorate participated in Tuesday's presidential

primary. With 16.2 million Texans registered to vote, just 25.2% cast a ballot in the primary election.

Turnout in primary elections is hardly an indicator for statewide electoral outcomes in November general elections.

The 2008 primary fight between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama drove Democratic turnout up to 22.5% — a recent high water mark — but the Republican nominee, former U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona, beat Obama by nearly 12 points later that year.

Texas uses an open primary system, meaning voters can decide at the polls whether they want to vote in the Democratic or Republican contest.

The Texas Tribune is a nonpartisan, nonprofit media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues.

PET OF THE WEEK

MEET HOUSTON

Houston is a four-year-old Chow mix. Houston is one of the long-term residents at Special Pals and deserves a great forever home. He is housetrained and understands basic commands. The ideal home has active lifestyle for lots of play time and needs some training with being mouthy. He loves to be brushed. He seems shy and can get nippy. Houston needs to be the only dog in the house.



Houston is available at Special Pals Shelter located at 3830 Greenhouse Road in Houston. The shelter is closed Mondays and Tuesdays but is open from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Additional hours are available Friday from 2-6 p.m. The shelter can be reached at 281-579-7387 and online at www.specialpalsshelter.org.

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UNPRECEDENTED

from page A1

Attorney's Office, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office's Mental Health team and the Houston Humane Society. The members are a part of the Fort Bend County Animal Cruelty Task Force.

Fort Bend County Constable for Precinct 3 Wayne Thompson said the seizure process began after the animal cruelty investigator in his department observed the condition of the home. The officer then went to a judge to ask for a warrant to take the animals from their owner, a woman over the age of 60 who had been trying to care for the animals alone. The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office had their mental health team evaluate the woman. The animals were seized and taken to the Houston Humane Society for evaluation, Thompson said.

No arrests have yet been made though the woman, who has not yet been identified because the investigation is ongoing, is a suspect, Thompson said. The investigation necessitates fully examining all of the animals involved, he added.

"Currently we are undergoing a full physical exam for each animal from the Fort Bend seizure," said Carolyn Bender, a staff veterinarian at the Houston Humane Society. "We have currently addressed all of the exotics [which had] mostly had husbandry concerns. These species included turtles, tortoises, degus, rats, ferrets and birds as well."

Evaluations of dogs were expected to take a while longer, but canines examined so far have skin issues and fleas, Bender said. A few have more serious health conditions that are being addressed.

"We have also completed all the feline exams and their concerns were mainly fleas, ear disease as well as upper respiratory infections, so treatments have already begun for that," Bender said.

Two animals died during the seizure process, Thompson said. One died on-scene while the other died during transport to the Houston Humane Society.

Michelle Turner with the Fort Bend County Attorney's Office said a hearing would be held March 9 wherein the county would ask for the ownership of the animals be transferred to the Houston Humane Society.

Thompson said the owner of the animals was cooperative but while her intentions toward the animals, which she did not appear to be trying to breed, seemed good, she may have become overwhelmed over time.

Fort Bend County Assistant District Attorney Sherry Robinson said charges could range from a Class A misdemeanor to a felony. The suspect's mindset and intentions toward the animals and the overall conditions of all the animals would be taken into account prior to an arrest or formal charges being filed.

"When we work closely with the task force, our cases are better for it, so we thank the county judge and Constable Thompson for spearhead-

ing the creation of the task force. When we all work together our cases become solid cases that we can prosecute to the fullest extent of the law," Assistant District Attorney Sherry Robinson said.

The Houston Humane Society is in need of donations to assist with the care associated with this case and its day-to-day operations, Bender said. Area residents who want to help cover the estimated \$100,000 cost associated with the case can visit www.houstonhumane.org, drop donations off at the Humane Society or order supplies through the Houston Humane Society's Amazon wish list.

Thompson said the law requires pet owners to register cats and dogs and provide all animals with food water and shelter.

Anyone suspecting animal cruelty in the Fort Bend County portion of the Katy area should call 832-927-7297 (PAWS) to reach the animal cruelty task force, Thompson said.

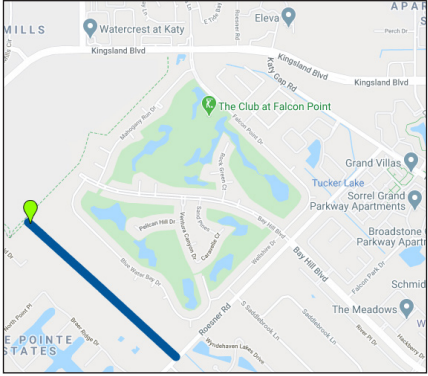
George expressed gratitude for the assistance of all the agencies that have formed partnerships to prevent animal cruelty in Fort Bend County and wants residents to know the county is prioritizing animal welfare and good treatment.

"I just want to send a clear message to people in our county," George said. "If you are abusing animals, you are leading any kind of animal cruelty activities, we are going to come after you and we are against you, and we are going to prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law."



PHOTOS BY FORT BEND COUNTY CONSTABLE PCT. 3

Some animals had skin conditions including flea infestations and had to be treated once they were taken to the Houston Humane Society. Evaluation of the animals was still in progress at the time of a March 5 press conference, officials said.



The investigation occurred in the 2000 block of Saddlehorn Trail just south of Katy Mills. A specific address was not provided by investigators as the case is ongoing.

CORONAVIRUS

from page A1

work and school as you normally do because we don't have that evidence of community-wide transmission," Harris County Judge Lena Hidalgo said. "We have a self-contained group. We can continue to go about our days."

All cases in both counties appear to be travel-related at this time and there is no evidence of COVID-19 spreading throughout the community according to both counties' health departments. Most cases are associated with the M.S. A'sara river cruise which visited Egypt. Each of the patients affected by the illness has been treated at area hospitals and have been sent home, according to area officials.

After residents expressed concern through social media, Fort Bend County Judge KP George provided an explanation on why specific locations patients may have visited were not being publicly released during the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court's March 10 regular meeting.

"In order to avoid the risk of infections, based on CDC guidelines, simply being in the same building or in the indoor environment as a COVID-19 patient is not a risk," George said. "Passing by someone in an airport or some other location does not represent a risk."

Authorities in both counties are also asking anyone who feels unwell to stay home to avoid spreading COVID-19 or other illnesses and to contact their primary care physicians for treatment.

"It's important right now for us all to recognize and spread the word that we don't need the young people clogging up the hospitals for example if and when this ever becomes more widespread," Hidalgo said. "We need to make sure that we all are careful and recognize that it's older folks who are at most risk [and those] that have pre-existing health conditions that put them at most risk."

Health Authority for the city of Houston, Dr. David Persse said cases have two levels of diagnosis. They are first tested by a Houston lab and if a positive test result shows, the case is classified as a "presumptive positive" diagnoses. Once the presumptive diagnosis is made, medical professionals begin treatment for the virus, he said. Specimens are then sent to the CDC

BE IN THE KNOW

Fort Bend County and Harris County officials have encouraged people to continue to remain calm but stay informed regarding COVID-19. Both counties have created information lines for residents to obtain additional information about the spread of novel coronavirus in the Greater Houston area. Additionally, while no cases have been reported in association with Katy Independent School District campuses, the district has created a website to ensure parents are informed regarding the steps the district has taken to be proactive while COVID-19 remains a concern.

For Fort Bend County Residents:
FORT BEND COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
281-633-7795
Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm
www.fbchealth.org/ncov

Harris County Residents:
HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH (HCPH)
713-439-6000
Open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
www.hcph.tx.gov/COVID-19
www.ReadyHarris.org

HARRIS COUNTY RESIDENTS WITHOUT ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE:
713-634-1110
Open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

KATY ISD INFORMATION WEBSITE:
www.katyisd.org/Pages/Coronavirus-Information.aspx

City of Houston Residents:
HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT
832-393-4220*
Open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
www.HoustonHealth.org
www.HoustonEmergency.org
**Phone line is currently only for M.S. A'sara cruise passengers*

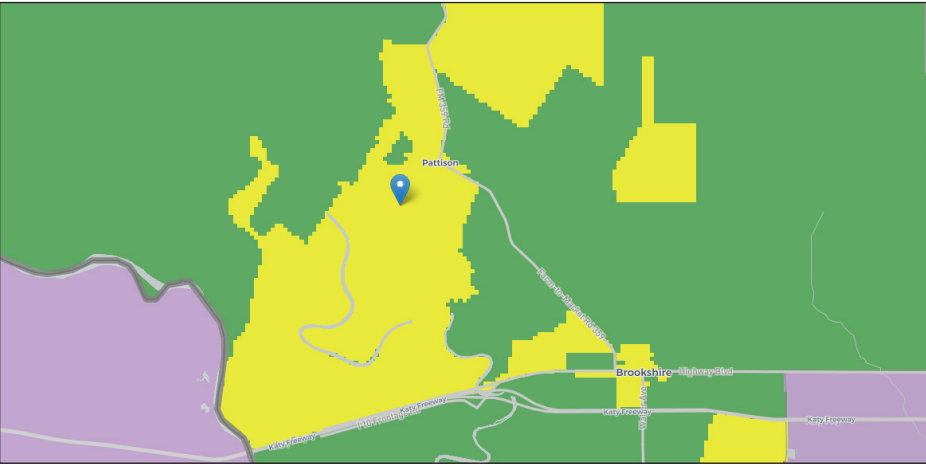
for confirmation. Once that confirmation is made, the illness has a confirmed positive diagnosis, he said. COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath, a Fort Bend statement said. Officials encouraged anyone with symptoms to visit their doctors.

About 80% of those who contract the virus suffer only mild symptoms like a mild flu, Hidalgo said. About 20% of patients have some complications that may require more intensive treatment. Those over the age of 80 are the most vulnerable, she said. In the places experiencing coronavirus, about 50-70% get sick, Hidalgo said.

Novel coronavirus was first seen Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in late 2019, according to the Harris County Public Health website. Since it first emerged in December, the virus has had just more than 118,000 cases diagnosed globally. Of those cases, about 3.6% have resulted in fatalities. About 81,000 of patients affected by COVID-19 have been located Mainland China.

Hidalgo expressed concern that Harris County's testing capabilities are not what she would like them to be and that the county is having to ask the state for permission to test for COVID-19 at the Houston lab or sending tests to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's lab in Atlanta, Ga.

"When we increase our testing capabilities, we expect to see an increase in the number of diagnosed cases and that's logical," Hidalgo said. "We believe there's bound to be more out there - especially the folks we've already identified [that we would like to test]."



U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The U.S. Census Bureau expects to hand-deliver packets to the areas in yellow on this map due to the region being difficult to get an online or mailed-in response. An estimated 65-70% of residents are expected to respond on their own, but the census attempts to obtain a 100% response rate. Often, libraries are useful to increase response rates; however, there is only one library in the region which is in Brookshire.

CENSUS

from page A1

Waller County is difficult to track but tract 6802 is "one of the hardest to count in the country."

The census begins April 1 and data collection will continue through the end of July according to the US Census Bureau website.

Garcia said it was important for everyone in the city to complete the census in order to ensure the city's residents were represented in Austin and Washington properly. Ensuring that opportunities for funding based upon population come to fruition - especially since the city is expecting the same growth that has been seen in the past with Katy and Fulshear.

Pattison City Councilmembers discussed the need for infrastructure improvements that proper credit for population would be critical for in order to prepare for upcoming growth during the March 3 meeting.

"We've got to do what we can do right now to prepare for the future," Garcia said.

The city can expect challenges to come up due to the currently-rural area it is surrounded by, Molloy said. During the 2014-18 census estimate process, 36.4% of the area had no home internet subscription or only had dial-up

internet. Mobile-only internet access through a cell phone or tablet accounted for 14.4% of internet access, which is a key issue in ensuring everyone has access to complete the census survey Molloy said.

Many Pattison residents also live behind gates on ranch or farmland and that may make it difficult for census workers who travel door-to-door to access folks in those homes, Garcia said.

Pattison Mayor Pro Tem Seth Stokes said he was concerned that some people may not trust the census workers enough to allow them into their homes to help with completing the census questionnaire. They also may just throw the postcards sent out by the census away because they mistake it for junk mail

or do not understand the value the census provides to the community, he said.

Molloy said she is working with census staff to obtain assistance to hold community events to educate residents about the census and assist residents in completing the questionnaires that would be coming soon.

Councilmembers agreed that maximizing participation in the census would be vital for the city's success as it faces growth in the next decade and beyond and could not afford a poor showing as happened in 2010 and the 2014-18 time periods.

"We're a small, rural community so whether it's through our city council or word of mouth, we want to try to do a better job," Garcia said.

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Vets are hurt by laws made to help them

President Bush had the best of intentions when he signed the Military Lending Act (MLA) into law in 2006, capping the fees that banks and other businesses can charge when lending to service members and their spouses. After all, who wants those who have put their lives on the line for this country to be exploited by unfair lending practices? The MLA was supposed to protect them from exploitation, make borrowing more affordable to our service members and their families, and limit the bad actors in lending.



It has not worked out as planned. In fact, borrowing has not become more affordable for military members and their families. The update in 2014, which added further restrictions on military lending, simply compounded the difficulties that service members were facing under the law.

Harris Insights polling has found that between 2014 and 2019, the percentage of military personnel suffering financial distress more than doubled, from 16 percent to 34 percent. The number of military bankruptcies or bankruptcies under consideration, rose from nearly zero to 40,000 between 2014 and 2019, and the number in financial difficulty increased from 40,000 to 200,000. Only about 63 percent of respondents “paid all their bills on time” in 2019, compared to 83 percent in 2014. Eleven percent have debt in collections in 2019, compared to three percent in 2014.

Under the MLA, lenders are prohibited from providing service members with some of the most flexible and accommodating forms of alternative credit. As a result, the number of financial services companies operating near military bases and serving military families has dropped. These companies are not vultures - they simply give service members more options, options that are no longer available. This has left many people in “credit deserts,” without the credit upon which they formerly relied.

And this hurts both the service members and the services. A 2017 West Point Military Academy study found some evidence to indicate that having access to a diversity of credit options may decrease “the probability of being involuntarily separated from the Army by ten percent.” The MLA eliminated that diversity. Without that diversity of options, service members cannot find a workable method to get out of financial trouble, and that leads to adverse consequences for the member and the service.

According to the federal government’s National Security Adjudicative Guidelines, excess debt and the inability to repay debts can prevent service members from being deployed:

“Failure to live within one’s means, satisfy debts, and meet financial obligations may indicate poor self-control, lack of judgment, or unwillingness to abide by rules and regulations, all of which can raise questions about an individual’s reliability, trustworthiness, and ability to protect classified or sensitive information... An individual who is financially overextended is at greater risk of having to engage in illegal or otherwise questionable acts to generate funds.”

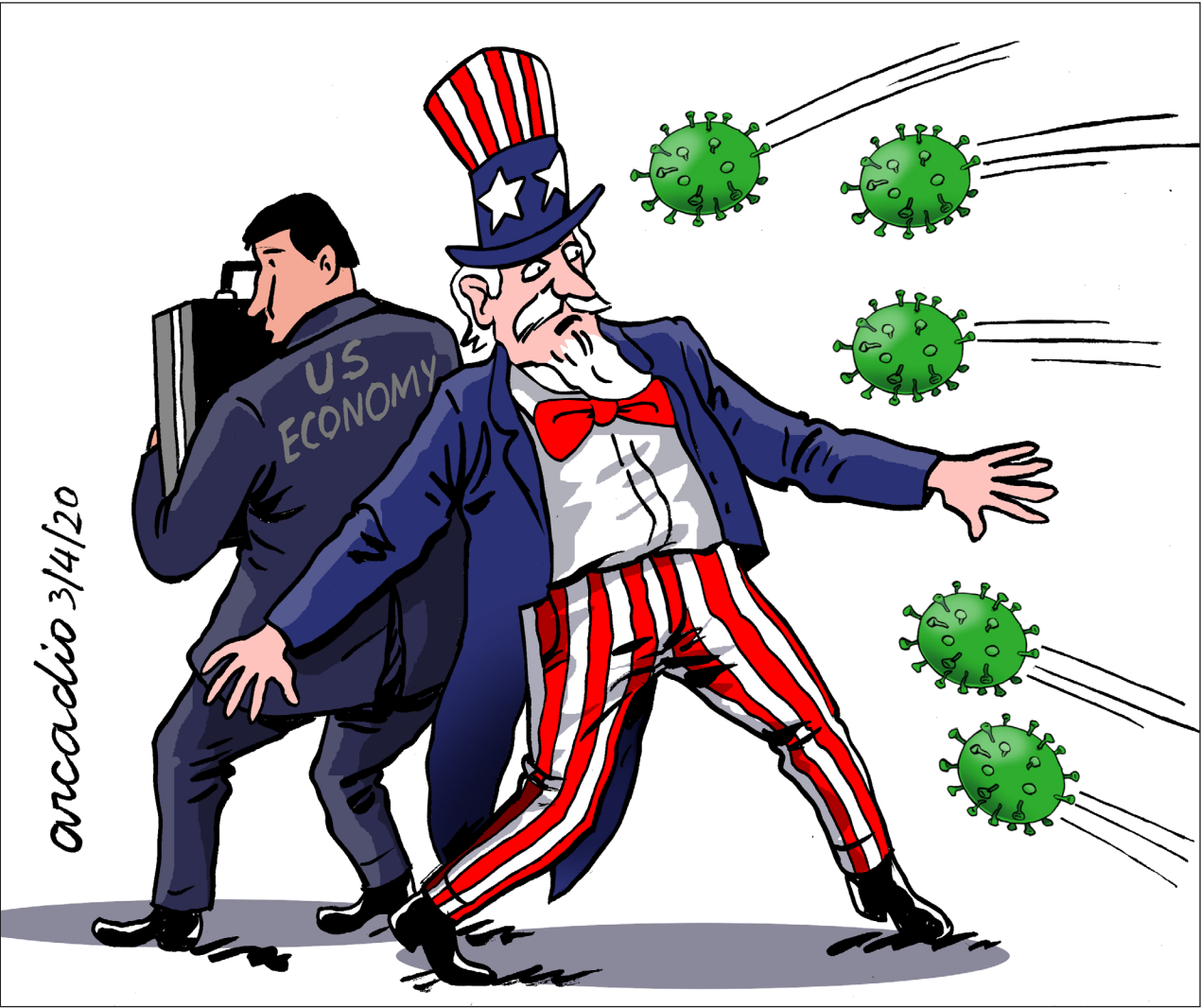
Out of necessity, service members have been forced to take alternative measures that aren’t covered by the MLA. A senior military official has been quoted as saying, “Overdraft programs have replaced payday lending as the leading financial problem for military personnel.” Lack of competition from payday lenders leads to abusive practices by other lenders. This same senior official has also said that some financial institutions are now engaged in “predatory or punitive overdraft practices.” Service members, however, now without options, are forced to accept these practices to avoid adverse consequences to their military career.

Congress has created a doubly negative situation — inequality for service members in terms of the policies governing their credit options, and inequality in terms of the outcomes for their financial well-being. Congress cannot, and did not, legislate away the need for credit.

Some members of Congress have proposed legislation, HR5050, to extend provisions of the MLA to the Truth and Lending Act, which would affect all borrowers - not just service members and their families. The legislation would preempt the consumer credit laws of 43 states, including California, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, and put many families’ finances in peril. This is the wrong approach.

Instead of extending the MLA to the Truth in Lending Act, the MLA itself should be reformed - not only to help service members, but also to stop hurting them.

Ray Haynes is a former California legislator and served as National Chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council. Haynes can be reached at ray-haynes@hotmail.com.



Kids have to make names for themselves

Get this: New parents are giving newborns outlandish names — so they’ll stand out on social media.

That’s according to a new survey of British parents by ChannelMum, which found 72% of respondents “believe a unique name will help their child stand out from the crowd,” StudyFinds reports.

So, what are some of these “unique” names?”

Maevery, Faelina, Idalia, Evabeth and Tessadora are the top five new names for British girls.

Jaspin, Charleston, Brigham, Ranger and Wrenlow are the top five new names for British boys.

Want to see how popular your own name is here in America? Search for it at this Social Security Administration site: <https://www.ssa.gov/cgi-bin/babyname.cgi>

I’m no child-rearing expert, but it seems to me that if you want to give your kids a leg up in life, it’s better to give them simple, traditional names, not names that stand out.

I’m at the tail end of the baby boom. My high school friends were named Tom, John, Jeff, Bill, Bob, Rich and Tim.

As for girls, my sisters have common names: Kathy, Krissy, Lisa, Mary and Jennifer. Other common names include Linda, Elizabeth, Carol, Helen and Sandra.

If you really want your kid to be special, a name won’t do it. She’ll have to earn it, to work hard and sacrifice. She’ll have to try and fail before eventually finding her place — what she’s good at — and then work even harder to polish her talents.

That will be easier if she’s humble. And being humble will be easier if she doesn’t have some goofy name that makes her think she’s God’s precious, special gift to the universe.

Sure, times change and baby names follow trends. But don’t forget this timeless truth: We all have to make a name for ourselves.

Our actions, not our names, define who we



are. Are we honest or a bit sketchy? Compassionate or hard-hearted? Thoughtful or close-minded? Courageous or someone who looks the other way when we see someone else doing wrong?

We freely choose our paths, and our real “names” — our real identities — will reveal themselves, regardless of the names we’re given at birth.

I’m named after my father and his father. I’m the fourth Thomas James Purcell to have the honor of that name.

My name carries a spiritual meaning. Many Christian saints and biblical heroes were named Thomas (including the doubting one). By giving me this name, my parents hoped to bestow good values on me.

With my common name, I never took myself too seriously — I knew I wasn’t the center of anybody’s universe. Flawed though I am, I hope my dad thinks I’ve lived up to our shared name.

I do understand new parents wanting to give their kids a head start in life. But they ought to be careful. An outlandish, “unique” name may do more harm than good.

“Tessadora” sounds like a 1970s Chrysler luxury sedan that never caught on with the public. Will “Tessadora” be as dated 30 years from now as bell bottoms are today?

“Wrenlow” sounds like a bird that’s afraid to fly high. Opportunities abound for bullies to make fun of a name like that.

That’s one thing that Tom, Bob and Tim — and Linda, Elizabeth and Carol — will never have to worry about.

Tom Purcell, author of “Misadventures of a 1970’s Childhood,” a humorous memoir available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), is a Pittsburgh

Tribune-Review humor columnist and is nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. For info on using this column in

your publication or website, contact Sales@cagle.com or call (805) 969-2829. Send comments to Tom at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B4

SUDOKU

		8					4	
	7		3		8		6	
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5	9				4			
7								
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Level: Intermediate

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1	2	3					4	5	6	7
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38									39	
40										41
42										43

CLUES ACROSS

- A team’s best pitcher
- Designer Jacobs
- Hip joint
- A dialect of English
- Portrays
- Panic
- The head of a team
- High priest
- League of Legends locale
- Protective folds
- Treats allergies
- Voodoo spirits
- Single unit
- Unit of measurement
- Brew
- Burundian franc
- Self
- Bengals great
- Making letters overlap
- Piece of pizza
- Illegal drug
- Card game
- The highest point in the development
- Oh, God!
- Wives (law)
- Monetary unit of Samoa
- Supplements with difficulty
- Valentine’s Day color

CLUES DOWN

- Warm climate tree or shrub
- Silky case spun by larvae
- Still in existence
- Light, two-stranded rope
- Wear away
- Beginnings
- Essence
- American Standard Code for Information Interchange
- Path
- Repeated tones
- Expresses surprise
- Monetary unit of Burma
- When you hope to get there
- Brighten
- Fifth note of a major scale
- Dark brown timbers of tropical trees
- We all do it
- Scrounges
- Unit of energy
- Begin to be
- Midway between northeast and east
- Distinctive practice
- Succulent plants
- Performer
- Gas station term
- Required
- Soviet monetary unit
- Eating house

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City OKs infrastructure maintenance contracts

By **R. HANS MILLER**
SENIOR REPORTER

In a relatively short meeting that only lasted about 40 minutes, Katy City Council unanimously approved multiple contracts to maintain the city's infrastructure. The two largest were a \$419,000

contract for asphalt repairs to streets and a \$148,000 project to replace two waterlines within the city.

The street repairs are expected to take place in a few weeks along Bartlett Street and George Bush Drive according to city documents. The contract was awarded to AAA Asphalt and

Paving out of Pinehurst, Tex.

Katy Director of Public Works Elaine Lutringer said she expects work on the roadways to begin in a few weeks after the city has had a chance to meet with the contractors and should take three to four weeks if weather is cooperative. Door hangers will be placed on

residents' doors prior to work on the streets beginning.

The waterline replacement contract was awarded to Supak Construction, Inc. out of Orchard, Tex., according to city documents. Supak was awarded the contract from a field of nine companies that bid on the work.



R. HANS MILLER

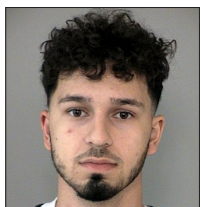
Katy City Council approved multiple contracts to repair or replace infrastructure in the city at its March 9 meeting.

One arrested in child porn case in Fort Bend County

By **R. HANS MILLER**
SENIOR REPORTER

Samer Chadi Wehbi was arrested March 5 for possession of child pornography by members of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office who are part of the Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force according to a FBC-SO press release.

"We are dedicated to protecting the



SAMER CHADI WEHBI

children and families of Fort Bend County," said Sheriff Troy Nehls.

The arrest came after a search warrant was issued and subsequently served at Wehbi's home in the Canyon Gate section of the Westheimer Lakes subdivision. There were four people living in the home, including one minor.

Wehbi was found to have child pornography on multiple devices and admitted to having hundreds of images of child pornography saved to his devices.

Wehbi was subsequently booked into the Fort Bend County Jail for Possession of Child Pornography.

"We will stop at nothing to apprehend these dangerous predators," Nehls said.

Trump and Biden emerge as winners in Texas primaries

By **ED STERLING**
CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Incumbent President Donald J. Trump, who received 94% of the vote in the Lone Star State's Republican primary election, and former Vice President Joe Biden, who received 34.5 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary, were their parties' top vote-getters on March 3, Super Tuesday.

Biden's closest rival was Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who received 30% of the Democratic vote. Sanders was followed by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, 14.4%, and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, 11.4%.

Overall voter turnout figures posted by the Texas Secretary of State's Elections Division show 4,084,431 of the state's 16,211,198 registered voters cast a ballot — slightly more than 25% of total registered voters. That's a higher participation rate than in the 2016 Super Tuesday vote. Then, 3,289,218 Texans cast a ballot, or 23% of the 14,238,436 voters who were registered at the time.

City cancels festival

The city of Austin and Travis County on March 6 declared a "local state of disaster" in response to what officials called an increasing concern over novel coronavirus — COVID-19 — the deadly flu-like contagion that has developed into a worldwide health threat.

Austin Mayor Steve Adler issued a related order canceling the South by Southwest



BRANDEE MILLER

Officials in Austin said the state is now able to test for the Novel Coronavirus and that any price gouging related to concern over the virus would be considered a consumer protection issue. The state also released information regarding sales tax revenues for February.

festival, an event that has been hosted annually by the capital city since 1987. To illustrate the rapidity of the local decision-making process, only two days earlier, Austin's public health department stated that "there's no evidence that closing SXSW or any other gatherings will make the community safer."

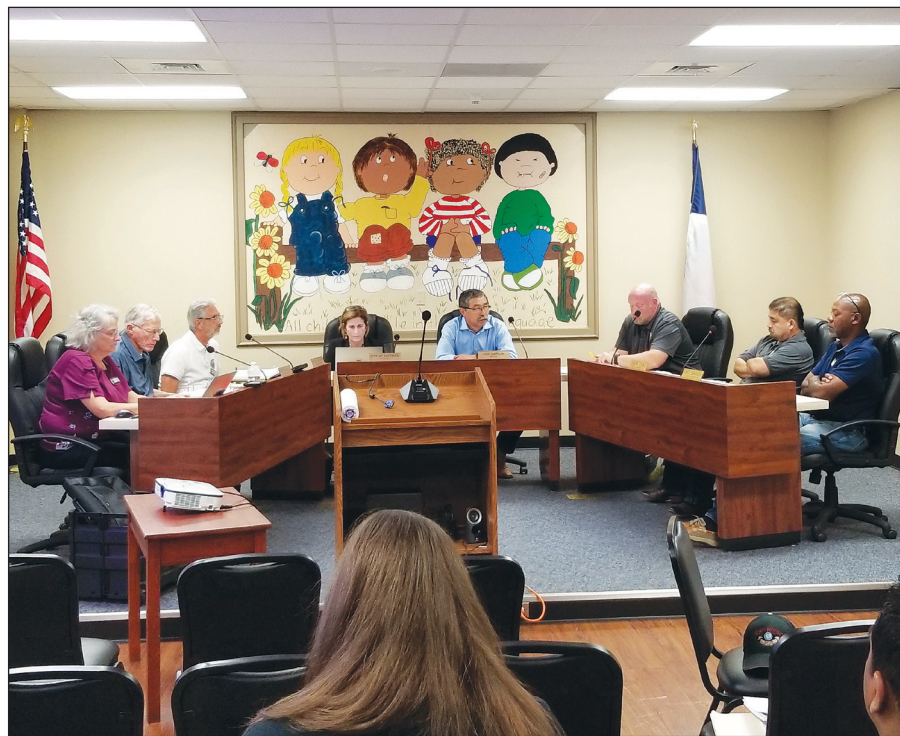
Dr. Mark Escott, commenting on behalf of the department on March 6, said, "While there is no clear guidance on what local jurisdictions should do under these circumstances, our local expert advisory panel took a look at the risk factors and identified a number of concerns."

Abbott: Texas can test

Texas now has the capacity to test for COVID-19, Gov. Greg Abbott announced on March 5 in a joint press conference with Department of State Health Services Commissioner John Hellestedt and Texas Division

of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd.

Six public health labs within the Texas Laboratory Response Network are now equipped to perform COVID-19 testing, with the remaining four being fully equipped in the coming days, Abbott said. The network provides laboratory diagnostics and maintains the capacity to respond to biological and chemical threats and other public health emergencies. The six public health labs within the network that are equipped to perform COVID-19 tests include Austin, Houston, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth and Lubbock. The remaining four labs in the network will be equipped with testing capabilities in the coming days: Tyler, San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Harlingen. The state public health lab network will be able to test over 125 patients per day once the entire network is equipped, Abbott added.



R. HANS MILLER

Pattison's City Council cancelled the city's election at its March 3 meeting due to no opposition filing to run against the incumbents. Pictured from left to right: City Secretary Christa Molloy, Robert MacCallum, Wayne Kircher, City Attorney Laura Lenz, Mayor Joe Garcia, Mayor Pro Tem Seth Stokes, Frank Cubio, Jr. and Fred Branch.

City council election canceled

By **R. HANS MILLER**
SENIOR REPORTER

The Pattison City Council voted unanimously March 3 to cancel the city's May 2 city council election. The vote was called because no opponents stepped forward to challenge Mayor Joe Garcia, Councilmember Wayne Kircher nor Councilmember Frank Cobio, Jr.

As a result of the vote, all three will be

considered to be reelected and will serve another two-year term in their respective seats. Kircher holds seat 1 on the council while Cobio holds seat 2. The next election for Pattison City Council will come in May 2021 and will be for seats 3, 4 and 5, City Secretary Christa Molloy said. The incumbents for those seats when the time comes will be Robert MacCallum, Seth Stokes and Fred Branch, respectively.

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Katy Times to host Katy City Council candidate forum

Katy Times would like to invite the residents of Katy to join us at Snappy's in downtown Katy this March 25 at 6 p.m. for a candidate forum to introduce them to this year's Katy City Council Candidates. This town hall style event will feature all eight candidates that are asking for your vote. Matthew Ferraro, president of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce has agreed to MC the event and will be asking candidates a variety of questions related to the city's priorities and why each candidate is running for office.

For those who are unable to make it to the event, you'll be able to watch it online via the Katy Times' Facebook page with the help of our audio-video sponsor, Allegiant Gaming.

We would like to thank the candidates and the community for their patience while we finished planning this event. We look forward to this event which is geared to ensure each vote cast in the city is an informed vote.

K4 THE KATY AREA CHAMBER

*Sponsorship of this public event does not imply an endorsement of any particular candidate in any of the races associated with the event.



William Charles Hill was born on February 2, 1931 in Katy, Texas to Raymond Monroe Hill and Clara Mae Hulse. William married his sweetheart Joann Spencer on November 16, 1952 in

Katy, Texas. Charles was a longtime resident of Katy, Texas, where he was a member of Katy's First United Methodist Church, was a dairyman and worked in maintenance for Katy ISD.

Charles enjoyed spending time with his family traveling in their RV, making beautiful memories and sharing adventures together. But most of all, he loved spending time with his family.

William Charles Hill passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2020 in Burleson, Texas at the age of 89 years. Charles will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his daughter Clara Kimbro; grandchildren, Rian Hill, Jared Hill and his companion Jackie Silva, Kyle Kimbro, and Carisa Kimbro; and one great-grandson Landon Hill; as well many other loving family members and numerous friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife Joann Hill and his son, Charles Louis Hill and his wife Deborah "Debi" Hill.

The family received friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy. A graveside service was held at 2:30 p.m. on Monday at Memorial Oaks Cemetery, in Houston, with Rev. Mark Kimbrough officiating.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to Katy's First United Methodist Church, 5601 Fifth Street, Katy, Texas 77493, <https://www.katyfirst.org>.

To express condolences, please visit www.SchmidtFuneral-Home.net

Funeral services were held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1344 W. Grand Parkway South in Katy, Texas. They can be reached at (281) 391-2424.



WILLIAM CHARLES HILL
1931-2020

The meaning behind the shamrock

Saint Patrick's Day is coming up this March 17 and when talking about the holiday and Ireland and its culture and symbolism, many different images come to mind. Affectionately known as the Emerald Isle, Ireland is perhaps best known for its bright green hue. Irish flags and even harps are symbolic of the nation, but there is perhaps one symbol that most widely represents the country: the shamrock.

A shamrock, by definition, is a young sprig of clover. However, plant experts actually have said that shamrocks are a distinct species of the clover plant, believed to be the white clover. The word "shamrock" is derived from the Irish "seamr—g" which translates as "young clover." Over the centuries, this diminutive plant has come to symbolize Ireland and many things Irish. The shamrock also is a popular symbol of St. Patrick's Day.

The shamrock and Irish culture are so intertwined thanks to Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick. Legends attest to St. Patrick using the three petals of the shamrock to illustrate the mysteries of the Holy Trinity to the Celtic pagans. Each leaf represented the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The shamrock of Ireland has three leaves, not four as many people believe. The number three had significance in Ireland long before St. Patrick began to convert the masses. According to Blarney.com, the number three was believed to have magical properties and was a recurring theme in Celtic folklore. Because the Celts were familiar with the shamrock, it became easy to convert their knowledge of the shamrock to the magic of the trinity. The three leaves are also said to stand for faith, hope and love.

The four-leaf clover is a separate entity and a rarity. That is why the fourth leaf is deemed to be "lucky." But that lucky clover is not the traditional Irish symbol.

Thanks to their connection with Ireland, sham-



Irish flags and even harps are symbolic of the nation, but there is perhaps one symbol that most widely represents the country: the shamrock.

rocks are often gifted by the Prime Minister (Taoiseach) to the President of the United States in the White House each St. Patrick's Day. They are presented in a special Waterford crystal bowl featuring shamrocks in the design. This practice started in 1952.

Shamrocks also can be seen on Irish clothing designs, the Erin go Bragh flag and the uniforms of several Irish sports teams. Of course, they also are seen during St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The shamrock and Ireland will always be linked.

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This devotional page and directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services. For more information, see our Church Directory Online at www.katytimes.com

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*When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul.*
Psalms 94:19

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on the LORD shall
renew their strength;
they shall mount up
with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not
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walk and not faint."

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3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul.
Psalms 94:19

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To submit scores, news or
schedules, email dennis.
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FRIDAY, MARCH 6

- CLASS 6A REGIONAL
SEMIFINALS**
- Dickinson 83,
Morton Ranch 69

BOYS SOCCER

 - Cinco Ranch 3,
Morton Ranch 0
 - Tompkins 5, Katy 0
 - Seven Lakes 4,
Taylor 0
 - Paetow 1, College
Station 1

GIRLS SOCCER

 - Tompkins 2, Katy 1
 - Cinco Ranch 2,
Morton Ranch 0
 - Seven Lakes 1,
Taylor 0
 - College Station 5,
Paetow 0

SOFTBALL

 - Katy 13, Taylor 1
 - Cinco Ranch 7,
Seven Lakes 0
 - Mayde Creek 13,
Morton Ranch 1
 - Paetow def.
Cy-Springs

- THURSDAY,
MARCH 12**
- BASEBALL**
- Katy at Jersey Village,
9 a.m.; Katy at Langham
Creek, 1:30 p.m.
 - Cinco Ranch vs.
Pearland Dawson, at
Friendswood High,
12:30 p.m.; Cinco Ranch
vs. Dulles, at Alvin High,
3 p.m.
 - Mayde Creek at
Summer Creek High,
Noon; Mayde Creek vs.
Aldine, at Summer Creek
High, 3 p.m.
 - Morton Ranch
vs. College Park, at
Brenham Firemans Park,
9:30 a.m.; Morton Ranch
vs. Brenham, at Brenham
Firemans Park, 2:30 p.m.
 - Paetow vs. Huffman,
at Kempner High, 1 p.m.;
Paetow vs. Chisholm
Trail, at Kempner, High,
3:30 p.m.
 - Taylor at Kempner,
10:30 a.m.; Taylor vs.
Bellaire, at Fort Bend
Austin High, 3:30 p.m.
 - Tompkins at Klein
Cain High, 10 a.m.

- FRIDAY,
MARCH 13**
- SOFTBALL**
- Paetow at Seven
Lakes, 5:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

 - Cinco Ranch at
Alvin High, 10 a.m.
 - Mayde Creek vs.
Aldine, at Summer Creek
High, 3 p.m.
 - Morton Ranch
vs. Montgomery, at
Brenham Firemans Park,
Noon; Morton Ranch vs.
Cedar Ridge, at Brenham
Firemans Park, 2:30 p.m.
 - Paetow vs. Bellaire,
at Fort Bend Austin High,
3:30 p.m.
 - Taylor vs. Chisolm
Trail, at Fort Bend Travis
High, 3:30 p.m.; Taylor at
Fort Bend Travis, 6 p.m.
 - Tompkins vs.
George Ranch, at Klein
Collins High, 12:30 p.m.;
Tompkins at Klein Collins
High, 3 p.m.

- SATURDAY,
MARCH 14**
- SOFTBALL**
- Ridge Point at Cinco
Ranch, 1:30 p.m.
 - Magnolia West at
Paetow, 2:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

 - Cinco Ranch vs.
North Shore, at Alvin
High, 12:30 p.m.
 - Morton Ranch vs.
Cy-Fair, at Brenham
Firemans Park, 9:30 a.m.
 - Paetow vs. Liberty
Hill, at Kempner High,
10:30 a.m.
 - Taylor vs.
Bridgeland, at Fort Bend
Austin High, 10:30 a.m.

See **AREA SPORTS**, page B2

Espinoza plays beyond his years

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Growing up in Villahermosa, the capital of the Mexican state of Tabasco, Danny Espinoza knew little else other than soccer.

He played for the Chivas Academy as a 3-year-old. He played soccer every day, all day. Even into the night.

“Once you’re done with homework, you go back outside to play some more,” Espinoza said. “You’re either doing homework, watching soccer or playing soccer. It’s life.”

Espinoza followed the Chivas senior team. He idolized soccer icons Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. But most of the time, he was honing his skills playing a style of soccer where the ball-handling was significantly advanced, even for the youth, and the conditioning was tip top.

“Kids never stopped running,” Espinoza said. “It’s always soccer, soccer, soccer. And the conditions over there ... the summer here (in Katy) would be like

the winter over there. And no matter how hot it was, you would run, run, run. That’s a big part of my game. Never stop running.”

So, Espinoza’s success on the pitch these days, as a playmaking senior midfielder for regional power Tompkins, is no surprise. In 16 games for the 17-3-1 Falcons, Espinoza has 23 goals and 16 assists for a total of 62 points.

Falcons coach Tom Jones remembers watching Espinoza for the first time as an eighth grader at Seven Lakes Junior High.

“We knew we had something really special in him,” Jones recalled. “For being in eighth grade, he was just so composed with the ball. He was small, but physical. He did things that were just beyond his years.”

Espinoza and his family moved to the Katy area when he was in the third grade. In sixth grade, the coach for his club team, Albion, which was associated



Tompkins senior Daniel Espinoza has 23 goals and 16 assists in 16 games for the Falcons so far this season.

See **ESPINOZA**, page B6

SWEET HOMECOMING



Former Taylor standout and Incarnate Word sophomore guard Macy Ray is averaging 7.9 points and leading the team in 3-pointers made with 51 this season.

Former Taylor standout Macy Ray returns to Katy

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

The last time Macy Ray stepped onto a basketball court in Katy, she was drilling college-distance 3-pointers for Taylor High and coach Blair Ary.

The next time she does, however, Ray will be playing for Incarnate Word, with an NCAA tournament berth on the line.

Ray, a 5-foot-7 sophomore combo guard, and the Cardinals open the Southland Conference tournament on Thursday, March 12, at the Merrell

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SOUTHLAND
CONFERENCE
TOURNAMENT
BRACKETS,**
see page B3

Center. Incarnate Word, the No. 7 seed, plays No. 6 seed Nicholls State at 1:30 p.m. The winner of the tournament earns an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

See **RAY**, page B3

MACY’S MARKS

Former Taylor standout Macy Ray is having a significant impact for Incarnate Word’s turnaround this season. Ray ranks second on the Cardinals (14-15, 10-10 Southland Conference) in points per game, minutes per game and assists per game, and leads the team in 3-pointers made as it competes for an NCAA tournament berth in

the Southland Conference tournament this week in Katy.

**GAMES PLAYED-GAME
STARTED:** 29-27
MINUTES PER GAME: 32.6
POINTS PER GAME: 7.9
REBOUNDS PER GAME: 1.9
ASSISTS PER GAME: 1.8
STEALS PER GAME: 1.14
3-POINTERS MADE: 51
3-POINT PERCENTAGE: .323
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE: .788

Morton Ranch trio leaves distinct legacy

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Thirty-two minutes of game time left a temporary stink on what had been accomplished and built in four years at Morton Ranch.

The Mavericks saw their program-best season end with a thud in an 83-69 Class 6A Region III semifinal loss to Dickinson at the Berry Center in Cypress on March 6. The Mavs made just 5 of 22 3-pointers, while the Gators made 11 of 24, and were out-scored 25-16 in a crucial third quarter that essentially awarded Dickinson the game.

It marked a disappointing and unceremonious end to the incredible careers of Morton Ranch seniors L.J. Cryer, Eddie Lampkin and Westley Sellers.

“It’s hard to win when we’re not at the top of our game against a team like Dickinson,” coach Khris Turner said.

“We started the season 0-4 and a lot of people doubted us. We started playing well and proving people wrong and we felt we were ready for the moment. Had we played better, we felt we would’ve been able to advance.”

It hurt. The Mavs’ tempers flared in the waning seconds of the game. Cryer walked dejectedly off the court after the buzzer sounded, wearing No. 4 for the last time as a Mav, an abrupt end to a historic career.

But not all was lost. That is often how it goes with legacies.

One game did not take away from the best season in program history. One loss did not take away from two consecutive undefeated district championships. One setback did not take away from what Cryer, Lampkin and Sellers were able to achieve.

“I’m just proud of what we accomplished,” Lampkin said. “We made

See **MAVS**, page B6



Morton Ranch senior guard L.J. Cryer wrapped up his senior campaign with 1,164 points for an average of 34.2 per game. His career point total of 3,488 ranks fifth all-time in Texas high school boys basketball history, and No. 1 all-time in the Greater Houston area.

AREA SPORTS

from page B1

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

BOYS SOCCER

- Katy at Cinco Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Seven Lakes, at Legacy Stadium, 7:30 p.m.
- Taylor at Tompkins, 7:30 p.m.
- Magnolia West at Paetow, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

- Cinco Ranch at Katy, 7:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Mayde Creek, 7:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Taylor, 7:30 p.m.
- Paetow at Magnolia West, 7 p.m.

SOFTBALL

- Mayde Creek at Katy, 6:15 p.m.
- Tompkins at Cinco Ranch, 6:15 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Morton Ranch, 6:15 p.m.
- Paetow at Bryan Rudder, 6:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

- Mayde Creek at Katy, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

BOYS SOCCER

- Morton Ranch at Katy, at Legacy Stadium, 7:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Taylor, 7:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Mayde Creek, 7:30 p.m.
- Paetow at Bryan Rudder, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

- Katy at Morton Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Tompkins, 7:30 p.m.
- Taylor at Cinco Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
- Bryan Rudder at Paetow, 7 p.m.

SOFTBALL

- Katy at Seven Lakes, 6:15 p.m.
- Taylor at Mayde Creek, 6:15 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Tompkins, 6:15 p.m.
- Paetow at Brenham, 6:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

- Katy at Seven Lakes, 6 p.m.

- Taylor at Mayde Creek, 6 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Tompkins, 6 p.m.
- College Station at Paetow, 7 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Alvin High, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

BASEBALL

- Klein High at Taylor, 1 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Baytown Sterling, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

SOFTBALL

- Tompkins at Katy, 6:15 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Morton Ranch, 6:15 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Taylor, 6:15 p.m.
- Magnolia at Paetow, 6:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

- Tompkins at Katy, 6 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Taylor, 6 p.m.
- Magnolia West at Paetow, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

SOFTBALL

- Katy at Cinco Ranch, 6:15 p.m.

- Mayde Creek at Seven Lakes, 6:15 p.m.
- Tompkins at Taylor, 6:15 p.m.
- Paetow at Waller, 6:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

- Katy at Cinco Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Seven Lakes, 6 p.m.
- Taylor at Tompkins, 6 p.m.
- Clear Springs at Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Paetow at Magnolia West, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

SOFTBALL

- Morton Ranch at Katy, 6:15 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Taylor, 6:15 p.m.
- Tompkins at Mayde Creek, 6:15 p.m.
- A&M Consolidated at Paetow, 6:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Atascocita, 6:15 p.m.

BASEBALL

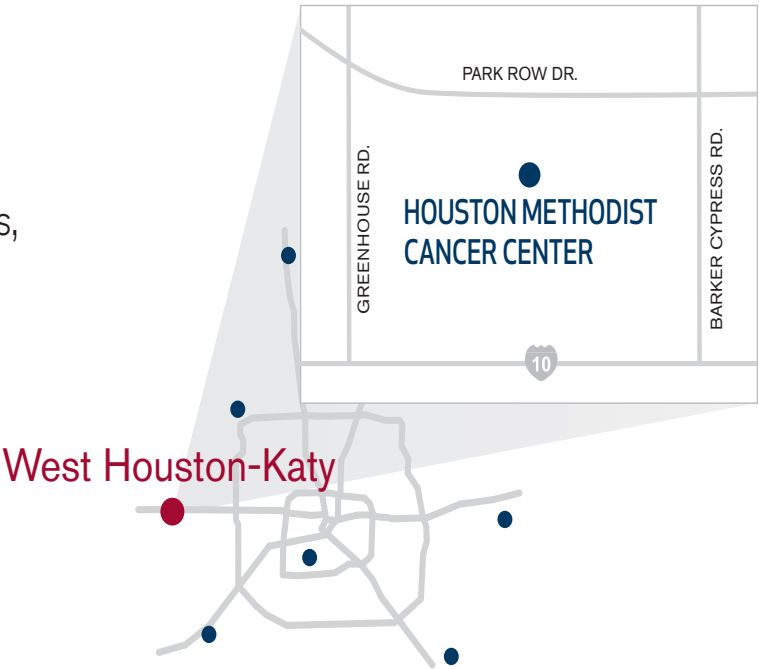
- Morton Ranch at Katy, 6 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Taylor, 6 p.m.
- Tompkins at Mayde Creek, 6 p.m.
- Langham Creek at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
- Paetow at Bryan Rudder, 7 p.m.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

2020 Southland Conference Men's Basketball Tournament

March 11-14, 2020 | Leonard E. Merrell Center | Katy, Texas



Wed., March 11	Thurs., March 12	Fri., March 13	Sat., March 14
No. 8 A&M- Corpus Christi	Winner Game 1		
Game 1 – 5 p.m.			
No. 5 Northwestern State	Game 3 – 5 p.m.	Winner Game 3	
	No. 4 Sam Houston State		
		Game 5 – 5 p.m.	Winner Game 5
		No. 1 Stephen F. Austin	
			Championship Game – 8:30 p.m.
			Southland Tournament Champion and NCAA Automatic Qualifier
	No. 2 Abilene Christian		
		Game 6 – 7:30 p.m.	Winner Game 6
	No. 3 Nicholls		
No. 7 McNeese	Game 4 – 7:30 p.m.	Winner Game 4	
Game 2 – 7:30 p.m.	Winner Game 2		
No. 6 Lamar			


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The championship game will be televised on ESPN2.

The ESPN+ and ESPN2 broadcasts are available online at ESPN.com/watch and the ESPN apps.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2020 Hercules Tires Southland Conference Women's Basketball Tournament

March 12-15, 2020 | Leonard E. Merrell Center | Katy, Texas

Thurs., March 12 Fri., March 13 Sat., March 14 Sun., March 15

No. 8 Southeastern La.

Game 1 – 11 a.m.

No. 5 New Orleans

Game 3 – 11 a.m.

No. 4 Sam Houston State

Game 5 – 1 p.m.

No. 1 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Game 6 – 3:30 p.m.

No. 3 Abilene Christian

No. 7 UIW

Game 2 – 1:30 p.m.

No. 6 Nicholls

Winner Game 1

Winner Game 3

Winner Game 5

Championship Game – 1 p.m.

Southland Tournament Champion and NCAA Automatic Qualifier

Winner Game 2

Winner Game 4


Winner Game 6

*All Times Central

ESPN+ will have exclusive coverage of the first, second and semifinal rounds.

The championship game will be televised on CBS Sports Network.

The ESPN+ broadcasts are available online at ESPN.com/watch and the ESPN apps.

from page B1

"I think it's cool I went off to play Division I basketball and now we get the chance to compete for a spot in the NCAA tournament in my hometown," Ray said. "It's really exciting."

Ray ranks second on the team in points per game, minutes per game (32.6) and assists per game (1.8). She is coming off a career-best outing against Abilene Christian on March 8 in which she scored a career-high 23 points on 7-of-14 3-point shooting to go with only one turnover in 43 minutes.

It has been a remarkable turnaround season for Incarnate Word, which is 14-15 and a conference tournament postseason qualifier after going 5-24 last season. The Cardinals are enjoying their most successful season since becoming a NCAA Division I program in 2013-14.

The Cardinals have beaten three teams in the conference who were in first place at the time they played.

Ray has been an integral part of the Cardinals' rise, which comes as no surprise to Ary, who also played at Incarnate Word and whose former college coach, Angela Lawson, is now a senior associate director of athletics at the school.

“There was this little kid on the floor, shooting at every halftime and between the games of a tournament we were at,” said Ary, who was coaching at Clear Brook at the time. “We were like, ‘Get off the floor, kid!’ She was a fourth or fifth-grade kid, shooting and knocking them down. Like, what in the world? But in all honesty, I remember telling my assistant that I wanted to coach a kid like that.”

That was the beginning of a special player. As a senior, Ray averaged 12.7 points,



"You can see the same kid now in college, taking the same shots she'd take with us, almost standing out of bounds, shooting 3s," Ary said. "She still hustles. She's still making the smart play. She's still working so hard. It's just awesome to see her confidence level at the college level."

"My brother is 10 years older than me and he put a ball in my hands before I could even walk," Ray said. "I've been playing since I took my first steps. It's always been my passion."

Ary doesn't remember Ray ever losing a conditioning sprint drill at Taylor. She does remember taking many late evening calls from Taylor custodians; Ray had somehow found her way into the school and to the gym. Again.

Ray said she is eager to always prove to her coach, be it Ary in high school or Dow now, that she can be someone to rely upon. She commits to establishing herself as a leader in practices. That carries over into games.


“No matter what team I’ve played for, be it AAU, Coach Ary at Taylor, or here, I’ve always just tried to bring to practice the way I play,” Ray said. “The energy, the competitiveness, an overall determination to beat people. All

Dow commends Ray for her role in integrating his no-nonsense culture. The Cardinals are a defensive-oriented team on

“We’ve leaned heavily for her,” Dow said, “and for good reason.”

KATY TIMES

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK




**AMY ABKE | FRESHMAN
SEVEN LAKES HIGH**

Amy Abke is enjoying a dominant start to her first season of high school softball. Last week, Abke hit .667 with a home run against Fort Bend Clements and two grand slams, including one in the Spartans' district opener against Tompkins. Abke boasts an ERA of 2.14 this season and is hitting .533 overall.

(Katy area coaches can submit nominations for Athlete of the Week to densilvaz@gmail.com. Please include the player's name, class, photo (if possible) and 2-3 sentences on their accomplishments/why they are deserving of AOW. Nominations must be submitted every week by noon on Monday to run in that week's Thursday newspaper.)

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Katy Times



Tompkins dominates all-district honors

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

After claiming its first district championship, and going undefeated in doing so, Tompkins dominated All-District 19-6A girls basketball honors for the 2019-20 season.

The Falcons went 12-0 in winning 19-6A, thanks to a dynamic mix of young, precocious talent and veteran leadership. For their efforts, coach Tammy Ray was named the district's Coach of the Year, freshman guard Loghan Johnson was a unanimous choice as Most Valuable Player, junior guard Crystal Smith was named Defensive Most Valuable Player, and freshman wing/guard Fiyin Adeleye was a unanimous choice as Newcomer of the Year.

Katy High finished second in the district with an 8-4 record, followed by Cinco Ranch (7-5) and Seven Lakes (7-5) as the playoff qualifiers out of 19-6A. Taylor finished 5-7, Morton Ranch 2-10 and Mayde Creek 1-11.

Katy High senior guard Allana Thompson rounded out the district's superlative honors by earning Offensive Most Valuable Player.

The rest of the all-district team is as follows:

First Team: Fiyin Adeleye, fr., Tompkins; Abby Bala, jr., Cinco Ranch; Joy Jegede, sr., Katy

High; Bayli Bulawa, sr., Seven Lakes; Dominique Lombard, jr., Taylor; Madison Mascorro, so., Cinco Ranch; Mia Hill, sr., Tompkins; Lily Baumgardner, jr., Seven Lakes.

Second Team: Catherine Hursh, sr., Cinco Ranch; Madyson Bailey, sr., Morton Ranch; Aubrey Ridenhour, jr., Katy High; Kenzie Durnford, jr., Tompkins; Danielle St. Denis, sr., Taylor; Daniela Alzate, jr., Seven Lakes; Victoria Huggins, sr., Cinco Ranch; Jharyn Craig, sr., Morton Ranch; Sasha Fernandez, jr., Katy High.

Academic All-District Team (A's and B's during season)

Seven Lakes: Lily Baumgardner, Ximena Diaz, Bayli Bulawa, Caitlyn Tucker, Summer Halphen, Addison Poth, Ashton Poth, Kennedy Johnston Nelson, Ib Afolabi.

Katy High: Sasha Fernandez, Joy Jegede, Lauren Keller, Asya May, Riley Severin.

Taylor: Micah Elegores, Henley Beisert, Chelsea Huynh.

Tompkins: Emilie Carvajal, Keilyn Cremins, Mia Hill, Sovereign Mack, Jadyn Mazzocoli, Madison Zutz.

Morton Ranch: Madyson Bailey, Brianna Charlton.

Cinco Ranch: Abby Bala, Taylor Rowland.

Mayde Creek: Yosseline Flores.



Tompkins freshman Loghan Johnson was named 19-6A's all-district Most Valuable Player this season.



Tompkins junior Crystal Smith was named 19-6A's all-district Defensive Most Valuable Player this season.



Katy High senior Allana Thompson was named 19-6A's all-district Offensive Most Valuable Player this season.



Tompkins freshman Fiyin Adeleye was named 19-6A's all-district Newcomer of the Year this season.

A	C	E				M	A	R	C
G	O	X	A				B	A	B
A	C	T	S				T	E	R
C	O	A	C	H			P	R	E
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				B	O	O	M	E	R
				K	E	R	N	I	N
				C	O	C	A	I	N
				A	P	O	G	E	E
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				E	K	E	S		

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

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March 24, 2020
11:30 am
20625 Clay Road, Katy 77449

The purpose of the meeting is to present Calvin Nelms Charter School's Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the 2018-19 school year.

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A BEER RETAIL DEALER'S OFF-PREMISE LICENSE, A WINE ONLY PACKAGE STORE PERMIT AND A PACKAGE STORE TASTING PERMIT BY QUALITY LICENSING CORP. D/B/A QUALITY LICENSING CORP. (STORE #3827) LOCATED AT 5660 W GRAND PKWY S, RICHMOND, FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS 77406. OFFICERS OF SAID COMPANY ARE JOHN SCUDDER, PRESIDENT/CEO; MATTHEW W. ALLEN, VP; WAYNE HAMILTON, VP; ANDREA M. LAZENBY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY; DANIEL JOHN RICE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A BEER RETAIL DEALER'S OFF-PREMISE LICENSE AND A WINE ONLY PACKAGE STORE PERMIT BY QUALITY LICENSING CORP. D/B/A QUALITY LICENSING CORP. (STORE #4111FB) LOCATED AT 26814 F.M. 1093, KATY, FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS 77406. OFFICERS OF SAID COMPANY ARE JOHN SCUDDER, PRESIDENT/CEO; MATTHEW W. ALLEN, VP; WAYNE HAMILTON, VP; ANDREA M. LAZENBY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY; DANIEL JOHN RICE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Ordinance No. 129
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PATTISON, TEXAS PROHIBITING ILLEGAL DUMPING OF GARBAGE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PUBLIC ROADS; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE

PASSED by a majority vote of the members of the City Council this 4th day of February 2020.

Details about this ordinance can be found on the City of Pattison website: www.pattison.texas.gov under the Information section. Contact the City Secretary at 281-934-3715 or via email at CitySecretary@pattisontexas.org with any questions.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for **CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURTS BUILDING, THE LIBRARY AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** will be received at City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **2:15 p.m., Thursday, March 19, 2020.**

The Owner is the City Of Katy, Texas

The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter into a contract with the Owner.

A Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable, without recourse, to the Owner or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a contract and execute bonds in forms provided as outlined in the Contract Documents. Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Maintenance Bond, in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required.

For public projects, not less than the minimum wage rates as prescribed in the General Conditions must be paid.

The Contract for this project will be awarded by the City based on the lowest and best bid received

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities in bids.

Bonded general contractor may obtain one set of bid documents for each project at the office of the Engineer, **Clay & Leyendecker, Inc., 1350 Avenue D, Katy, Texas 77493, (281) 391-0173**, upon deposit of a check or cash only in the amount of \$40.00/set, payable to Clay & Leyendecker, Inc. *Bidder must telephone before coming to pick up plans.* Said amount will be refunded if the bid documents are returned in good condition within one (1) week of the date of bid. Otherwise, no refunds will be made. Additional sets may be purchased for \$40.00. Subcontractors and Suppliers may purchase sets for \$40.00 which will not be refunded.

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A BEER RETAIL DEALER'S OFF-PREMISE LICENSE, A WINE ONLY PACKAGE STORE PERMIT AND A PACKAGE STORE TASTING PERMIT BY QUALITY LICENSING CORP. D/B/A QUALITY LICENSING CORP. (STORE #7310) LOCATED AT 24919 WESTHEIMER, KATY, FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS 77494. OFFICERS OF SAID COMPANY ARE JOHN SCUDDER, PRESIDENT/CEO; MATTHEW W. ALLEN, VP; WAYNE HAMILTON, VP; ANDREA M. LAZENBY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY; DANIEL JOHN RICE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for **2020 CITY OF KATY SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT** will be received at City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 19, 2020.**

The Owner is the City Of Katy, Texas

The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter into a contract with the Owner.

A Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable, without recourse, to the Owner or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a contract and execute bonds in forms provided as outlined in the Contract Documents. Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Maintenance Bond, in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required.

For public projects, not less than the minimum wage rates as prescribed in the General Conditions must be paid.

The Contract for this project will be awarded by the City based on the lowest and best bid received

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities in bids.

Bonded general contractor may obtain one set of bid documents for each project at the office of the Engineer, **Clay & Leyendecker, Inc., 1350 Avenue D, Katy, Texas 77493, (281) 391-0173**, upon deposit of a check or cash only in the amount of \$40.00/set, payable to Clay & Leyendecker, Inc. *Bidder must telephone before coming to pick up plans.* Said amount will be refunded if the bid documents are returned in good condition within one (1) week of the date of bid. Otherwise, no refunds will be made. Additional sets may be purchased for \$40.00. Subcontractors and Suppliers may purchase sets for \$40.00 which will not be refunded.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495, will be received at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042, until 2:00 p.m., Local Time, Thursday, March 26, 2020, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the Bergamo Vista Lift Station to Serve Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495 for Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495, Harris County, Texas".

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: lift station.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042.

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

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042 or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding documents.

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

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

Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of
Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495

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SOCCER STANDINGS
AS OF THURSDAY, MARCH 12

DISTRICT 19-6A
BOYS

	DISTRICT			POINTS
	W	L	TIE	
x-Seven Lakes	9	1	1	28
x-Cinco Ranch	8	1	1	25
x-Tompkins	7	3	0	21
Taylor	4	5	1	13
Morton Ranch	3	8	0	9
Mayde Creek	2	6	2	8
Katy	0	9	1	1

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

GIRLS

	DISTRICT			POINTS
	W	L	TIE	
x-Tompkins	9	0	1	28
x-Seven Lakes	8	1	2	26
Cinco Ranch	4	3	3	15
Taylor	3	5	2	11
Morton Ranch	3	7	1	10
Katy	2	4	4	10
Mayde Creek	0	9	1	1

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

DISTRICT 19-5A
BOYS

	DISTRICT			POINTS
	W	L	TIE	
x-Paetow	7	1	4	25

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

GIRLS

	DISTRICT			POINTS
	W	L	TIE	
Paetow	1	9	2	5

SOFTBALL STANDINGS
AS OF THURSDAY, MARCH 12

DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Cinco Ranch	2	0	6	6
Katy	1	0	6	6
Tompkins	1	0	9	2
Taylor	1	1	7	5
Mayde Creek	1	1	4	7
Morton Ranch	0	2	3	10
Seven Lakes	0	2	2	6

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

Cougars enjoying dominant start

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

A 10-strikeout, one-run outing would be considered a great night by just about any standard for any pitcher.

But those numbers highlighted what was an otherwise subpar evening, by his considerable standard, for Cinco Ranch senior ace Reid Easterly.

The left-hander and Yale signee also surrendered five walks and three hits in his six innings of work in the Cougars' 8-1 win over Clear Lake on March 10. Easterly had issues with his command early; still, he overcame in demonstrative fashion when adversity struck.

Easterly surrendered all three of his hits, four walks and the earned run in the first three innings. Over his final three innings, however, he struck out eight, did not give up a hit, and allowed just one baserunner.

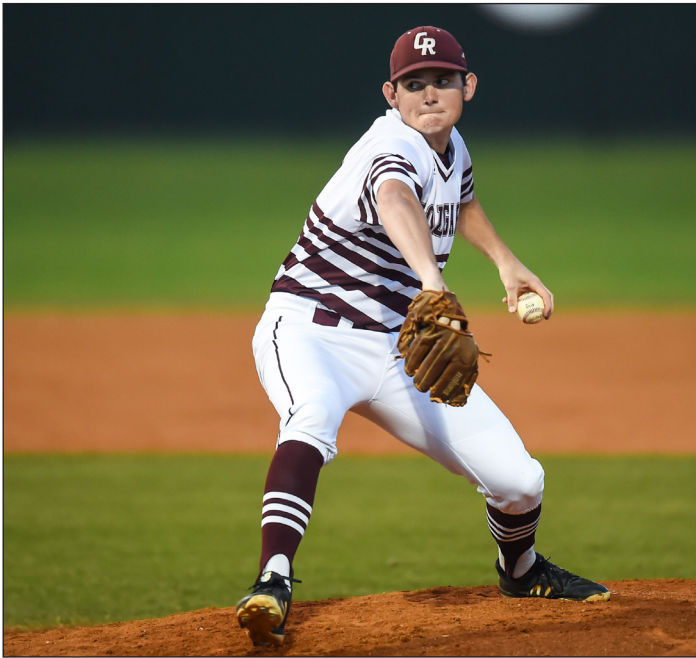
"I was really working on my release point, trying to get consistent on where I was releasing the ball," Easterly said. "Consistency is big for me. I know if I can be consistent, I can come out every start and put my best foot forward and not have a game where I'm not sharp, like I was (against Clear Lake)."

If his last three outings are any indication, Easterly is close to reaching top form.

Easterly was part of a combined no-hitter with senior starter Logan Henderson in a 7-0 win over Aldine MacArthur on March 3. Easterly threw an inning of relief work, striking out three. Two days later, he no-hit Lamar Consolidated in an electric six-inning, 17-strikeout masterpiece.

"He was fantastic," coach Brett Wallace said.

On Tuesday, Easterly had a



MARK GOODMAN

Cinco Ranch senior Reid Easterly delivers a pitch during a game against Clear Lake at Cinco Ranch High School on Tuesday, March 10. Easterly struck out 10 and gave up one run on three hits in six innings.

rough start, but finished in his typical fashion, retiring 11 of the last 12 batters he faced. Overall, in his last 13 innings of work, Easterly has registered 30 strikeouts.

"I feel like I've gotten into a good rhythm the last couple of games," Easterly said. "(Against Clear Lake), I struggled early. They got a few nice hits and I walked some guys. I knew I just had to throw strikes and get in a zone."

His coach is impressed. "His first outing against Cy-Woods, he was a bit wild," Wallace said. "He had six walks, but four came in the first inning and he figured it out. In that first outing, he was flying open with his front

side (when a pitcher over-rotates and puts a lot of stress on the elbow and shoulder), and he knew it. He told us.

"The same thing happened this game. He was flying open, his arm was lagging and he was missing high. When he messes up, he knows how to fix it. He can work through it and get back into a groove at any point."

Easterly worked tirelessly in the offseason on adding velocity. His fastball now tops off at 89 miles per hour. During the season, he has been adamant about being consistent in his motion.

"He's been great," Wallace said. "He's throwing a lot of strikes and he's really competing.

He's a smart kid. He gets a lot of swing-and-misses, which is really helpful."

Easterly, though, is just one significant piece in what has been an impressive start by Cinco Ranch, which is 11-1-1 and outscoring opponents by an average of 5.9 runs per game so far this season.

The Cougars have 10 players signed to play college ball and can win games with pitching, hitting or defense.

Easterly is the headliner of a dynamic and deep pitching staff that includes Henderson and sophomore Blake Hansen. Each member of that trio already has a no-hitter this season.

Cinco Ranch has the bats as well. Senior leadoff hitter Jake Linderman is batting close to .500 and contributed a nice two-run triple against Clear Lake that helped break open the game. Hansen, senior Ethan Box and junior Tyler Duron have all "been absolutely killing the ball," Wallace said.

It's a deep lineup that works counts and has already surpassed its extra-base total from last season.

"We've got a good amount of talent here and it's really all coming together," Linderman said. "We're hitting the ball and getting those extra-base hits that we weren't getting last year. We got two no-hitters last week. It's all there for us."

The key the rest of the way? Keep it going.

"Keep that momentum," Wallace said. "As long as our pitcher can go out there and throw strikes, we're going to be a tough team to beat. With our bats, we can give up a few more runs and still have the confidence to overcome it. The pitching has been on point. The sticks have really come through. We have great defense. We're really molding into a complete team right now."

MAVS

from page B1

history for the program. It means a lot to me. When we lost, I was really hurt, because I felt like we let the community down. When we got here, nobody really was coming to our games. And now the culture of basketball has really come to Katy."

Cryer and Sellers were four-year varsity lettermen. They guided the Mavericks to a 97-39 overall record, a winning percentage of 71.3.

Lampkin joined the varsity as a sophomore. With Cryer, Sellers and Lampkin, the Mavericks were 78-26, a winning percentage of 75.0. As a trio, they won two district titles, six playoff games and earned the first regional tournament berth in the program's history.

They are marquee names. Cryer, ranked No. 60 in ESPN's Class of 2020 rankings, is headed off to play at Baylor. Lampkin, affectionally nicknamed "Baby Shaq," is going to TCU. Sellers' next destination is unknown, but he made a significant impact as one of the most versatile, stat-stuffing talents in the Houston area.

"I feel like there never will be another trio like them," Turner said of their impact on his program. "Not just because we went further, but because of the talent level. People talk about Eddie's size, but he was also vocal, he gave us everything he had, and it was amazing to watch him play. Wes was our dog. He was consistent in doing anything and everything we asked, and then even more. And, of course, L.J. is L.J."

"The three of them have the highest basketball IQ I've ever seen. You can have all the talent in the world, but their basketball IQ is what set them apart."

The trio departs winning 30 consecutive district games, believed to be the best ever streak in Katy ISD boys basketball.

"It shows that we play hard and we play for each other," Cryer said. "You don't win 30 straight games without being a team. Everyone has to be on the same page every night. It's a big accomplishment."

Cryer wrapped up his mesmerizing senior campaign with 1,164 points for an average of 34.2 per game. His career point total of 3,488 ranks fifth all-time in Texas high school boys basketball history, and No. 1 all-time in the Greater Houston area.

The 6-foot-1 scoring dynamo shot 55 percent overall, including 44 percent from 3-point range. His 145 3-pointers made rank 17th all-time for a single season.

The Greater Houston area had not seen a



Morton Ranch senior guard Westley Sellers averaged 10 points, 6.2 assists, 5.2 rebounds and 2.7 steals over his junior and senior seasons.

scorer like Cryer since Houston Jones' Daniel Gibson in the early 2000s.

"The confidence, the impact he has on people. That's what I will remember," Turner said of his star guard. "I go to the store sometimes and people talk to me about L.J. Cryer. You should see him around little kids. The impact."

Lampkin averaged 12.6 points and eight rebounds in his three seasons of varsity. He admits he was never serious about basketball as a freshman. His first love was football.

But he started getting serious about the game as a sophomore, when he, perhaps not coincidentally, made the varsity. Since then, his scoring ability from either block and with either hand improved impressively over his career, and he averaged a career-best 10.9 rebounds this season.

"Morton Ranch made me become a man," Lampkin said. "I didn't take anything serious, especially academically. But once I took basketball seriously, I had to take academics seriously. I had to grow up. Academically, I really became a man."

Sellers averaged a career-best 12.8 points per game his freshman year, but settled into a more defensive-oriented role once Lampkin



PHOTOS BY MARK GOODMAN

Morton Ranch senior center Eddie Lampkin averaged 12.6 points and eight rebounds in his three seasons of varsity.

came on board as a sophomore. Sellers' unselfishness and leadership is held in high regard in the Mavericks' locker room and coaching offices.

He averaged 10 points, 6.2 assists, 5.2 rebounds and 2.7 steals over his junior and senior seasons.

"I care more about the team than I do about myself," Sellers said. "Whatever it takes to win."

As it is with star-laden teams, it was the little things that made a difference.

Lampkin was more engaged as a vocal leader this season, giving his teammates pep talks when necessary and high-fiving them after every good play. Sellers, always a captain, was more demonstrative in asserting his voice and coaching younger players.

Cryer, the ultimate leader by example, took the team under his wing during any and all adverse situations.

"As they've gotten older, they matured," Turner said. "Before, it was about getting numbers and proving themselves. They learned how to incorporate everyone else into it, too. That's a big deal."

Turner likes to tell a story about a couple of

young Morton Ranch junior high basketball players he runs into from time to time.

"One younger kid, every time he sees me, he says, 'Coach, I'm the next L.J.," Turner said. "Then we have a bigger kid at the junior high, and he says, 'Coach, I don't know if I'm going to be the next Eddie, but we're going to get it done."

That eagerness and excitement from the junior high ranks was never the case before Cryer, Lampkin or Sellers stepped onto the Morton Ranch campus. The Mavericks are no longer a basketball afterthought. They are one of the premier names in Region III basketball. They are a program to be reckoned with.

"Before those three got here, no one knew anything about Morton Ranch," Turner said. "Now you've got to respect the name. Now people looking to move to the Katy area knows that Morton is a good place to be. Kids who want to be a part of something now know that Morton is a good place."

"The bar is so much higher now. The standard has been shattered. And without those three, we would not have the name we have."

ESPINOZA

from page B1

with Reading, a second division club in England, recommended Espinoza for a trial with Reading and sent him to some U.S. camps attended by coaches from the U.S. national team.

"It really hit me, like, wow," said Espinoza, who was more advanced as a dribbler, passer and student of the game than his peers in middle school. "I can really do something with this sport. I realized it's what I wanted to do. Once I got to high school, I wouldn't do any other sport. Soccer was the sport I wanted to do."

Espinoza suffered a torn ACL during the first game of his sopho-

more season at Tompkins. He missed that season and was not cleared to return to action until December 2018. He did not play his first game until midway through the district season of his junior year, and used 2019 to regain his rhythm and confidence.

Last summer, however, marked another epiphany.

"That summer helped me a lot," said Espinoza, who now patterns his game after Neymar. "I was in Albion and they put me with the Royals for USL League 2 (a development soccer league sponsored by United States Soccer Leagues). That was big, as far as playing with guys who played with the national team, another player who played 17 years in the MLS ... that experience just pushed me."

Now Espinoza feels faster and stronger in his recovery from his knee

injury, and smarter after playing with the Royals.

"Playing with bigger and stronger players, I still realized you can outsmart them with movement and even when you don't have the ball," Espinoza said.

Espinoza had gained such vast experience and exposure that he signed in November to play college soccer at Memphis, where he will join former Falcons teammate Jovan Prado, despite missing almost two full seasons of high school competition and his senior campaign still pending.

"He came back so much stronger," Jones said. "He was one of those guys that he wasn't going to let anything stop him. He's just going to work and work and work. Everybody we play puts two guys on him, and he's still getting the stats he's getting."

Jones attributes Espinoza's success to his work rate.

"He's like the Energizer Bunny, always going, always working," Jones said. "And he sees the field so well that nobody will see him make runs and he'll get behind people. He's also a great finisher."

Espinoza credits his success to his maturity as a player this season, eager and willing to impact the game beyond scoring.

"The big thing for me is influencing the game in other ways," Espinoza said. "Move the game along with one or two touches, be quick, getting teammates involved and sharing the ball."

Tompkins has made the regional semifinals in three of the last four seasons. Espinoza and Jones feel this is the team to get to the regional final

and, maybe, even to the state tournament in Georgetown.

"This team, overall, has a better advantage than last year's because we can possess the ball better," Jones said. "We can move the ball around. It's a mental game with these guys. If they can stay mentally focused, I believe we can get over the hump."

Espinoza has been encouraged by how the Falcons handle adversity.

"This team is super talented," Espinoza said. "We've had struggles this season, but the thing about this team is every time we've had a struggle, we've gotten better. This team is starting to understand how good we can be. We keep improving. Last year, we set the tone by getting to the (regional) semifinals. We want to get back and go even beyond. Get further than we've ever gotten."