

KATY



PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS HARRIS

David Leyendecker, longtime city engineer for Katy and Fulshear among other municipalities in and near the Katy area died Dec. 30 according to an announcement from the city of Katy. He was 66 years old and had been an engineer for municipalities for decades.

Katy city engineer dies

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

David Leyendecker, city engineer for Katy, Fulshear and Waller as well as engineer for several area municipal utility districts passed Dec. 30 according to a statement from the city of Katy. Leyendecker, 66, of Columbus, was a common sight at council meetings and served Katy and Fulshear for decades.

“The City of Katy is deeply saddened by the passing of long-time City Engineer and good friend, David Leyendecker. David was not just our co-worker, he was family. Our sympathy and prayers are with his loved ones, friends and the Katy community during this time of great loss,” a statement sent on behalf of Katy city staff said.

Leyendecker served in a variety of engineering capacities for the municipalities he served and was observed in many city council meetings providing clarifications to council members on everything from drainage and drinking water to roadway and sidewalk development.

“David served the City for over 45 years and will be greatly missed,” said Katy City Council Member Janet Corte in a Dec. 30 Facebook post. “His passing is a terrible and unexpected loss not only for the city of Katy but also his friends and family.”

In his obituary, Leyendecker is described as having had a “servant’s heart” and said that mindset included participating in the community as a Rotarian, including a stint as president of the local chapter.

See **LEYENDECKER**, page 5

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January 7, 2021
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ONE OF A KIND

Tigers celebrate Joseph’s 65th birthday with regional final win

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

It’s not often Katy High’s tradition-rich football program experiences a first of any sort these days. But last week provided such a rare occasion, as the Tigers played on head coach Gary Joseph’s birthday, Jan. 2, for the first time.

Even better, No. 9-state ranked Katy won the Class 6A-Division II Region III championship in the process, easing to a ho-hum 51-14 win over Clear Falls at Legacy Stadium.

“We wanted to sing Coach happy birthday, but he wouldn’t accept it,” said senior safety Dalton Johnson, who had an interception. “He wanted a birthday win, so that’s what we gave to him.”

The Tigers (11-1) advanced to play Region IV champ Buda Hays (10-3) in the state semifinals on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 2 p.m. at McLane Stadium in Waco. Katy is in a state semi for the first time

Davis brothers anchor
Tigers’ vaunted run game,

SEE PAGE 6

since 2017 and playing for its first state championship since 2015.

“It’s a great feeling,” senior running back Jalen Davis said. “Former players want to see us go to state; the community wants to see us go. I feel like we deserve to give it to them.”

While Clear Falls played admirably at times, the Knights (8-4), the third-place team out of District 24-6A, were simply outmatched against the Tigers. Clear Falls had not won a playoff game before its inspiring post-season run this year. Not only did the Knights lack the big-game playoff experience, they did not have the size or speed to match up against Katy.

See **TIGERS**, page 8



FILE PHOTO BY COLE MCNANNA

Katy High coach Gary Joseph, right, talks with senior defensive back and team captain Dalton Johnson during a game against Cinco Ranch earlier this season at Legacy Stadium.

FULSHEAR

Fulshear Mayor Aaron Groff talks 2020 successes and the year to come

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

With 2020 behind us and the challenges and opportunities of 2021 just beginning, municipalities throughout the Katy area are looking back at the last year for lessons learned and forward to the successes to come. Fulshear Mayor Aaron Groff provided the answers below to the Katy Times, describing what he sees as the city’s successes in 2020 and what Fulshear can look forward to over the next year.

Responses have been lightly edited in order to provide minor clarifications such as explanations of acronyms and jargon.

Q: Outside of dealing with COVID-19, what do you feel were some of the important successes Fulshear had during 2020?

Fulshear continues to grow at a rapid pace. In 2020, we had weeks where develop-



Aaron Groff was first elected mayor of Fulshear in 2018 and his term renewed after an uncontested election in May 2020. He is the owner of Groff Consulting and Executive Director at Abigail’s Place, an area nonprofit that helps single mothers facing homelessness.

ment services averaged over 140 inspections. We approved several developer agreements that allow the city to continue to

manage the growth both within the boundaries of Fulshear and (its extraterritorial jurisdiction - ETJ). I am ecstatic that our (economic development corporations) were able to fund small business grants for the businesses within the city that were impacted by COVID-19. It was exciting to see several new businesses open and have success in the crazy year of 2020. However, the greatest success Fulshear experienced in 2020 was the passing of its Coordinated Development Ordinances. This living document was over two years in the making and codifies all the city’s ordinances into a single document.

Q: The city has been working on updating and clarifying its code of ordinances to make them more streamlined and user-friendly. Can you tell Katy Times readers what progress has been made on that project and how it will benefit the residents of Fulshear?

The Coordinated Development Ordinance, or CDO, as it is most often referred, is a great benefit for both the current residents of Fulshear and those who will eventually live here. One of the biggest benefits is that not only does it clearly define the expectations for future development, but protects and conserves the value of our current land and buildings. The 293-page document serves as a tool for Fulshear to implement the city’s Comprehensive Plan and guide the future growth and economic development. The CDO is the tool we use to maintain our small-town character and achieve responsible development. In addition, the CDO consolidates the city’s development ordinances into a single searchable document. The process allowed us to minimize conflicts found in competing ordinances and clearly define

See **FULSHEAR**, page 5

EDUCATION

TX still blocked from taking over HISD, appeals court rules

By ALIYYA SWABY
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas is still temporarily barred from taking over Houston Independent School District, a state appellate court ruled Wednesday, upholding a lower court’s order.

In a 2-1 ruling, the Texas Third Court of Appeals upheld a temporary injunction that stops the Texas Education Agency from replacing the elected school board of its largest district with an appointed board of managers. The appeals court ruling sends the case back to the lower court that in January blocked the state’s take-over effort.

The appellate judges said Houston ISD had a “probable right to relief” since the TEA did not follow proper procedure and acted outside its authority as it moved to sanction the district. It also ordered the state to “pay all costs related to this appeal.”

See **HISD**, page 5

NEW BUSINESS

TruFusion now open in Brookshire

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Sandeep Gupta opened TruFusion eatery at 542 Koomey Road in Brookshire Dec. 5 as one step in bringing three businesses to Brookshire. The first was the reopening of The Brooke Hotel in the same building as TruFusion, then TruFusion and finally a gym that includes a world class training center for badminton.

“I bought (The Brooke Hotel) six years back as an investment property and then remodeled it for the rooms and everything. Now, Disha (Gupta, my daughter) is a badminton player. She’s an athlete and she’s training for the Olympics.”

Disha’s training has taken the family all over



R. HANS MILLER

TruFusion opened in Brookshire in early December with the idea of offering a variety of healthy food to residents of Brookshire and Pattison as well as providing healthy options for athletes that are expected to come after an accompanying gym and training facility is built in the near future.

the world from Southeast Asia to a variety of locations to try to find a great place to train. Many of the facilities fell short of the family’s hopes, so Sandeep decided to take the land that the property is on and develop his own training facility.

With that, he wanted a place for the worldwide trainees to stay in – The Brooke Hotel – and a place where those athletes would be able to find healthy food options – TruFusion.

See **TRUFUSION**, page 5

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PET CARE

Katy ISD students put coding skills to the test

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD students Lucas Cai and Samuel Yuan are launching a new app for pet owners called PetCode. The app features tools for pet owners such as health records, dietary needs and aid in finding lost pets – combining several services into one convenient website and smart-phone app system. “Taking care of a pet is like taking care of a child,” Cai said. “Pets are always on your mind and require a substantial daily effort to maintain their health, safety, and social well-being. This workload of pet ownership is cumbersome for pet owners and daunting for prospective owners. Noticing this, my team decided to create a company – PetCode.”

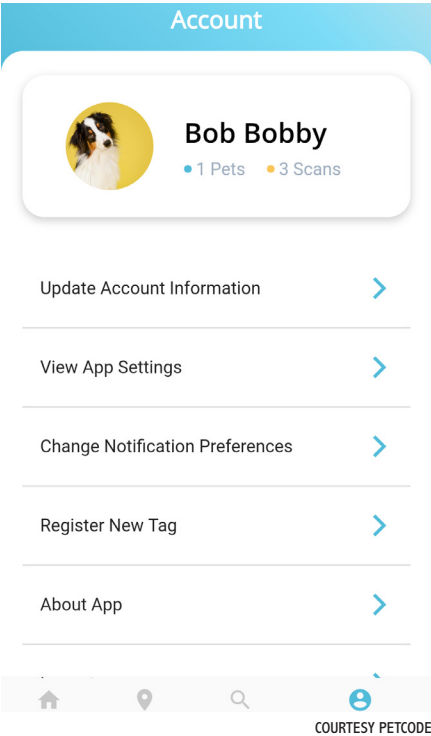
Both Cai and Yuan are seniors at Cinco Ranch High School and they got into coding after participating in several hackathons – virtual gatherings of coding who identify problems that technology might be able to solve, then think of technological solutions that could help solve those problems, Cai explained. At one point, it occurred to them to build a solution to help pet owners keep track of their animals’ needs.

The product they and a team of fellow coding students from across America came up with includes a mobile app, website and a digital ID tag for each dog to wear. Some functions are already live at www.petcodeusa.com and more are planned, Cai said.

Yuan said the other point is to keep easy access to records that are necessary for pet owners. As an example, having full access to veterinary records on the fly while traveling is a very useful step whether pet owners need the information for a medical emergency or because their animal nipped another pet or a person.

“With our app, it’s just being easily accessible so that you can pull up your pet’s vaccinations or look through that history, you can look at the vaccination documents and prove it for something like that. Everything in one place where before it was just kind of limited,” Yuan said.

As the product continues to develop, both Cai and Yuan said they are interested in hearing from pet owners and



The PetCode app features a simple interface to help pet owners find their pets and access vaccination records among other functions.

working with veterinarians to ensure PetCode makes the most comprehensive and user-friendly application possible. There is even a plan to set up a social aspect for the app to help pet owners find pet-friendly businesses and groups to meet other pet enthusiasts in the community.

Immediate next steps are getting funding to add those additional features, they said. To do that, the pair has set up a video to help explain their product and how simple it can be to use. The video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/HrJ5nIXWusI>

As the project moves forward, both students are also preparing to move forward into college in the fall. They said they’ve got applications out and both plan to go into coding or a similar field.

“I’m pretty certain that I’m going to be focusing mainly on computer science, majoring in something similar to that in college,” Cai said. “I’m definitely interested in startups and entrepreneurship.”

“I’m basically the same as (Cai),” Yuan said. “I haven’t committed yet. We have both applied to colleges, but we’re kind of just waiting on decisions and applying to some other ones, but I’m ultimately majoring in computer science and in the college of business because I really like how you can have a product and it can help a bunch of people.”

SWEARING IN



COURTESY FBSCO

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan was sworn in Jan. 2. Fagan won an election against outgoing sheriff and now-congressman, Troy Nehls’ identical twin brother Trevor Nehls. Fagan enters the role as the first Democrat elected to the position in several years.



R. HANS MILLER

Troy Guidry (right) was sworn in as Waller County’s new Sheriff Jan. 1 at 11 a.m. at the county’s new Waller County Criminal Justice Center by County Judge Trey Duhon (left). Guidry takes the helm of the Waller County Sheriff’s Office which had a sorrowful year last year after the passing of late Sheriff R. Glenn Smith in early August of last year. Smith’s tenure was taken over by Interim Sheriff Joe Hester who had been Smith’s second in command.



R. HANS MILLER

Fort Bend County Constable for Precinct 3 Chad Norvell poses with his wife, Amy Norvell, after being sworn in Jan. 1 at the North Fort Bend County Annex. The ceremony also included a renewal of Fort Bend County commissioner for Precinct 3 Andy Meyers was also sworn in during the same ceremony. Meyers has served as the precinct 3 commissioner since 1997.



Fort Bend County Constable for Precinct 3 Chad Norvell is sworn in by long-time friend and judge Kelly Crow during the county’s Jan. 1 swearing in ceremony.

AMY NORVELL

This Week’s Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678
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This Week’s Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Partner to “oohed”
- Relaxing places
- Humorous monologue
- Simple elegance
- Bearable
- Disobedience
- Express delight
- Gov’t attorneys
- Wake up
- A type of band
- Remain as is
- Turf’s
- Battle-ax
- Volcanic crater
- The mother of Jesus
- One’s life history
- “Rule, Britannia” composer
- Doubles
- Jacob __, American journalist
- House pet
- S. African river
- Broad sashes
- Establish as a foundation
- KGB double agent Aldrich __
- Part of a book
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Train group (abbr.)
- Frames per second
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal from a federation
- Guitarist sounds
- Greek war god
- 2,000 lbs.
- Helps escape

CLUES DOWN

- Currency exchange charge
- River in Tuscany
- Breakfast dish
- Defunct European currency
- Upper class young woman
- Part of a purse
- Self-contained units
- Boxing’s GOAT
- Legislators
- Flightless birds
- U. of Miami’s mascot is one
- Floating ice
- Low, marshy land
- Seldom
- Lyric poems
- Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- Full extent of something
- __ Claus
- Naturally occurring solid material
- Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
- Thirteen
- Partner to cheese
- Member of a Semitic people
- One thousandth of an inch
- Former CIA
- Most lemony
- Engage in
- Small Eurasian deer
- Provisions
- All humans have them
- Swiss river
- Storage term (abbr.)
- Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
- Dutch colonist
- Full-grown pike fish
- Egyptian sun god
- Flute
- Flew off!
- Scottish tax
- Young women’s association
- Popular Brazilian city
- Malaysian Isthmus
- Pointed end of a pen

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678
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KATY AREA PROPERTY TAX OVERVIEW

Compiled by R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Property taxes will be due Jan. 31 and those who own homes in the Katy area have several municipalities they must take into account when calculating their tax bills. Generally, property taxes are paid to the homeowner's respective county that the property is located in and the funds are then dispersed to the school district, city, emergency services district, municipal utility district or other municipalities as appropriate after the county takes its share of the tax proceeds. Listed below are the tax rates for the larger municipalities in the Katy area. Municipal Utility Districts and other smaller special purpose districts are not listed due to space restrictions. Readers should contact their county's tax-assessor-collector's office to obtain an itemized breakdown of the municipalities their property lies within and to obtain an itemized property tax bill if they have not received one.

There are two elements to property tax bill totals. The first is the value of the home and land which is determined by each respective county's appraisal district. Generally, appraisals in the Katy area have risen over the last several years, though homeowners' experiences may vary. Because of the increases in value, overall tax bills may go up from year to year for property owners despite rates which have generally been reduced in the region. If a homeowner believes their property has been overvalued by the county appraisal district, it is possible to dispute the value of the home. To begin the process of disputing the value of the home, property owners should reach out to their respective appraisal district. Taxable values may also vary according to various exemptions that may need to be applied for. Those exemptions, such as the common exemption for those over 65 or the disabled, vary by municipality and tax payers should contact their local government entities to inquire about that process.



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HARRIS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

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Phone: 713-957-7800
M-F: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
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Web: <http://www.waller-cad.org/>
Phone: 979-921-0060
M-F: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
900 13th Street
Hempstead, TX 77445

The second thing to consider is the property tax rate that is determined by the municipalities the taxed property lies within. As an example, if a property only lies within the city of Katy, Katy ISD and Harris County, the total tax rate would be determined by adding the advertised total property tax rate for each municipality together (see chart below).

Once the total property tax rate is calculated, the homeowners then take the value of their property, divide that by 100 and multiply it by the combined total tax rates for Katy, KISD and Harris County in the example given above.

MUNICIPALITY TOTAL TAX RATE (PER \$100 VALUATION)

Counties:
Fort Bend \$0.435876
Harris \$0.391160
Waller \$0.587145

Cities:
Brookshire \$0.640000
Fulshear \$0.207070
Houston \$0.561840
Katy \$0.447168
Pattison NA

School Districts:
Katy \$1.388800
Royal \$1.321817

Special Purpose Districts:
Brookshire Katy Drainage District \$0.073200
Brookshire MUD \$0.018000
Harris Co. ESD 48 \$0.095631
Harris Co. ESD 47 (Incl. Westlake VFD) \$0.084000
Waller Harris ESD 200 \$0.100000
Willow Fork Drainage District \$0.185000
Willow Fork Fire Dept./Fort Bend Co. ESD 2 \$0.100000

Sources: Fort Bend County, Harris County, Waller County, Katy ISD

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The jurisdictions for which you are taxed by the Harris County Tax Assessor - Collector and the tax amount for each jurisdiction.					Property Values set by the Harris County Appraisal District	
Taxing Jurisdiction	Exemptions	Taxable Value	Rate per \$100	Taxes	Property Description	
Houston I.S.D.	63,500	129,000	1.206700	\$1,586.64	123 HOUSTON WAY 77002	
Harris County	38,500	154,000	0.418010	\$643.74	LT 1 BLK2	
Harris County Flood Control Dist	38,500	154,000	0.028310	\$43.60	HWAY ESTATES	
Part of Houston Authority	38,500	154,000	0.012560	\$19.34		
Harris County Hospital District	38,500	154,000	0.171100	\$263.49		
Harris County Dept. of Education	38,500	154,000	0.005195	\$8.00		
Houston Community College System	19,250	173,250	0.100263	\$173.71		
City of Houston	38,500	154,000	0.584210	\$899.68		
Page: 1 of 1						
Total 2017 Taxes Due By January 31, 2018					\$3,608.20	
Payments Applied To 2017 Taxes					\$0.00	
Total Current Taxes Due (Including Penalties)					\$3,608.20	
Prior Year(s) Delinquent Taxes Due (If Any)					\$0.00	
Total Amount Due For January 2018					\$3,608.20	
Penalties for Paying Late	Rate	Current Taxes	Delinquent Taxes	Total		
By September 30, 2018	20%	\$4,329.85	\$0.00	\$4,329.85		
By October 31, 2018	21%	\$4,365.92	\$0.00	\$4,365.92		
By November 30, 2018	22%	\$4,402.00	\$0.00	\$4,402.00		
By December 31, 2018	23%	\$4,438.09	\$0.00	\$4,438.09		
By January 31, 2019	24%	\$4,474.16	\$0.00	\$4,474.16		

Tax Bill Increase (Decrease) from 2012 to 2017 : Appraised Value 0% , Taxable Val 0% , Tax Rate 0% , Tax Bill 0% .

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Property taxes in a major metropolitan area such as Greater Houston, which the Katy area falls within can be very complicated to navigate, but the county tax offices that cover the Katy area have a variety of resources such as this sample bill from the Harris County Tax Assessor Collector's Office which breaks down how to read a property tax bill.

The Katy Times

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2020: A reluctant retrospect

Ok, let's get the obvious out of the way. 2020 was the year of COVID-19, also known as corona (minus the lime), the plague, the super crud, or, as my dad calls it (and most other contagious illnesses), "the rooty-gootus." But what else happened in 2020?

Well, in addition to the global pandemic, China became the international Amazon.com of unwanted express deliveries. Remember the Asian murder hornets? I'm still plugging up my nostrils and ear canals when I sleep. And what about the Chinese mystery seeds? The harvest from those should be reaching your local farmers market and Walmart produce aisle soon. And then there were the double hurricanes, Laura and Marco, like some kind of WWE wrestling co-ed tag team from Hell. (I'm not sure we can blame China for that one, but there will undoubtedly be an expensive and time-consuming congressional investigation to find out for sure.)

And speaking of the government and professional wrestling, the nation witnessed a presidential steel-cage death match featuring two elderly politicians who tried to outdo one another with their criminally awkward dancing, cringey verbal gaffes and toddlersque insults. At least we were assured that no matter who won, the vast majority of Americans could claim to be "cooler" than the President.

But enough of petty concerns like presidential elections and deadly invasive insects. Let's get to the good stuff, and I don't mean "Tiger King."

My eldest and most expensive daughter became a high school senior in 2020, which, despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19 protocol, has required the purchase of enough formal gowns and party dresses (sometimes for a single photo) to supply an entire season of Dancing with the Stars. At least next year should be less expensive when she goes to college. Oh, wait...

My middle daughter has maintained her yearly tradition of elevating my stress level to DEFCON 1 by spending most of 2020 with



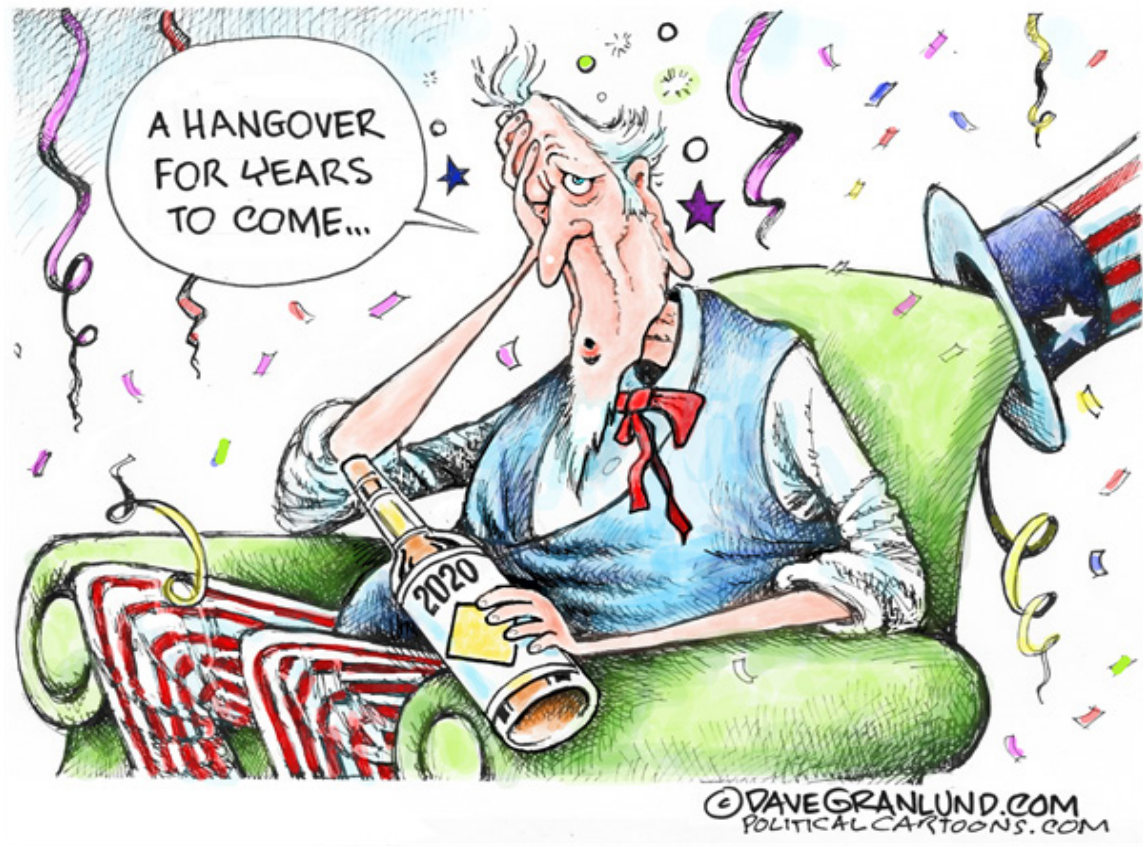
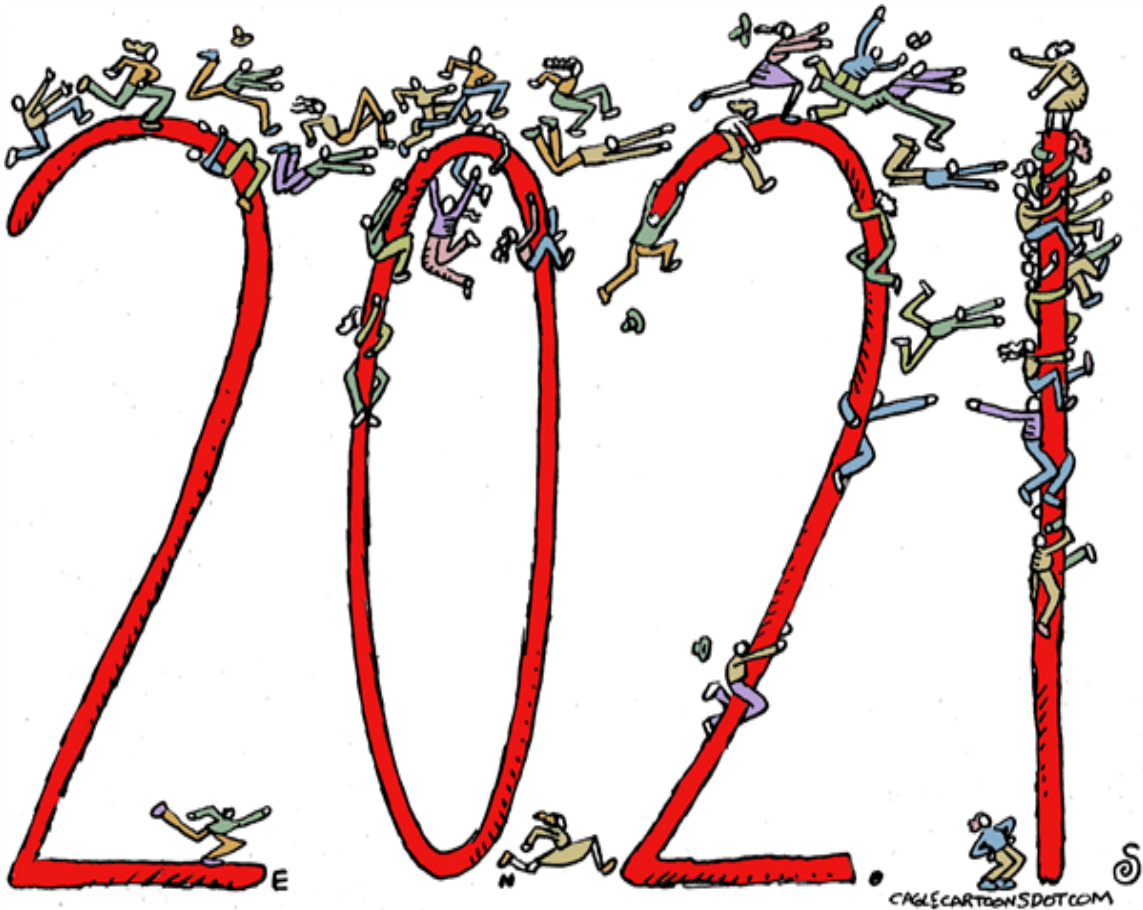
her current boyfriend. He's a nice kid, and I know it's a natural process for young people her age to date, but I can't help sometimes wishing that she would decide to enter a convent - at least temporarily - even though we aren't Catholic.

My youngest daughter started junior high this year. Junior high can be tough on kids, especially late developers like me who still played with action figures and took a while to learn exactly where to spray the deodorant. I'm happy to say that my daughter didn't inherit the nerd gene, and has done well socially and academically. And although she's convinced that math was invented by radical academic terrorists, she still thinks boys are stupid. I call that a win!

I guess my most memorable accomplishment in 2020, other than not driving my saintly wife of thirty years to the point of poisoning my tea with hand sanitizer or smothering me with a 10-pack of hygienic face masks, was learning to cook homemade shrimp fettuccine Alfredo during quarantine. Now, I realize that this is no big deal to some folks, but to a dude who sometimes has trouble with microwave popcorn, it's huge. In fact, if I could meet the original Alfredo, I'd thank him, give him a hearty fist bump, and suggest that he talk to his doctor about LIPITOR.

Regardless of how your year has been, we can all anticipate a 2021 with hope for effective vaccines, a recovering economy, and enough peace of mind to finally use our massive stockpiles of toilet paper. Most of all, we can be happy that we're now looking at 2020 in the rearview mirror - even though it's probably tailgating us, dressed like Joe Exotic and considering an act of road rage involving murder hornets.

OPINION



Katy Times

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LEYENDECKER

from page 1

On a more personal level, Leyendecker's daughter, Kimberly Johnson, said her father regularly said that he loved Katy and his work and had refused to retire because he said he would miss the people he worked with.

"It wasn't work for him," Johnson said. "He truly loved what he did, and it was the relationships with the people he worked with and the community that gave him purpose and it was a huge part of what kept him going while fighting Lymphoma."

According to his obituary, Leyendecker is survived by his wife of 45 years, Connie Leyendecker, his mother, Doris Leyendecker, two daughters – Johnson and Kristen Carden – and three grandchildren. He also leaves behind a sister, Bonnie Roesler, several nieces and nephews and a large collection of in-laws.

Johnson added that the family has been overwhelmed with the amount of people – including those they do not know – that have shared stories with them about her father, especially those where he'd go out of his way to make their days brighter.

"He enjoyed making people laugh and didn't take himself seriously," Johnson said.

Johnson said she is making a book of stories to share with Leyendecker's grandchildren that will include stories Leyendecker's friends have shared with the family. Those wishing to contribute a story can send those to her at kimjohnson2004@hotmail.com.

During his time as a public engineer, Leyendecker designed or oversaw many projects which helped the municipalities he served manage their growth and develop necessary infrastructure to address the needs of residents to improve the cities he served, area officials said.

"David Leyendecker served the city of Fulshear well," said Fulshear Mayor Aaron Groff. "He was an excellent engineer and even better person. David was patient, kind and always willing to help anyone in need."

Groff's sentiment was echoed



COURTESY KIMBERLY JOHNSON

David Leyendecker is pictured here with his wife, Connie Leyendecker at his daughter Kristen Carden's wedding. The Leyendeckers lived in Columbus to the west of Katy and had two daughters, Carden and her sister Kimberly Johnson. Both daughters are married and the Leyendeckers have three grandchildren.

by Katy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris, who applauded Leyendecker for his commitment to the city of Katy and its residents over his more than four decades of service to Katy.

"David was always available to speak with citizens or answer questions from staff members at any time. Serving four decades as city engineer, he literally built Katy."

A celebration of life is being planned for Leyendecker, but the obituary indicates that the family is asking that he be honored through random acts of kindness or generosity done in his memory.

"David Leyendecker, the city engineer and my friend passed away yesterday," Katy Mayor Bill Hastings said in a Dec. 31 Facebook post. "He served our city for 45 years. To say he will be missed is an understatement ... Our

prayers are with his family. I will miss him."

Leyendecker's name is not necessarily plastered on the water towers, streets, drainage infrastructure and buildings he oversaw the construction of, but traveling through Katy and the surrounding area, it is difficult to see a public facility or asset that he did not have a part in. His legacy comes not in a grand statue, but many projects which have provided clean water, mitigated flood risks, improved mobility and generally helped improve the quality of life for those living in or even passing through the region. A perusal through city documents in Katy and Fulshear will find his name and signature scattered throughout decades of work and uncountable projects.

"His legacy will certainly live on and he will be missed greatly by all who knew him," Groff said.

HISD

from page 1

The TEA plans to appeal the ruling to the Texas Supreme Court. "While the Agency is disappointed with the split ruling from the 3rd Court of Appeals, this is only a temporary setback," the agency said in a statement. "We are confident that the Texas Supreme Court will uphold the Commissioner's legally-authorized actions to improve the educational outcomes for the 200,000-plus public school students of Houston."

Texas announced plans to seize control of Houston ISD in November 2019, citing the longstanding academic failure of Wheatley High School and the school board's alleged violations of state law. By then, Houston ISD had already filed a lawsuit, arguing that the TEA had surpassed its authority in moving to penalize the district and should be stopped.

In January, Travis County District Judge Catherine Mauzy granted Houston ISD a temporary injunction, blocking Texas from replacing the school board until she issues a final ruling on the case.

The state challenged that ruling before the Third Court of Appeals, arguing it had acted within its legal authority and

that Houston ISD is grasping at straws.

But the appellate court's ruling Wednesday said Texas' "proposed actions are not authorized by the Education Code." The opinion stated that the state did not have the right to appoint a conservator to oversee the entire school district in 2019, force Houston ISD to suspend its search for a new superintendent, or impose sanctions based on an investigation, among other things.

The opinion was written by Judge Gisela Triana, who was joined by Judge Jeff Rose in the ruling. In a dissenting opinion, Judge Thomas Baker wrote that Texas is authorized to take over Houston ISD, the injunction should be removed and the district's claims should be dismissed.

In March, Texas successfully appointed a board of managers to replace Shepherd ISD, a four-school East Texas school district.

"Texas still blocked from taking over Houston's school district, appeals court rules" was first published at <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/12/30/texas-houston-school-district-take-over/> by The Texas Tribune. The Texas Tribune is proud to celebrate 10 years of exceptional journalism for an exceptional state.

TRUFUSION

from page 1

"We wanted to get a place where we can have healthy food, at least just do buffet for the athletes and for the (local) people also. We'll continue to figure out the menu as things progress," Sandeep said.

Disha said she has trained in India, Denmark, Malaysia and many other locations, but nothing had the conveniences and environment necessary for Olympic-level training. The facility she trained at in Malaysia for example was often over 100 degrees with extraordinary levels of humidity which made it difficult to focus on improving technique.

Currently, TruFusion offers a variety of Eastern and Southeast Asian cuisine but also tosses in a few local favorites such as fried catfish to ensure there is variety, Sandeep said. He said he and his staff plan on working on the menu by trying different items regularly to allow locals to try different foods from around the world. One day might be a fish and vegetable medley and the following week a curry dish might be featured. The idea is to help develop a solid menu and keep diners from getting bored, he said.

Sandeep and Disha said they knew the hotel had a reputation for various issues and they're working hard to keep it clean. They've reached out to the Brookshire Police Department to ensure that happens and to offer rooms for those who might be in need if the police are in need of assistance in finding shelter for someone. They also want to provide a clean and safe facility in general for visitors of all sorts and offer more dining options to locals as well as those passing through Brookshire.



R. HANS MILLER

TruFusion owner Sandeep Gupta (right) and his daughter, Disha Gupta (center) pose with one of their cooks at the new restaurant. The Gupatas say they want to provide healthy dining options for locals as well as athletes like Disha who is training for the Olympics.

"We wanted to just keep our hotel very clean," Disha said. "We didn't want any time of crime, any of the stuff that many times happens in hotels around here in small towns. So, I think we wanted to provide a safe place for people to work and just, you know, live a good life."

That mindset is also going into the development of the yet-to-come gym and training facility, Sandeep said. He is working to design a facility that will provide dozens of jobs to residents near Brookshire and Pattison with a good wage and benefits. He even wants to hire local high school students to help them get started in their professions. If he can set up a community resource for the locals, he believes he can have solid foundation for setting up a resource for Olympic-level athletes that will travel to the facility, bringing money to the region.

"I want to provide something, you know, not just for the locals but also for the whole (Panamerican) region," Sandeep said. "People coming from Mexico, from Argentina, from Peru to come here. From Canada. They will have options to eat a new kind of food when they want to train."

FULSHEAR

from page 1

land use. Finally, the CDO serves to establish a process that applies the standards of the CDO across the city and ETJ fairly. We have already seen the benefits of the recently adopted CDO as staff and council negotiate with developers who are partnering with Fulshear to keep it the most desired destination in the region.

Q: Improving mobility is a serious issue for Fulshear, as can be seen with improvements to Charger Way and Bois D'Arc Lane that have been completed or were authorized by the city this year. What other improvements can Fulshear area residents look forward to from a mobility standpoint in 2021?

The 1093 expansion was completed, but most of the city's projects slated for 2020 were simply maintenance projects. Unfortunately, many of those projects, including an improvement of Red Bird Lane, are just getting underway as a result of delays associated with COVID-19. However, 2021 looks to be a banner year for the region's mobility projects as the Texas Heritage Parkway is set to open. We should also break ground on

the expansion of Huggins Road, expanding it from Charger Way to 359 in 2021. Also, with the passage of the County's Mobility Bond, Fulshear City Council has approved projects to expand and improve Wallis Street, as well as Bois D'Arc, which will drastically improve north/south connectivity. These projects and many others support the city's Major Thoroughfare Plan which was updated in 2020 along with the adoption of the CDO. The Fulshear Major Thoroughfare Plan can be found at Fulshear MTP Map (Final Higher Res to City 07.23.20). pdf (fulsheartexas.gov)

Q: Outside of mobility and procedural improvements, what can Fulshear residents look forward to in 2021 that will help improve quality of life for them?

Fulshear will continue to thrive in 2021. Fulshear is one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, and in 2021, we will likely continue that trend. While that growth brings some inherent challenges, it also brings some great opportunities. One of the things we are proud of in Fulshear is our trail system. In 2021 we will see further expansion of that system, as well as several improvements at our City Parks. On December 15, 2020, Council approved a Development Agreement that will add 26 acres

of park land to the City. That park will house sports fields that will benefit every resident. 2021 also promises new businesses, including restaurants, that will continue to contribute to a strong economy and additional places for the community to safely gather and shop. The expansion of new roadways will drastically improve mobility and make it easier to traverse the city. We will continue to be one of, if not the safest city in Texas. Many thanks to the incredible Fulshear Police Department and vigilant citizens for earning us the top spot in 2020. Our residents have a lot to be proud of and there is much more to come in 2021.

Q: As mayor, what message would you like to pass on to Fulshear residents as they begin the new year?

I would simply like to say, "Thank you" to our residents. I am incredibly proud of how they navigated 2020 and I am extremely excited about 2021. In 2020, our residents showed grace to their neighbor and exhibited compassion to our community. Time after time, I saw needs arise and those needs were met immediately. Fulshear truly is a family, and the resilience of our residents gives me much hope as we enter 2021. Stay safe, stay strong, and love well.

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2020-2021 KATY AREA VARSITY SPORTS RESULTS & SCHEDULE

To submit scores, news or schedules, email dennis.silva@katytimes.com. Schedules are tentative due to COVID-19 protocols.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30 GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cinco Ranch 49, Katy 43 (OT)

SATURDAY, JAN. 2 CLASS 6A DIVISION II FOOTBALL REGIONAL FINAL

Katy 51, Clear Falls 14

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Seven Lakes 70, Mayde Creek 20
Morton Ranch at Cinco Ranch, ppd.
Taylor at Katy, ppd.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seven Lakes 66, Mayde Creek 63 (OT)
Cinco Ranch 48, Morton Ranch 47
Katy at Taylor, ppd.

TUESDAY, JAN. 5 GIRLS BASKETBALL

Seven Lakes 67, Cinco Ranch 44
Morton Ranch 45, Katy 44
Mayde Creek 61, Tompkins 22
Paetow at A&M Consolidated, n/a

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seven Lakes 55, Cinco Ranch 50
Katy 46, Morton Ranch 38
Mayde Creek 75, Tompkins 71
Paetow 65, A&M Consolidated 41

THURSDAY, JAN. 7 BOYS SOCCER

Cy-Woods at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
Katy vs. Fort Bend Austin, at
Paetow High, 3 p.m.
Paetow vs. Friendswood, at
Paetow High, 7 p.m.
Klein Collins at Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
Shadow Creek at Taylor, 7:30 p.m.
Kingwood at Tompkins, 7 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Tompkins vs. Tomball Memorial,
at Lady Highlander Tournament,
noon

FRIDAY, JAN. 8 GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cinco Ranch at Tompkins, 7 p.m.
Katy at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
Taylor at Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
Paetow at Brenham, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seven Lakes at Katy, 7 p.m.
Tompkins at Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.
Morton Ranch at Taylor, 7 p.m.
Brenham at Paetow, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Stratford at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
Katy vs. Terry, at Paetow High,
3 p.m.
Paetow vs. Shadow Creek, at
Paetow High, 7 p.m.
Fulshear at Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
North Shore at Taylor, 7 p.m.
Spring Woods at Tompkins, 7 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Morton Ranch at Fort Bend
Austin, 7 p.m.
Mayde Creek at Northbrook,
5:30 p.m.;
Mayde Creek at Northbrook, 6:30 p.m.
Tompkins vs. Klein, at Lady
Highlander Tournament, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9 CLASS 6A-DIVISION II FOOTBALL STATE SEMIFINAL

Katy (11-1) vs. Buda Hays (10-3), at
McLane Stadium in Waco, 2 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Victoria East at Seven Lakes, 3:30 p.m.
Katy vs. Klein Collins, at Mayde
Creek High, 11:30 a.m.
Paetow at Mayde Creek, 3:30 p.m.
Cy-Woods at Morton Ranch, 3:30 p.m.
Friendswood at Taylor, 1 p.m.
Fort Bend Austin at Tompkins,
3:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Mayde Creek at Sam Rayburn, 10 a.m.
Tompkins vs. Memorial, at Lady
Highlander Tournament, noon

TUESDAY, JAN. 12 GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mayde Creek at Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.
Tompkins at Katy, 7 p.m.
Seven Lakes at Taylor, 7 p.m.
Magnolia West at Paetow, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Taylor at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
Katy at Tompkins, 7 p.m.
Cinco Ranch at Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
Paetow at Magnolia West, 6:30 p.m.



PRENTICE C. JAMES | SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Katy High sophomore running back Seth Davis powers for yards during the Tigers' Class 6A-Division II regional semifinal win over Shadow Creek on Saturday, Dec. 26, at Freedom Field in Iowa Colony.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

Davis brothers anchor another potent running attack for semifinal-bound Katy

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

As individuals, they could not be more different.

On the field, Katy High senior running back Jalen Davis will run over a linebacker and then outrun everyone else, using power to set up his next move. His younger half-brother, sophomore running back Seth Davis, will outrun the linebacker, wait for him to catch up, and then stiff-arm him as he continues his jaunt, not unlike a play he pulled off in a win against Mayde Creek earlier this season. Seth uses agility to set up his next move.

Off the field, Jalen is outgoing and sociable, always up for a hangout at Katy Mills Mall, while Seth is quiet and has the same few friends he's had since the sixth grade, more comfortable playing video games at a friend's house than going anywhere public.

Together, however, they form the dynamic, versatile and athletically gifted backfield for the No. 9 state-ranked Tigers (11-1). Following in a distinguished line of premier Katy running backs, including stars like Aundre Dean, Kyle Porter, Adam Taylor, Rodney Anderson, and Deondrick Glass, the Davis brothers are asserting themselves this season as two of the best ballcarriers to wear the red and white.

No. 9 Katy too much to handle for Clear Falls in 6A-D2 regional final,
SEE PAGE 1

The 5-foot-10, 180-pound Jalen, the Tigers' No. 1 back, has 1,298 rushing yards and 21 touchdowns, averaging 8.3 yards per carry. The 5-6, 150-pound Seth has 1,469 yards and 15 touchdowns, averaging 8.6 yards per carry.

In large part because of the Davis brothers' prolific production, the Tigers find themselves two wins away from their ninth state championship. The first step comes Saturday against Buda Hays (10-3) in the state semifinal at 2 p.m. at McLane Stadium in Waco.

"Get to state, win state. That's our main goal," Seth said. "Get that chance to play at (AT&T) Stadium."

If Katy is to get there, the Davis brothers will have a lot to do with it. As the boys' father, Don Davis, likes to say, Jalen brings the "thunder." Seth is the "lightning."

"They complement each other as well as any tandem backs we've had," coach Gary Joseph said. "They're very unselfish. They don't care who gets the yards or attention, as long as we get the win."



RAY BORCHERT | RAYBORCHERTPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM

Katy High senior running back Jalen Davis runs for yards during the Tigers' Class 6A-Division II regional final win over Clear Falls on Saturday, Jan. 2, at Legacy Stadium.

Indeed, the brothers could not care less about stats or individual recognition.

"We don't get into all that," Jalen said. "We just run, and we just play football like we've learned to do it."

Five times this season, Jalen and Seth have each rushed for at least 100 yards in the same game; that's occurred twice in three playoff games (in the other playoff game, Jalen fell a yard short at 99 yards). In the Tigers' 51-14 win over Clear Falls in the Class 6A-Division II regional final on Jan. 2, Jalen ran for 120 yards and two touchdowns and Seth ran for

170 yards and two touchdowns. The brothers scored Katy's first three offensive touchdowns and combined for four of the Tigers' six overall.

"The biggest thing of any game is to come out strong and put the other team on their heels," Seth said. "That's what we do, and that's where things start for us."

Jalen shared carries last season with Ron Hoff, but when Hoff suffered a significant injury during the bi-district playoff win against Ridge Point, Jalen emerged into his own.

See **BROTHERS**, page 8

Katy's Katsigiannis earns program pancake record

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

In football lexicon, a "pancake" is defined as a block by an offensive lineman that leaves a defensive player flat on his back as the running back goes through the established hole. The stat is the pride and joy of any offensive line.

Katy High senior center Vasileios "Bill" Katsigiannis had 14 pancakes during the Tigers' 51-14 Class 6A-Division II regional final win over Clear Falls on Jan. 2. No other Tiger lineman, even with all of the greats that have manned the offensive front during the last three championship-filled decades, has accomplished that.

"We were watching film (on Monday), and I was getting pretty close to the record, which was 13," Katsigiannis said. "It was actually

the last play of the game where I got the record. I had a pancake on the last play. It just felt like any other game when I was playing. I never realized I was even that close to it, to be honest."

Katsigiannis beat the previous record set by offensive tackle Connor Galvin in 2017. Galvin, now a left tackle at Baylor, is 6-foot-7, 310 pounds. Katsigiannis stands 6-feet, 250 pounds.

"It's pretty significant," Katsigiannis said. "Since the beginning of the season, I had a feeling I could at least get close to it, so I'm not as surprised. But I know it's a big deal."

This season has been a revelation of sorts for Katsigiannis. He is in his second year on varsity, but it's his first as a starter.

See **RECORD**, page 9



PRENTICE C. JAMES | SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Katy High senior Vasileios "Bill" Katsigiannis prepares to snap the ball to quarterback Caleb Koger during the Tigers' Class 6A-Division II regional semifinal win over Shadow Creek on Dec. 26 at Freedom Field.



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COLE MCNANNA | SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Katy High senior running back Jalen Davis breaks away from the defense during a game against Cinco Ranch on Oct. 24 at Legacy Stadium.

BROTHERS

from page 6

He had 217 yards and two touchdowns against Ridge Point. He had 101 yards in an area win over Cy-Fair. He had 44 yards and a touchdown on eight carries in a regional semifinal loss to eventual state champion North Shore.

“He’s had a lot of competition,” said Don’s wife Michelle, Jalen’s stepmom and Seth’s mother. “Every time he was supposed to be next in line, there was always someone there, too. So, in the face of competition, in the face of all of that, Jalen embraces the challenge and pushes extra hard to do what he needs to do to compete.”

Jalen has scored on the Tigers’ first play from scrimmage on a game’s opening drive six times this season. Before an opponent’s offense can even snap the ball, that team often finds itself in a deficit because of Jalen’s propensity for the home-run play.

“(Katy running backs) Coach (Kevin) Garvin has never doubted Jalen, from day one,” Don said. “He’s always tried to get everyone to believe in Jalen as a No. 1 running back. He has a bond with Jalen like no coach I’ve ever seen, and Seth has the same bond with Coach Joseph.”

Joseph appreciates the underdog temperament of his precocious youngster. Seth already had an unmatched work ethic and drive. Through Jalen, he’s learned how to work even harder and how to see the field better.

“Seth’s a competitor,” Joseph said. “He doesn’t worry about how big he is or anything like that. He just wants to compete. That’s a great thing. It inspires a lot of kids when you have one that size who runs that hard and plays that well. It can inspire your team, and he does.”

Jalen takes pride in his brother’s success.

“I love to watch him come out with confidence, hitting and coming out with a boom,” Jalen said.

Because of Seth’s success, Joseph was able to use Jalen conservatively during the regular season, keeping him fresh for these playoffs. Seth even has the slight upper hand in carries, 169 to 157, despite Jalen being the starter.

“He’s just now getting the light shined on him, but this is what I expected,” Jalen said. “He’s letting everyone see who he is.”

Seth’s diminutive frame can make a skeptic out of any fan, and even college coaches. Don admits that has been the case. But those in or close to the Katy program know better.

Don said, “dynamite comes in small packages.”

Michelle reminds her son of another overlooked, inspiring individual who conquered giants.

“I tell him he’s like David versus Goliath,” Michelle said. “David didn’t care about his size; he knew who was for him. When he’s out there, Seth keeps God first. In the meantime, he’s just got to keep working hard.”

Both boys grew up with church as their foundation. It explains their morals and values. Their respect for others had been instilled long ago. But Don credits Joseph for their team mindset and unselfishness on the field.

“When they come home, the talk is not about how many yards or touchdowns they had,” Don said. “They right away go to the video and watch the Hudl, seeing what they did wrong. It’s about if they won, if they made the right block, if they missed any assignments. That’s not coming from me. That’s from Coach Joseph.”

“In March, when the pandemic hit, and older people were going to the grocery store at different times than the younger people, Seth was like, ‘Dad, we can’t go to practice. We might get Coach Joseph sick. He’s high-risk.’ I was like, ‘Damn, that kid really loves his coach.’ So, the kids don’t worry about themselves. Every kid on this team is like that, which is why I think we can go far. They think about Coach Joseph and getting what they want out of each game. The goal is to keep playing football.”

This season’s march to the state semifinals has been remarkable, with Katy having to overcome so much, from bouts with COVID-19 to drama off the field during the regular season to season-ending injuries to key starters.

Michelle hinted it could be a season of fate.

“They weren’t even supposed to play together this season,” Michelle said. “Seth was supposed to be on the JV.”

After every game, Michelle has Jalen and Seth sign a football that she’s keeping as a memento for when they are older. Each boy signs it with the date the game was played, against whom and with their stats and a scripture.

It’s a memory for them to have years from now, acknowledging the special season when they played together. One that, if Jalen and Seth have their way, ends with winning the last game of the season at AT&T Stadium on Jan. 16.

“I love they’ve had the opportunity to play together and it’s been such a blessing,” Michelle said. “The opportunity of them possibly winning state? Even more of a blessing.”



COLE MCNANNA | SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Katy High sophomore running back Seth Davis follows his blocks en route to a touchdown during the Tigers’ Class 6A-Division II area playoff win over Lamar on Dec. 18 at Rhodes Stadium.

TIGERS

from page 1

The Tigers controlled the game early and often thanks to a potent run game anchored by the Davis brothers, senior Jalen and sophomore Seth. They combined for 290 yards and four touchdowns on 40 carries.

Twenty-four of those carries came in the first half as Katy methodically built a 23-0 lead at the break. Sophomore quarterback Caleb Koger, who completed eight of 16 passes for 194 yards and five touchdowns in the previous week’s regional semifinal win over Shadow Creek, only attempted five passes in the first two quarters, and none in the first.

Overall, Katy ran the ball 45 times to only eight pass attempts as the Davis brothers each ran for more than 100 yards for the second time in three playoff games.

“We’re a lot more confident,” Jalen Davis said. “We’re reading our blocks a lot better. The linemen have been giving great push; all of our success really goes to them. After they give that push, we know our reads from all our work in practice and it’s all come together really well.”

The Tigers outgained the Knights 336-303 in total yards, with 201 of Clear Falls’ yards coming after halftime. Of the Tigers’ 336 yards, 299 came on the ground. Of their seven touchdowns, six came via the run.

Joseph was content to rely on the Davises, knowing the Knights would lay back on some defensive coverages.

Entering the game, Katy was considered a huge favorite. Dave Campbell’s Texas Football predicted the Tigers would win by 29 points. Almost no one was



RAY BORCHERT | RAYBORCHERTPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM

Katy High senior tight end Emilio Silva runs after a catch during a Class 6A-Division II regional final against Clear Falls on Saturday, Jan. 2, at Legacy Stadium.

giving Clear Falls much of a shot; that is, except for the Tigers.

“We talk all the time about respecting everyone,” Joseph said. “You don’t fear people, but respect everyone. That’s what our program has been able to teach kids. You respect opponents, you respect women and you respect the work you put in. You have an appreciation for all those things, and it’s part of who we are and part of what the program is about. We respect them because we understood they were here for a reason.”

Playing for Joseph, and his principle-laden program, is something Tigers players take pride in, which is why they were thrilled to give him a win for his birthday.

Johnson said his bond with Joseph is one of the best he could ask for between a player and a coach. Davis said Joseph means a lot to the whole community, not just the team.

“If you know Coach, you know he’s a great man, a great leader and a great role model,” Davis said. “We’re glad to give him this birthday gift.”

It’s been a trying year for the Tigers, from COVID-19 protocols that have cost drastic amendments to practices to schedule delays to injuries. Because of the pandemic, the start of the 2020 season was delayed a month, which is why the Tigers are playing into January for the first time.

While players were excited to win for their coach, the coach was excited for his players.

“It’s great for me, but better for our kids,” said Joseph, who turned a youthful 65 years old. “They’ve been at this thing for a long time, and to finally get to the semifinals is a complement to them and what they’ve done to fight the COVID and other things we’ve had to fight through this year.”

Still, the unique circumstances of his special day were not lost upon Joseph.

“It’s different,” he said, smiling. “First time I’ve played on my birthday, first time I’ve played in January. We’ve just got to get ready for the next one.”

In typical Joseph no-nonsense fashion, yes, the birthday win was nice. Fulfilling and joyful, even. But there is still a lot of work to be done. Any celebration was minimal as the big picture told of a team two wins from a ninth state title.

“We’ve worked our butts off through all the challenges of this year, COVID and everything else,” Johnson said. “We just can’t take it for granted. It’s been way too long since we’ve been in the semis. I was a freshman at the time, and it was rough seeing the seniors lose. They were so close. Now our opportunity is here, and we’ve just got to grab it.”

KATY PONY BASEBALL

The league where players learn to play baseball just like the Pros beginning at age 9. Where baseball is played just like the pros. Katy Pony takes registration from Katy ISD, Brookshire, Sealy, Cy-Fair and Waller. Graduated pitching and base distances every 2 years to accommodate the physical development of players.



SPRING 2021

Registration
League Ages - 4 to 17
(as of 8/31/2021)

Register at Walk-Ins (see below) or online at www.katyponybaseball.org

Season Starts - Monday, March 22nd and ends late May
Spring Sportsfest - Baseball, games, food, fun, prizes and team pictures! Saturday, March 27th

Walk-In Registrations will take place at :

► Four Seasons Park: Saturday, January 9th (10:00 AM to 12:00 PM)

► Four Seasons Park: Saturday, January 16th (10:00 AM to 12:00 PM)

Register Online at www.katyponybaseball.org

Shetland - Pony: Online Closes 1/21 Colt: Online Closes 1/31

► Tryouts will take place at Four Seasons Park (Katy Hockley Cut-Off Road)

Saturday, January 23rd - (times assigned) (Shetland 6 through Pony) ages 6-14

Drafts for teams for Shetland 6 thru Pony Divisions will be Jan. 25th thru 28th

Colt players will be placed on teams by high school after online registration closes 1/31.

Registration Info

\$225 per player Pinto (7-8) through Colt (15-17) 🍷 **\$215 per player Shetland 6** 🍷 **\$195 per player Shetland 4/5**

🍷 Multi-player discount (\$10) for each additional player in same family. 🍷 Players receive a team jersey and baseball cap.

🍷 Each player gets \$120 in raffle tickets to sell • keep the money to help offset your cost• or submit in your name if you choose not to sell.

🍷 Late registration will be available at our facilities (Four Seasons Park) age 6 - 14 on Sat, Jan 23rd (during tryouts)

Shetland 6 thru Pony: Mon 1/25 - Thurs -1/28 (12-3 pm & 6-8 pm)

Colt Registration: Mon 1/25 - Weds 1/27 & Mon 2/1 - Weds 2/3 (12-3 pm & 6-8 pm) No late fees for Colt

🍷 To expedite the in-person registration process, forms are on our website

🍷 Players are assigned to a division/team based on their age as of August 31, 2021

🍷 New players please provide a copy or original Birth Certificate with your Registration Form and payment.

Cash and checks ONLY when registering in person. Major Credit/Debit cards ONLY when registering on line.

🍷 All sign-ups after January 20 will be charged a \$25 late fee*. Please register early to avoid waiting list.

*Due to High School tryouts, Colt Division late fees are waived!!

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T-Ball

Ages 7-8

60 ft. Bases

Coach/Dad Pitch

Ages 9-10

60 ft. Bases

Kid Pitch (46 ft.)

Ages 11-12

70 ft. Bases

Kid Pitch (50 ft.)

Ages 13-14

80 ft. Bases

Kid Pitch (54 ft.)

Ages 15-17

90 ft. Bases

Kid Pitch (60 ft.)

SHETLAND

PINTO

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BRONCO

PONY

COLT

All games will be played at Four Seasons Park, 4702 Katy-Hockey Cut-Off Road (Just North of Clay Road)

Katy PONY Baseball is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to provide the best youth baseball experience possible.

For more information or details visit www.katyponybaseball.org or call the facility at 281-371-0887

* Season Start and end dates are subject to change based on weather and other conditions beyond our control. Field usage and Batting cages are determined by a set schedule.

THIS ORGANIZATION AND ITS ACTIVITIES ARE NOT RELATED TO OR SPONSORED BY THE KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, or any other Independent School District.

Eligible to play if age 4 by 8/31/21 in Shetland (T-Ball) division

SPORTS



From left to right, junior post Charles Chuckwu, junior guard Trevor Frank, junior guard Elijah Roberts, senior guard Brian McKnight and senior forward Everett Marlatt make up the starting lineup for the 9-1 Paetow Panthers.

Hungry for an outright 19-5A title, Panthers off to 9-1 start

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow was not too thrilled to share the District 19-5A boys basketball championship with A&M Consolidated last season.

So, in the first of two meetings between the two blossoming rivals on Tuesday, the Panthers made sure to make it known who is king of the league.

Paetow dominated the Tigers in a 65-41 blowout at home, improving to 9-1 overall and 4-0 in district play in a game that was heated and consisted of multiple technical fouls.

"We don't want to tie again," said junior guard Trevor Frank, who had a game-high 19 points. "That's the thing. Our drive is to sweep this district and keep progressing. Win district outright and get far in the playoffs."

Even through adversity dealt by COVID-19, the Panthers are rolling. Head coach Michael Niemi missed his fourth straight game as he is absent dealing with protocols because of the virus. Lead assistant Chuck Arnold, formerly a coach at Katy High who has been Niemi's top guy since they arrived on campus prior to last season, has

taken the reins.

The team has not skipped a beat.

"Coach Niemi runs a solid program," Arnold said. "I'm just trying to do my job as an assistant, doing things exactly the way he would do them. It's all because of the program he's built."

but players who were wide-eyed first-year varsity sophomores last year like Frank and post Charles Chuckwu have grown as leaders. The Panthers are still full of speed and athleticism, but they are more mature and bigger, thanks to the addition of 6-foot-4 senior

Chuckwu with 14 and 10 rebounds, and senior guard Jayden McCullough with 11 points and three steals) and another was on the verge (senior guard Brian McKnight had nine points).

"We're trying to still get that chemistry back," McKnight said. "We lost a lot of seniors, we've got some new guys, but we're coming together. We have a lot of talent on this team, and it's really up to us how good we can be. We just have to mold it all together."

Frank and Chuckwu are the difference-makers. Frank is a dead-eye shooter whose defensive activity is contagious. The 6-8 Chuckwu is an irrepressible force near the rim, an improved passer and initiator of the offense who throws down dunks with ease and is confident showing a midrange jumper.

But for a defense to focus strictly on them would be foolish. The Panthers go nine-deep into their rotation, and the speed at which they play on both ends of the floor can be overwhelming for opponents.

"We don't want to get complacent," Chuckwu said. "We want to sustain this winning culture and keep it going."

"We lost a lot of seniors, we've got some new guys, but we're coming together. We have a lot of talent on this team, and it's really up to us how good we can be. We just have to mold it all together."

— PANTHERS SENIOR GUARD BRIAN MCKNIGHT

"This is a group that competes at a high standard. They get after each other and hold each other accountable. I don't think it matters who coaches them."

Paetow graduated a decent number of seniors,

transfer Everett Marlatt and 6-foot-3 freshman wing Ade Onaleye.

Against A&M Consolidated, which turned the ball over 22 times against that Paetow quickness, three Panthers scored in double figures (Frank,

RECORD

from page 6

"I should've been a starter (last year), but I didn't take football seriously last year," Katsigiannis said. "But I worked hard during the offseason and I was determined to prove everybody wrong."

Katsigiannis put on 30 pounds of weight. He spent more time in the film room. He heeded every ounce of teaching offered by position coach Jeryl Brixey, whose M.O. is a "mentality of physicality."

The Tigers' offensive line is not the program's biggest or strongest ever, but it's arguably the most disciplined and fundamentally sound. Along with Katsigiannis, senior left tackle Jacob Norman, senior left guard Omar Aigbedion, junior right

guard Caleb Webb and senior right tackle C.J. Marsh have been dominant.

The line has only surrendered five sacks in 12 games this season. Katsigiannis has not given up any. Over the last eight games, the Tigers have rushed for an average of 293.1 yards per game to go with 31 touchdowns.

"We're all hard workers," Katsigiannis said of the O-line. "We play with a lot of aggression, a lot of technique. We're very disciplined, and I think that's what keeps an offensive line on top compared to others."

That devotion to technique is what awarded Katsigiannis the record.

"You have to keep your hips low, keep your hands inside and drive your feet," Katsigiannis said. "You keep going until they get on their heels and it's over with."



PRENTICE C. JAMES | SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Katy High senior Vasileios "Bill" Katsigiannis awaits the quarterback's call during the Tigers' Class 6A-Division II regional semifinal win over Shadow Creek on Dec. 26 at Freedom Field.

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Jim Baker's Unified Theory Of Everything
--- With God's Help
(JBUTOE-WGH) A new book about Science and God. Revised publish date: late 2020
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(ad revised: 11/22/2019; previous ads are null and void)



This new book will contain a credible "unified theory of everything" that can explain the very basics of science. Albert Einstein predicted that someone "off the street" was going to do this someday. After 53 years (at approx. year 2000), I decided to include God at every step of the process of trying to come up with a scientific "Theory of Everything". Prior to this, it was about the "only thing" I felt I had not been successful at inventing or figuring out. --- You see, God had already given me the gift of inventing at age 9-10, in His response to my Second Major Prayer. --- By the year 2014, God had allowed me to assemble sufficient knowledge that I felt 95%, of what I needed to figure out, had been accomplished.

One thing I had always wished for, especially as I was approaching the age of 40, is for God to speak to me. Well, when God did speak to me, I liked my first message from God about as much, I suppose, as Abraham liked his message from God, when he was told to sacrifice his son. But God was testing both of us! God was also making us stronger.

There are still two major topics in life to be addressed, prior to publishing the new book. One is a major release of scientific information of the new theory across the U.S.A. The second is starting an evangelical ministry.

Author of new book is a Chemistry graduate (B.S. 1971/M.S. 1978) of Texas A&M (A&I) in Kingsville, TX. He also attended S.A.C. in San Antonio. He has additional hours at SWTSU, Texas Tech U., Boston College, Westinghouse PWR. He has worked at Texas Uranium Operations as Chief Chemist, at South Texas Nuclear Project as Nuclear Chemist during pre-startup, and retired from City of Houston where he was in charge of Technical Services Section of Bureau of Air Quality Control. Owner of BAKER'S BOOKS is also the author of *God's Amazing Answer To Prayer*, in 2012.

TRIBUTES

CROCKETT “DAVID” LEYENDECKER 1954-2020

Crockett “David” Leyendecker Jr., 66, of Columbus, Texas stepped through Heaven’s gates on December 30, 2020.

He was born June 12, 1954, the oldest of three kids to Doris Kallus Leyendecker and Crockett David Leyendecker Sr. in Columbus, Texas. Growing up on the family farm/ranch, he spent many hours on a tractor, which inspired his love of hard work, exploring the outdoors, and his animals. He had the benefit of growing up just down the hill from his maternal grandparents who were a big part of his life.

David graduated from Columbus High School in 1972. During his first semester of college, David met the love of his life, Connie Muske of La Grange and they were married August 9, 1975. David graduated from Texas A&M in 1976 with a degree in Civil Engineering and left the University as a licensed Professional Engineer, Surveyor and Real Estate Broker.

Immediately after graduation, David was hired by Dr. Herman Clay of O’Malley and Clay Engineers in Richmond and became a partner in 1986 changing the name to Clay & Leyendecker, Inc. David represented many clients over the years including the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, many cities as their “City Engi-



neer”, including the City of Katy (40+ years), the City of Waller (40+ years), the City of Fulshear (30+ years) and many other smaller towns and MUD districts. Not much was built on the west side of Houston that did not come across David’s desk first.

David’s next two loves in his life, came via his daughters, Kimberly Ann (1980) and Kristen Lynn (1986). He instilled in them that kindness, generosity and integrity were paramount. His go to advice was “Always do your best.” He spent countless hours pacing up and down a volleyball court watching both of his girls play a sport that they loved. Always giving them his, “The floor is your friend” speech before every match. He always graciously made time for his daughters no matter how inconvenient or how busy he was.

David was blessed with two granddaughters, Shelby (2007) and Taylor Johnson (2011) and one grandson, Levi Carden

(2017). Papa spoiled his grandchildren and always greeted them with a dollar bill every time he saw them. They also knew that Papa would always have snacks and treats waiting. He especially loved to make his special sour-dough pancakes, biscuits, and cinnamon rolls for them, but always called for backup when it came to cleaning the mess.

From when he was little, David, the explorer, had a real knack for finding arrowheads and it was the first of many hobbies. As a young teen, David found an Indian burial ground on the farm and then in his thirties a mammoth jaw and teeth. In later years, his children were always amazed at how he could spot arrowheads from inside the truck while driving through a pasture. This love of exploring brought him joy throughout his life and most of his hunting trips were simply an excuse to get out in the woods so that he could explore. He had many hobbies over the years including scuba diving, hunting, fishing and his latest hobby was flying. David bought a plane and took flying lessons for over two years and got his pilot’s license at the age of 62. When his license came in, he finally told his daughters, who hadn’t a clue. He was probably the best ever at keeping secrets.

David never met a stranger. He would give you the shirt off his back and truly had a ser-

vant’s heart. This heart for people led him to be part of the Rotary Club in Katy where he served a term as President. The family spent many trips on the side of the road while David was changing someone’s tire or helping someone that ran out of gas. They also spent many hours stuck in the mud in the pasture because he always thought, “We can make it.”

David is survived by his wife of 45 years, Connie Leyendecker of Columbus, his daughters, Kimberly Johnson and husband Ross, Kristen Carden and husband Luke, his grandchildren, Shelby and Taylor Johnson and Levi Carden, his mother Doris Leyendecker all of Columbus, his sister Bonnie Roesler and husband Rocky, his mother-in-law Leda Mae Muske, his sister-in-law Diana Michalsky and Tony all of La Grange, numerous nieces and nephews and countless friends.

David was preceded in death by his father and step-mother, Crockett Sr. and Dorothy Leyendecker, his little brother, Karl Leyendecker and his father-in-law, Nelson Muske.

A Celebration of Life is being planned and will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers and memorials, the family asks that you perform an act of kindness or generosity in his memory, as David did so many times.

Online condolences may be given at www.hennekefuneralhome.com.

BARBARA JEAN MCWILLIAMS PEDERSON 1929-2020

Barbara Jean McWilliams Pederson, born on July 19, 1929 in Kansas City, Missouri, passed away Thursday, December 24, 2020 in Katy, Texas.

Daughter of William Paul McWilliams, Sr. and Mary Virginia Lynch McWilliams, Barbara graduated from Kansas City’s Westport High School in 1947. She married her husband, Ralph Herman Pederson, on June 1, 1952 in Kansas City, Missouri. Barbara and Ralph were married for 61 years until his passing on December 24, 2013. While living in Overland Park, Kansas, together they welcomed their first child, Delbert Ralph Pederson, on April 24, 1956 and their daughter, Virginia Jean Pederson Solomon on April 27, 1962. The family moved to Katy, Texas in July 1972 where she enjoyed working in Spring Branch ISD and Katy ISD. Barbara retired from Katy ISD in 1995.

Barbara enjoyed playing bridge. She was a member of the Katy Area Bridge League as well as played as often as she could at the Katy Senior Center. She also enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles and game shows. She was an avid baseball fan especially the Houston Astros and Houston Baptist University Huskies!

Her greatest joy in life was watching her grandchildren in all of their activities. Whether it was



soccer, baseball, basketball, softball or band, she never missed a chance to watch them.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, her son Delbert Ralph Pederson, brother Byron Ellis McWilliams, husband Ralph Herman Pederson, nephew Larry Michael Evans and brother William Paul McWilliams Jr.

She is survived by her sister Pauline Lee McWilliams Evans of Grain Valley Missouri, her brother Clifford Osborn McWilliams of Owasso, Oklahoma, her daughter, Virginia Jean Pederson Solomon (Jeff Solomon) of Katy, Texas, grandchildren Katherine Pleasant Pederson Lopez (Brian Lopez) and Mark Allen Pederson (Pamela Pederson) of Round Rock, Texas, grandchildren Kara Faith Solomon and Matthew Del Solomon of Katy, Texas, and great grandchildren, Sawyer Ward Pederson, Riley Jean Pederson, Avery Marie Pederson and Parker Hope Mullens and numerous cherished nieces and nephews and other relatives.

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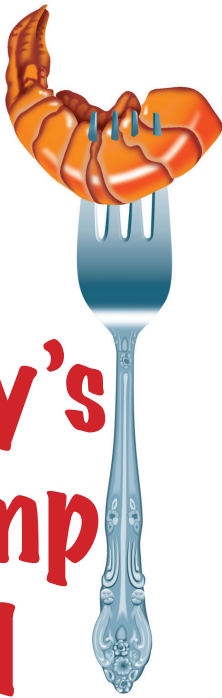
Meetings begin January 2021



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