SPORTS | B1

**VOLUME 109, ISSUE 21** 

# Katy, Joxas III mes



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

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021

### Brookshire council chooses mayor pro tem



BROOKSHIRE EDO

Eric Green was selected as mayor pro tem by Brookshire City Council during their regular May 20 meeting. The mayor pro tem serves as Mayor Darrell Branch's stand in whenever the mayor has a scheduling conflict or is unable to perform his duties for any reason. Branch remains the mayor after winning his reelection bid earlier this month.

## Council also acts to ensure consistency in processes

BY R. HANS MILLER

Brookshire has a new mayor pro tem after Thursday evening's regular council meeting. Alderperson Eric Green was confirmed in the position after a 4-1 vote with Alderperson Lee Nelson Jones being the only dissenting vote. Council also took multiple actions to reaffirm the city's code of ordinances related to construction processes.

The selection of a new mayor pro tem was necessary after Monique Taylor defeated Marilyn Vaughn for the first alderperson seat on council on May 1. This was Taylor's first full meeting after her swearing-in earlier this month.

Council also acted on several items to ensure consistency in use of the city's code of ordinances. These actions included denial of a variance to change the right of way for a townhouse development on Stella Avenue; denial of an exception to allow a food truck at the Exxon Station at 213 FM 359; voting to require proper documents be filed in advance of construction projects breaking ground; and

See **BROOKSHIRE**, page A3

### Four charged in murder of Katy area man



STOCK PHOTO BY KAT WILCOX

Four family members are facing murder charges after a May 17 shooting in the northwestern portion of the Katy area. The incident occurred after family members misidentified a person they suspected of vandalizing their property and blocked in his vehicle in order to confront him. The victim was shot and later pronounced dead at the hospital.

BY R. HANS MILLER NEWS EDITOR

Four family members — Joe Argueta, 19, Luis Argueta, 45, Florinda Argueta, 39, and Margarito Alcantar, 29 — are being charged by Harris County with murder in the death of Eddie Clark, 29, a resident of the Westminster Village subdivision, just north of the Katy area, according to an HCSO press release.

According to the press release, the Arguetas and Alcantar – who is an uncle to Joe Argueta – were found when deputies responded to a shooting in the 17100 block of Hilton Hollow Drive in the Westminster Village subdivision near Little York Drive. Upon arrival, they found a dark gray Dodge Challenger abandoned in the front yard of a home.

Deputies located Florinda and her son, Joe, at the scene. Florinda stated that she had filed multiple reports with HCSO regarding a person or persons damaging their home and vehicles. She indicated that the suspect was a teenage Hispanic male friend of her son's former girlfriend that they suspected was responsible for the damage. In those reports, a black Dodge Charger was listed as the possible suspect vehicle. The Arguetas said that at about 11:30 p.m., Joe had spotted what he believed was the suspect vehicle driving in the neighborhood and the family had blocked in Clark's gray Challenger with their own vehicles. Luis, armed with a pistol, and Alcantar, carrying a baseball bat, then approached the vehicle to confront

See **MURDER**, page A3

### Royal advisory committee continues to explore campus needs

BY R. HANS MILLER NEWS EDITOR

Royal ISD's Community Advisory Committee continues to meet to review infrastructural problems throughout the district. On May 11 and May 24, respectively, committee members attended meetings at the RISD STEM Academy and Royal Elementary School, with several expressing shock at the condition of the STEM facility.

"I am unsatisfied with the venue based on everything that needs to be done for the staff and students to have a fully functional facility. It is very sad for everyone to have to deal and have to make do with everything that is lacking," one committee member's anonymous response to a survey after the May 11 tour of the STEM facility read.

School officials pointed out a variety of issues at the STEM facility during the May 11 tour. Chief among those are the condition of the facility's kitchen, poor lighting in hallways, HVAC concerns and a facility whose layout is not conducive to its current purpose. Additionally, the bleachers in the gymnasium are no longer functional, they said, with the seating for viewing any sporting event or assembly in the gym permanently pushed back into a retracted position to keep anyone from being injured.

"As far as the gym goes, the bleachers are damaged ...," said RISD Director of Operations Derrick Dabney. "So, we have them pushed back and locked. The (STEM Academy) gym floor needs to be refinished."

Many of the worst issues at the STEM facility are in the kitchen, Dabney said. There are plumbing and cosmetic issues, but much of the kitchen equipment, including the stove and coolers, require replacement to ensure safety and cleanliness.

Phylicia Glover, who is the principal for the STEM Academy, said the layout for the building is not what it should be. Some portions of the facility such as the locker rooms and showers have been left unused due to maintenance issues and are serving more as storage than as something the students can use. Additionally, the STEM Academy has multiple issues with windows and roofing that aren't watertight and are causing damage to flooring and other infrastructure. Also, one of the engineering classrooms has no proper ceiling installed and the HVAC system being unreliable makes it difficult to regulate temperature evenly throughout the building.

While the situation at Royal Elementary School is not as dire, RES Principal Aronda Green said there are cosmetic and functional issues that need to be addressed before they become safety concerns. The HVAC system in the facility is overtaxed and settling of the foundation has caused buckling in the flooring which creates tripping hazards.

The Royal Community Advisory Committee – a group made up of community leaders, parents and former RISD students – will be exploring what options to take to remedy the safety issues at Royal's campuses.

Possible actions may include a bond package proposal that has not been determined as yet. District staff and consultants have advised the committee that a bond authorization of up to \$90 million would not raise the district's tax rate, though it would extend the length of time it takes to pay off the district's debt. Additionally, the repairs and refurbishment of buildings would need to include some additional student capacity given population growth in RISD.

Consultant Steve Risser with Galagher Construction said about 1,800 new homes are being built in RISD that the district will need to serve. These homes are spread out across the Crystal Lakes, Windsor Estates, Freeman Ranch, Sunterra and Kingsland Ranch subdivisions.

See **ROYAL**, page A3



R. HANS MILLER

Steve Risser of Galagher Construction, a consultant for Royal ISD, discusses options to improve the district's facilities and how much it may cost. Risser explained that the district not only needs to improve its current facilities for safety reasons but also must prepare for anticipated student body growth.

### HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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May 27, 2021 16 pages | \$1

### Kake brings gluten-free, Keto and diabetic-friendly treats to Katy area



R. HANS MILLE

Stefani Wille (left) is the owner-operator of Kakes, a gluten-free and keto bakery on Fry Road in the Katy area. She is shown with her staff members, Simon Ton (center) who is the bakery's cake decorator and the shop's general manager, Emily Burton (right). The bakery has a total of six staff that Wille said have stuck with her through the ups and downs of the pandemic over the last year and whom she truly appreciates.

BY R. HANS MILLER

Stefani Wille, owner of Kake at 918 S. Fry Road, Ste. 600 in Katy, said she began baking gluten-free and Keto items at home to support her sons who have Asperger's Syndrome and ADHD. She'd heard that gluten-free items could help relieve the symptoms her sons faced and saw results that led to a passion for baking and making healthy treats for others with dietary restrictions.

"The issue is, a lot of keto items will have isolated wheat gluten in them, and it's the one inflammatory – so really not clean keto. What we do here is very clean. We are a dedicated gluten-free kitchen. That's what sets us apart," Wille said.

Many restaurants and bakeries offer what they call "gluten-friendly" options, Wille said. But for someone with Celiac Disease – an immune disorder that causes the body to attack itself when the protein, gluten is present – cross-contamination of foods at such places is a serious concern. One minor contamination

can lead to days of illness for a Celiac patient or for a gluten intolerant patient, who avoids gluten due to a food allergy or cognitive health concerns, days of illness or cognitive symptoms may follow accidental

cross-contamination.

"There's a whole community of people that I talk to every day that say, 'I went to go get gluten-free pizza somewhere – and yes, they have a gluten-free crust, but they were taking gloves that they've just touched a regular pizza crust with and plunged it into the toppings before they put it on my gluten-free pizza; and, I'm a Celiac and I break down in hives or I have gastrointestinal issues and even that much gluten could cause problems for me."

Wille said many of the items she sells are also low-carb or low-sugar because they are sweetened with Lakanto, a monk fruit-erythritol zero-calorie blend. She said she is even willing to work with customers to customize orders if they have a sensitivity to the ingredients she has. Her only exception is that she does

See **KAKE**, page A3





Robert "Uncle Bob" Kiesewetter (in wheelchair) and his family members watch the parade in his honor. Kiesewetter turned 97 on May 22 and locals showed up to show their appreciation for his service as a WWII veteran.

### Katy area residents honor WWII veteran

BY R. HANS MILLER

Katy area first responders and residents honored Robert "Uncle Bob" Kiesewetter on his 97th birthday on Saturday, May 22. Kiesewetter is a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II and was honored by first responders with Harris County **Emergency Services District** 48, the Patriot Guard Riders and community members who wanted to honor him for his service and longevity.

Kiesewetter was born May

Members of the community, including many of Kiesewetter's neighbors and his family were on hand to watch the procession. Members of Katy VFW Post 9182 and American Legion Post 164's joint honor guard were also present.

Kiesewetter's service began when the Air Force was a young branch of the military, having evolved from the U.S. Army Air Corps to become the U.S. Air Force on June 20, 1941.



A Harris County Emergency Services District 48 fire truck with lights and siren going passes by Kiesewetter's home during the parade last Saturday. Many of Kiesewetter's neighbors joined veterans, a biker group and others to honor Kiesewetter.

### **JUNE 2021 EVENTS CALENDAR**

#### JUNE 4 CASINO NIGHT BENEFITTING BEHIND THE **BADGE CHARITIES**

The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting this event to raise money for Behind the Badge Charities - www.behindthebadgecharities. org. The nonprofit organization provides emergency financial assistance grants to Fort Bend County first responders dealing with injuries, illnesses or other hardships. Tickets are \$35 and the event will be held in Safari Texas Ranch's Texas Room. Safari Texas is located at 11627 FM 1464 in Richmond. For more information, visit https://bit.ly/3wrQGIJ.

#### **COMEDY NIGHT AT THE WINERY**

ErmaRose Winery will be hosting a night of food, drinks and laughter. Comedians Ben Jackson, Celebrity the Comedian, and Blame the Comic will perform to bring on the laughs while multiple food trucks are available to enjoy. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10-25 and are available at https://bit.ly/3wuPQLy. ErmaRose is located at 3130 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road.

#### **JUNE 6, 2021**

**BROOKSHIRE TOWN HALL MEETING** Join Brookshire City Council members, Mayor Darrell Branch, members of the board of directors for the Brookshire-Katy Drainage District, the Brookshire Chamber of Commerce, **Brookshire Economic Development** Council Waller County Sheriff Troy Guidry, Waller County Commissioner Justin Beckendorff and other local officials for a town hall meeting at The Hangar Unity Center in Brookshire. For more information, email Brookshiretownhallmeeting@gmail.com. This free event begins at 2 p.m.

#### **JUNE 8**

**IGLOO SUMMER SEASONAL JOB FAIR** 

Local insulated container manufacturer Igloo is opening hundreds of summer season positions in its Katy area plant and distribution facility. Visitors may be hired on-the-spot and Igloo says the company will be offering competitive pay. Staff will be providing instruction, guided tours and answer questions for potential employees. Positions available include operators, assembly line leads, forklife drivers and commercial drivers. Veterans are encouraged to apply. Event will be held at 777 Igloo Road, Katy from

#### **JUNE 9** SAT, ACT OR BOTH?

Register to attend this seminar offered by the Katy Branch Library at https://

### **MEMORIAL DAY 2021**

The event below will be held May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

#### KATY VFW MEMORIAL DAY **PROGRAM**

Join Katy VFW Post 9182 at magnolia Cemetery at 6801 Franz Road in Katy at 10 a.m. The VFW's honor guard will post the colors, and an invocation will be given by Post Chaplain Jeb Strickland. Wilbur Duval, a WWII Navy Veteran will be the guest speaker and a poem by local poet Ernie Cormier II will be read. A 21-gun salute and taps will also be observed. Visit https://www.facebook. com/vfwpost9182 for more information. Following the Memorial Day Service we will head to the Armed Forces Memorial at Freedom Park at 18050 Westheimer Pkwy. for another short ceremony.

Editor's note: We will be featuring a spread in next week's edition of the Katy Times for a special feature honoring Katy's veterans who are no longer with us but have served our community in the military.

tinyurl.com/KatyLibrarySignUp and hear from testing expert Melissa Wright from the Princeton Review, Wright will explain the differences between the two exams and advise attendees on the best time of year to take the exams with a Q&A session after her presentation. Recommended for teens and young adults who are beginning to plan for college. The seminar begins at 4 p.m. and is expected to last an hour. For mor information, visit www.hcpl.net/ events/44729.

#### **JUNE 10 LEARN TO MARKET YOUR BUSINESS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce is offering this seminar featuring Jessica Cohen of digital marketing firm, RevLocal. Cohen will break down best practices for social media marketing for businesses, with best practices attendees can use to improve marketing strategies. \$25 for members. \$50 nonmembers. 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 814 East Ave., Ste. H, Katy. Contact Ashley DeWispalaere at 281-391-5289 for sponsorship information. Register at: https://bit.lv/3u8nZzg

#### **JUNE 12** KCM COMMUNITY FOOD FAIR

Katy Christian Ministries will set up a food distribution site at Parkway Fellowship -5819 10th Street, Katy – from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The food fair is aimed at feeding local families facing food insecurity by providing fresh produce. More information is available at https://bit.ly/3veO8NX. To find out more about how you can help those facing food insecurity in the Katy area, visit ktcm.org/foodpantry.

#### **JUNE 18** THE FANTASTICS AT CENTRAL GREEN

Head out to LaCenterra for live music at Willow Fork Drainage District's Central Green Park from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The Fantastics are a band with more than a decade of performing throughout Texas and Louisiana featuring multiple vocalists and a variety of musical styles and genres. Admission is free and attendees are welcome to bring lawn chairs and picnic baskets. Glass, alcohol, pets and balls should not be taken onto the green. Find more information at https://bit.ly/3fJbW5Y.

#### **JUNE 19 KATY MARKET DAY**

Step out and shop historic downtown Katy with dozens of vendors, food trucks, entertainment and a chance to shop all of the antique stores and boutiques in Katy's downtown square right by Katy City Hall. The event is held in downtown at the intersection of Second Street and Avenue C. The fun starts at 10 a.m. and goes until 4 p.m. Admission is free but food and craft vendors charge for services and products. For more information, visit www.katymarketday.com or call 281-391-1993.

#### **JUNE 25 REPLAY LIVE AT TODDY OAKS**

Stop by the Toddy Oaks winery, distillery and Brewery at 20120 Franz Road in the Katy area for some live music and a chance to relax with locally brewed beverages. This free event offers a chance to enjoy 80s music with a chance to dance and play. Music begins at 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/toddyoaks/.

#### **JUNE 26** KTX MARKET DAY

Stop by MKT Distillery at 5373 First Street in Katy to discover an artisan's market with all sorts of wares to choose from. The distillery will be open and serving cocktails and family-friendly activities will be available in the shade of Katy's historic rice dryer silos. This free event begins at 4 p.m. and runs until 8 p.m. Sociable pets are welcome to attend.



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\$2 off **Primal Butcher Blend** 



**\$5 off Primal Market Mix** 

\*Ends May 31, 2021

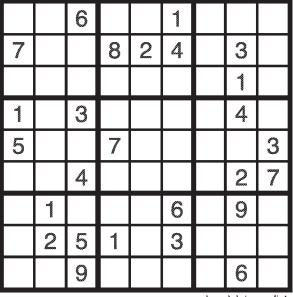
1644 S. Mason, Katy 77450 | 832-437-0401 | Mon-Fri 9 -7 Sat 9-6 Sun 11-4 https://patsyspetmarket.com Grooming 832-457-2889 | Grooming hours Tues-Sat 8-5:30



### **Katy** Times will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2021 in observance of **Memorial Day**

Deadline for display advertising and editorial copy for June 3, 2021 publication is Thursday, May 27, 5 p.m. Deadline for classified line ads is Friday, May 28, Noon.

**Honoring Their Sacrifice.** Remembering Their Lives. Celebrating Their Memory.



### **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.

### **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. A group of sheep 5. Of she
- 8. This (Spanish)
- 12. A type of sorcery 14. A team's best pitcher
- 15. Port in southern Japan 16. Makes very happy 18. Trigonometric unit of
- measurement 19. From a distance
- 20. Winged nut
- 21. Consumed
- 22. "Heat" director 23. In all places
- 26 Made improvements to
- 30. St. \_\_ Girl: brand of beer 31. A type of "seat"
- 32. Wood
- 33. A brief treatise on a subject of interest
- 34. Approval 39. Basics
- 42. Where judges sit
- 44. W. African religion 46. Commentators
- 47. Having many different
- functions 49. Member of a Semitic people 50. Flightless, fast-running bird
- 51. After the seventh 56. Small N. Zealand tree 57. Health care pro (abbr.)

- 58. Playground mainstay 59. Expressing relief 60. Records brain activity (abbr.)
- 61. Fishing net 62. Beer
- 63. Tooth caregiver
- 64. Japanese beverage

### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Garden tools 2. Early Syrian kingdom
- 3. 500 sheets of paper
- 4. Information 5. Beloved comic strip
- character 6. Distinct form of a plant
- 7. Replenishment
- 8. Semitransparent glassy substance 9. Expedition to observe
- animals 10. One who held landed
- granted by Anglo-Saxon king 11. Obtain in return for labor
- 13. Inheritable genetically 17. One who rescues
- 24. Doctor of Education
- 25. Liberal arts
- 26. Shock treatment 27. Disfigure
- 28. When you hope to get there 29. Peacock network
- 35. Part of (abbr.) Answers will be provided in next week's edition.
- 36. The 21st letter of the Greek
  - alphabet
  - 37. Not just "play"

  - 38. Former CIA

  - 40. Reduced to a sloping edge
  - 41. Restricted the development of
  - 42. Sciences degree
  - 43. Sea eagles

45. Joints

47. Sailing boat

- 54. Intentionally lose
- 53. First Chinese dynasty

48. Respiratory organs

49. Guitarists use them

52. Disco act: Bee \_

- 55. Muslim people of China

The showers in the locker

room at the Royal STEM

Academy are essentially unusable and the adjoining locker rooms

have been used for storage

for multiple years now

the Royal Community

according to staff. While

Advisory Committee was

snake was found in the

locker room.

touring the facility, a small

### **BROOKSHIRE**

from page A1

adopting the fifth edition of the Texas State Records Retention Schedule as a standard for city records.

City Secretary Claudia Harrison said the adoption of the retention schedule was a necessity as the city continues to grow and needs to manage its records in accordance with appropriate guide-

"We're running out of space for filing all the reports and things that we print when we do various things," Harrison said. "And, we should have a retention schedule on file anyway and this is something that we have to do - we have to have a retention schedule adopted."

The Texas State Records Retention Schedule is a set of guidelines issued by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission that identifies the length of time various official records must be kept by government entities.

The request for the variance at the Stella Avenue townhome development would have reduced the required rightof-way width for the development from 60 feet to 20 feet. Crispin Reyna who said he works with the developer of the project explained his client was asking for the variance primarily due to financial concerns.

'The main thing is that (council) has to approve a hardship, and just so you know, a hardship can't be just financial," City Attorney Justin Pruitt said.

Council discussed the issue and Green said that, while he is fine with the project overall, he was not in favor of granting the variance due to safety concerns, noting that a 20-foot right-of-way would not easily allow emergency vehicles such as fire trucks to easily move through the development if needed.

"Now if you look at the townhomes that were just recently (developed) by LGI (Homes) on Solomon Street - those townhomes are maybe 20 feet apart, and only one car can get through there eat a time, and once this project is done, if anything happens, that burden lies on the city," Green said. "And we're required to make sure our citizens are safe; and we're required to make sure emergency vehicles have good access to make sure all of our citizens are safe."

Council also voted to move forward with restoration of the city-maintained ditch between Fourth and First streets north of the railroad track. Green said he had asked for the item to be put on the agenda because it had already been approved by council, but city staff had not moved forward with it and he wanted the maintenance taken care of before hurricane season starting in June.

During the meeting, council also: • Authorized Mayor Darrell Branch

to request bids for a consultant to help manage any funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

· Authorized the investment of \$50,000 into an account Texstar to improve the interest rate the city is getting on some of its funds while maintaining easy accessibility.

• Heard an update from Waller Harris Emergency Services District 200 representatives and Brookshire volunteer firefighting organizations regarding upcoming changes to fire services for the city. Details were not yet fully established, but a new fire department building is anticipated in the coming months and a program to certify volunteers was



ROYAL

from page A1

more photos of the Royal ISD facilities discussed in this article, visit www. katytimes.com.

Editor's note: For

On the plus side, RISD Superintendent Rick Kershner said, this also adds to the Maintenance and Operation budget for the school which will allow the

district to hire more maintenance staff. Additionally, the new homes add to the district's taxpayer base, spreading the cost for any bonds out among a larger group, which also helps prevent any increase in the district's tax rate.

Property values are also increasing across the district in previously undeveloped areas such as those subdivisions, Kershner said. This has increased the property values within the district from \$1.45 billion in 2020 to an estimated \$2.1 billion by November of this year.

Staff also said the district has been responsible with the bond debt it has had in the past with some of its debt expected to be paid off over the summer - three years earlier than anticipated.

"And that's great because the board's initiative (on May 10) was not just to take advantage of (low interest rates) but to actually pay off some of the bonds early," said district financial consultant Lucas Janda at the May 11

Two more meetings are planned for June 7 and June 15. Those interested in attending may reach out to Christi Ginn at cginn@royal-isd.net for more information and to



R HANS MILLER

Bleachers STEM 1 by RHM: The bleachers in the guy at the Royal STEM Academy are in need of repair and are currently not used due to safety

### KAKE

use nut-based flours in her cooking, so sometimes cannot accommodate those with nut allergies.

However, Wille said the baked goods at her shop aren't just for those with specialized dietary needs. She works hard to ensure her treats have the taste and texture everyone can enjoy. From German-chocolate cupcakes with only four net carbohydrates to dark-chocolate-dipped shortbread cookies to donuts and custom-decorated cakes for special events like graduation celebrations - Wille wants anyone to be able to walk into her establishment and walk out with a dessert they can enjoy.

The bakery features a wide variety of items fancy treats including cinnamon rolls, donuts, breakfast sandwiches, pretzel dogs, dairyfree fruit and parfait cups and snickerdoodles. Not to mention, mumns, brownies and a classic chocolate chip cookies.

Over the next few years, Wille is hoping to expand and she appears to have the means to do so. An agreement with Amazon has her and her staff producing about 20,000 Ketonia brand coconut macaroons - the top-selling Keto cookie on the Amazon website, she said. Additionally, she is hoping to open franchises in early 2022 to serve a wider customer base and make sure those with dietary restrictions can get high-quality, specialty-diet-friendly treats when needed.

Wille said the first year of business was very difficult for Kakes to survive though. Their grand opening was Nov. 2, 2019, and they'd barely gotten going when the pandemic caused shutdown orders to be issued. But, after a lot of hard work from herself and dedicated staff she said she absolutely adores, the business has made it through. Even when, from time to time, staff had to



Kake offers a variety of donuts from the cinnamon-sugar ones shown here to vanilla glazed donuts with chocolate and butterscotch drizzle. Keto chocolate sandwich cookies, sheet cakes, Italian cream cakes and Tres Leches cakes are also available.

### **KAKES GLUTEN FREE**

918 S. Fry Road, Ste. 600 Web: www.Kakesketo.com Phone: 832-321-5097

bring their children in to work on schoolwork in the front lobby while the baking got done.

"We tutored each other's kids," Wille said. "We were the only people we could have birthday parties with because we were together every day anyway; and, so, we were literally ... each other's only people. So, we became friends because the pandemic forced us to bond and it was actually pretty



For those wanting a more savory than sweet option, Kake offers dishes such as biscuits and gravy - all lowcarb and gluten-free - and pretzel dogs, among other offerings.





Joe Argueta and his mother Florinda Argueta are out on bond awaiting further legal proceedings after a May 17 confrontation with a man they suspected of damaging their property led to that man's death. Luis Argueta and Margarito Alcantar are currently wanted in the murder of the victim, Eric Clark and remain at large.

### MURDER

from page A1

When Clark attempted to flee. Luis fired at the vehicle. striking it multiple times according to the HCSO press release. Clark was discovered by deputies outside of the vehicle and was found to have been shot. He was treated by Cy-Fair EMS at the scene and then sent via Life Flight to Memorial Hermann Hospital where he was pronounced

Clark was not known by the Arguetas and HCSO has received no indications that he was involved in the ongoing dispute between the family and Joe's ex-girl-

friend's acquaintances. Luis and Alcantar fled the scene before law enforcement's arrival. Florinda was questioned at the scene and then released. Joe was

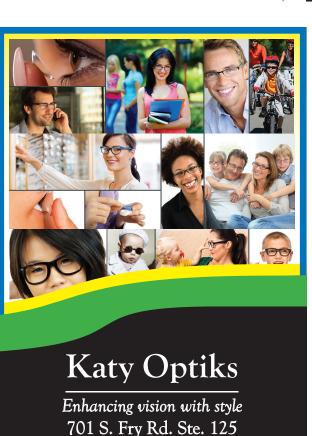
arrested at the scene and transported to HCSO offices where he spoke with HCSO Homicide Unit investigators and provided a statement.

As of May 25, Joe Argueta is currently out of jail on \$50,000 bond. Florinda Argueta is out on bond as well. Luis Argueta and Margarito Alcantar remain at large and are wanted for murder after a review of nearby surveillance camera footage and witness statements led investigators

to seek charges against them. If anyone has any information regarding the investigation or the location of any of the wanted subjects, they are asked to contact the Homicide Unit at 713.274.9100 or call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-8477.

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THEY SAY YOU CAN LOSE THE MASK, LINUS!

# Unsolicited advice for the class of 2021

BY DANNY TYREE

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

By the time most of you read this, my son Gideon will have marched across the gymnasium floor and received his high school diploma.

I have brainstormed some sage advice for Gideon's next phase and hope that his fellow grads nationwide can benefit.

I'll allow someone else to lecture 2021 graduates about following your dream, keeping a journal, subscribing to the local newspaper, formulating a career backup plan, paying it forward, starting retirement planning early, yada yada yada. I prefer to share tips you're unlikely to hear anywhere else.

First, be patient with your elders when they emit trite expressions such as "Finishing high school already? Where does the time go?" Refrain from exclaiming, "When the baby takes its first step, you ask, 'Where does the time go?' When you unbox the Christmas decorations, you ask, 'Where does the time go?' Maybe if your generation wasn't always asking where the time goes, we'd have a colony on Mars with a cure for the common cold by now! Buy a calendar!'

Before you move too far away, make a point of thanking favorite teachers who inspired you. Don't procrastinate until you run across them in a retirement home. ("Mr. Johnson, you were an amazing Drivers Ed instructor. Of course, that was back when you could still see above the stick shift...")

Don't be one of those "School's out...forever!" misanthropes who fall off the face of the earth. Stay in touch so you'll know about class reunions. If you feel awkward about reunions, assemble the new IKEA Reunion Table Deluxe. It has built-in popular kids!

Be true to your school. Keep the STANDARDIZED TEST-ING momentum going. Don't submit to a field sobriety test until you see some Number



Two pencils!

Get a head start on embellishing your "uphill both ways" tales of Covid-19 for sharing with youngsters someday. (I'm serious. In a heartbeat, you'll go from being a senior who steals a rival school's eagle mascot to being a senior who swipes extra packs of condiments from the Early Bird Special.) Regale them with horror stories of doggedly administering wedgies with remote learning.

Hear me out on this: get massive injections of Botox. That way you can keep a straight face when you tell the NEXT generation how great Generation Z's music was.

Disprove the myth that "you'll never use most of the stuff you learn in school." Make it fit. ("As a certified EMT, I can see that a tracheotomy is called for. But what say we apply a little Faulknerian trigonometry to the wound? And climb that rope, you loser!")

Steel yourself for the fact that the Real World is shockingly different than school. Snow days? Few and far between. In-service days? Forget it. And there's no such thing as pulling the wool over the eyes of "this week's substitute CEO." That's right; there's no one to con with "But...but...the regular CEO lets us take a three-hour lunch and matches our 401(k) contribution with an actual Cayman island!"

Finally, pick a random quote from your yearbook and fully incorporate it into your life. For instance, "Never forget French class!" So, in 15 years when you're an airline pilot, you'll suddenly have a flashback. ("Zut alors! Ou est la bibliotheque? Ou est la bibliotheque???? Passengers, fasten your seatbelts, s'il vous plait...I'm diving lower to find that bibliotheque! AIIEEEE!")

## Greg Abbott wants Texas to be normal again

ROSS

RAMSEY

THE TEXAS

hether or not you're ready to get back to normal, your governor is.
Greg Abbott has been moving quickly to set the state to prepandemic mode, banning mask requirements, cutting pandemic aid for jobless Texans in hopes they will return to the workforce and setting the table for schools to open in-person classes for all of their students, no masks required.

He's returning to political norms, too, with enthusiastic approval of legislation that outlaws abortions after six weeks of pregnancy — he signed that on Wednesday — and signaling his eagerness to sign a bill that would let most adults in the state carry handguns without licenses or permits. The House and Senate are negotiating to resolve their differing versions of that legislation. Abbott had "election integrity" on his list of priorities early in the session; that Republican concern is also a subject of negotiations, and lawmakers are trying to shake out big differences between the House and Senate versions. Democrats in both chambers oppose the bill.

All of that is a return to the Republican-centered politics of 2017 — an era interrupted by Democratic gains in the 2018 elections and set right in the stronger and more typical Republican showing in the 2020 cycle. The 2017 session was known for the "bathroom bill" — an effort by social conservatives to bar transgender individuals from using public and school restrooms that match their gender identities.

The next session, in 2019, was all about public education, school finance and other "meat and potatoes" issues — a reaction

by the state's top leaders to a 2018 election that was unexpectedly competitive and that shrunk the

GOP majority in the Legislature.

Democrats talked big in
2020, but didn't produce results.
Republicans swept the statewide elections, held their own in the Legislature and roared into the current legislative session worried less about facing
Democrats in the next general election and more about facing fellow Republicans in the next primary election.

The moderation of 2019 was followed by a sharp right turn this year. And as we move to the end of the session in less than two weeks, into a period when the governor can kill bills or allow them to become law, and then into the 2022 political cycle, Abbott's dropping pandemic regulations, trying to push people back to work and taking care of Republican voters.

He's back to normal.

It follows a rough patch of more than a year for the governor, one that saw his popularity with voters whipsawed with every change in the strength of the coronavirus in Texas and in his official reactions to it.

Now he's back to about where he was at about this time last year, as the pandemic's first growth surge slowed and the state began loosening restrictions put in place to flatten the curve.

That was a different phase of the pandemic, and Abbott's quick

reopening marked the beginning of a surge in coronavirus cases, hospitalizations and deaths last summer.

Right now, the numbers are going the governor's way. More than 30% of Texans are fully vaccinated. Nearly 3 million Texans have either had confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19, but current caseloads are at June 2020 levels. Hospitalizations, at 2,222 on May 18, have fallen to about where they were in early June 2020. And death rates, which peaked in Texas earlier this year, are also about where they were late last spring.

The Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention has eased
its guidance on masks — with the
proviso that unmasking is safe
for people who have been fully
vaccinated.

It's clear to anyone who's been out and about that more people are doing things they did before the pandemic: Shopping, going to restaurants and parks, sometimes masked and sometimes not.

And the governor apparently shares their exuberance. He told schools and government entities — with a few exceptions — that they can't require people to wear masks. He joined other states in opting out of \$300 per month in federal jobless benefits tied to the pandemic, prodded by business groups who contend those benefits are one reason some jobs aren't attracting applicants.

Texans have been clamoring for a return to normal for more than a year, a yearning that pressured the governor — and his counterparts in some other states — to open things too quickly and too broadly. This time, it appears to be working — and the governor appears to be all in.

### **CONSTITUTION CORNER**

### **U.S. Constitution**

### 14th Amendment, Section 4

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.



**CURRENT NATIONAL DEBT: \$28.3 TRILLION** 

DEBT PER CITIZEN: \$84,967

U.S. TRADE DEFICIT: \$945.8 BILLION U.S. FOREIGN DEBT: \$7.07 TRILLION



SOURCE: USDEBTCLOCK.ORG

### **Katy** Times

SUSAN ROVEGNO | Publisher R. HANS MILLER | News Editor DENNIS SILVA II | Sports Editor DEBBIE PREJEAN | Bookkeeper MARISSA FERREIRA | Page designer

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Nursing students

from the University of

traditional pinning

ceremony. Nurses who have completed their

degree are pinned with

indicate their transition

a medical symbol to

practitioner, though

these students may

still need to sit for final

certification exams prior

to practicing formally.

from student to

Houston's Katy Campus are pinned during a

### TRIBUTES

#### **LOUISE ABT CLAY**

1939-2021

Louise Hatfield (Wingo) (Abt) Clay of Weston Lakes, TX, was born in Liberty, TX, on October 30, 1939. She left this earth on May 12 at age 82 from the effects of MDS (myelodysplastic syndromes - in the leukemia family).

Louise was a math graduate of University of North Texas, before the day of computer science. She was one of the early computer programmers and worked many years at Texas Instruments in Dallas when computers were huge, slow and very unfriendly. She was employed later at Halliburton in Houston. She also built and started an unrelated business, Animal Inn, which she completely computerized and owned for 25 years. Louise was a lifelong violinist and pianist and an enthusiastic bridge player. She won trips to the National Spelling Bee twice, at age 11 and age 12, and was a finalist in Washington, D.C., both years winning 11th place and then 10th place in the nation.

Louise was the mother of Walter Wingo, who came into this world with cerebral palsy, IDD and many other problems. Walt is a long-time resident of Richmond State Supported Living Center ("RSSLC"), formerly known as Richmond State School. Until her death, Louise was a very devoted and active parent to Walt, always looking for events or places or things that Walt would enjoy. Her focus was on giving Walt the highest-quality life he could possibly have. She was past president of the Families of Richmond State Supported Living Center charity. She was also active with the Volunteer Services Council of Richmond State Supported Living Center.

Louise is survived by her husband Herman M. Clay, Jr., sister Sara Thompson of Beaumont, TX, son Walter Wingo mentioned above, stepsons Michael, John and Jason Abt, stepson Rush Clay, stepdaughter Lisa Clay Dimmitt, and very special extended family Mark Montalvo, who is Walt's best friend of many years. Mark will now step in and be Walt's guardian.

Donations would be appreciated by Families of RSSLC, PO Box 1671, Richmond, TX 77406 (gofamilies.org); Volunteer Services Council of RSSLC, 2100 Preston St., Richmond, Tx 77469 (govsc.org); MD Anderson Cancer Center; or your favorite charity.

#### **CHARLES RAY BRADLEY**

NOVEMBER 11, 1962 - MAY 16, 2021

Charles Ray Bradley, a lifelong resident of Katy, departed this life on May 16, 2021. Born November 11, 1962, to George and Delores Bradley, Charles was a proud graduate of Katy High School. Services are pending at Brookshire United Methodist Church, under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home.



UH Nursing graduates move into careers

#### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Fort Bend County Judge K.P. George served as commencement speaker for the spring 2021 University of Houston College of Nursing graduation and pinning ceremony. George congratulated the students for persevering in their studies despite the pandemic and urged them to take their place in a world looking to them for leadership as well as health.

"You are not giving an injection or medicine; you are giving hope," he said. "You have a great purpose in this world."

The event took place at UH at Sugar Land, an instructional site of the University of Houston.

Among the graduates were the first cohort of students from the Traditional Bachelor of Science in nursing program track. The program, the first for the college, is housed at the UH at Katy Instructional Site, which opened its doors in 2019.

"These new BSN students are special in many ways," said Kathryn Tart, professor and founding dean of the college. "First students in our first traditional BSN track, and first in our new building in Katy. They also will be part of a national nursing initiative to have more



COURTESY: UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON - KATY

Fort Bend County Judge KP George gives the commencement address for the 2021 University of Houston College of Nursing graduation and pinning ceremony earlier this month. George told students that, especially given the pandemic, the new nurses would need to be leaders as they moved forward into their professional lives.

practicing nurses equipped with a fouryear degree."

Five of the traditional BSN graduates also received \$1,000 awards from

generous donors Andy Gessner and

Barbara Gessner, whose mothers were both nurses.

The college's program of curriculum and clinical experiences prepares students for the profession, both out of state and in the greater Houston area. In 2020, more than 97% of UH College of Nursing graduates stayed in Texas, of which 88% settled in the Houston area to work at hospitals and health care facilities in Fort Bend County and the Texas Medical Center.

"The program was very rigorous, though my professors, preceptors and mentors pushed me to really understand the entire picture of treating a person," said recent graduate alum Mark Yap. "Being able to understand healthcare data meaningfully means understanding how to treat an individual, and all the different forms that could take, in order to understand groups as a whole."

All of the students of the traditional BSN track were employed before they graduated though they still must pass the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses - NCLEX-RN.

"Even though our program was tough, it gave me the skill sets I needed to be successful and adapt either in the research field or in the clinic in a constantly changing world," Yap said.

### The Katy Times



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**NATALIE WANG - VALEDICTORIAN GPA:** 4.8281 University of Texas at Austin Major: Biology/Pre-Med



**ZARA SHIPCHANDLER - SALUTATORIAN GPA**: 4.8 University of Texas at Austin Major: Computer Science



### KATY HIGH SCHOOL



**LAYNE SMITH - VALEDICTORIAN GPA**: 4.8148 University of Texas at Austin Major: Biology with an emphasis on Epidemiology



**CHELSEA CROW - SALUTATORIAN GPA**: 4.8 Pursuing volunteer opportunities abroad and teaching Spanish literacy for a year



### MAYDE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL



MIN KO KO - VALEDICTORIAN **GPA**: 4.8143 Harvard University Major: Political Science



**MOHAMMAD ZAIDI - SALUTATORIAN GPA**: 4.8 Columbia University Major: Sociology



JENNIE LE - VALEDICTORIAN **GPA**: 4.7037 Rice University Major: Exercise Science



**WALTER PHAM - SALUTATORIAN** (photo unavailable) **GPA**: 4.7 University of Texas at Austin Major: Biology



### PAETOW HIGH SCHOOL



JOHN PERSHING ABNEY -VALEDICTORIAN **GPA**: 4.7778 **Brown University** Major: Mechanical or Biomedical Engineering



**CAMILA SILVA - SALUTATORIAN GPA**: 4.75 University of Chicago **Major**: Astrophysics & Astronomy



### SEVEN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL



SAMEER GUPTA - VALEDICTORIAN **GPA**: 4.9079 University of Texas at Austin **Major**: Computer Science (Turing Honors Program)



**SURYA CHOKKAR - SALUTATORIAN GPA**: 4.9079 University of Texas at Austin **Major**: Computer Science and Business Honors Program





**ECATERINA STURZU - VALEDICTORIAN** University of Texas at Austin Major: Computer Science **GPA**: 4.8406



JEONGWOOK YUN - SALUTATORIAN **GPA**: 4.8302 University of Texas at Austin Major: Biomedical Engineering



SAHIL ADHAWADE - VALEDICTORIAN **GPA**: 4.9048 Stanford University Major: Computer Science with a Concentration in Bio-Computation



PRANAV NARAYANAN - SALUTATORIAN **GPA**: 4.85333 Rice University Major: Biosciences



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GPA: 3.90535 **Houston Baptist University** Major: Math Education

**CALEB BUTUYAN - VALEDICTORIAN** 



JONATHAN (NOAH) CUNNINGHAM -**SALUTATORIAN** 

GPA: 3.89491 **Trinity University** Major: Not Provided

### **BVSCU SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**



**CONTRIBUTED REPORT** 

Melina Fedewa, a Seven Lakes High School 2021 graduate, is one of five winners of a \$2,000 "Funding the Future" scholarship provided by Brazos Valley School Credit Union. Fedewa is graduating with a 4.23 GPA and plans to attend the University of Arkansas this Fall, majoring in Nursing.

This is BVSCU's second year awarding \$10,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors within the credit union's field of member-

"We are very excited to have (Fedewa) in the BVSCU family and to help with her educational goals, BVSCU President and CEO Yvonne Kershner said.

### KATY AREA RETIRED EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Katy Area Retired Educators organization, also known as KARE, provides scholarships each year to Katy ISD students who intend to become school teachers. This year's awardees each received \$1,200 from the organization and their photos and related information are shown below.



**SAMANTHA GARDNER (KATY HS) Brigham Young University** Educational Major: Life Skills



**RILEY HULL (KATY HS)** Texas A&M University

Major: Special Education/Speech Therapy



HANNAH MIKAELA KIRBY (TOMPKINS HS)





**REAGAN NATTINGER (KATY HS)** 

Louisiana State University Major: Music Education



**ADDISON POTH (SEVEN LAKES HS)** 

Texas A&M University Major: Elementary Education



**ASHTON DIANE POTH (SEVEN LAKES HS)** 

Texas A&M University Major: Education (English)



**CORINE SLAY (MAYDE CREEK HS)** 

Sam Houston State University Major: Education (Composite Science/Life Science)

Congratulations to all of this year's graduating seniors!



## ARISTOTCLASSICAL



Aristoi Classical Academy is a tuition-free public charter school, offering classical education to students in grades K-12.

Our mission is to provide students with an academically challenging Classical Liberal Arts education that encourages them to develop a passion for learning and that gives them the means to become responsible citizens of virtuous character.

Aristoi currently has two campuses in historic Katy with a total enrollment of nearly 1,000 students. An additional K-6th grade campus opened in Cypress, TX in August of 2020.

### **GRADUATION 2021**

KATYTIMES.COM





**SAVANNA ZAVIDNY - VALEDICTORIAN** 

4.86 GPA
Baylor University
Major: Pre-Med Neuroscience
Zavidny has attended Faith West Academy since
kindergarten. She has been a member of the varsity
basketball and track teams all four years of high school.
She has served as captain of the basketball team since
sophomore year. Zavidny was also in National Honor
Society and served as a student athletic trainer. After
college, she aspires to attend medical school and become a
developmental pediatrician.

### **FAITH WEST ACADEMY**



The Faith West Academy class of 2021, shown above, includes (from top-left to bottom-right) Quan Vu, Mark Nimri, Andrew Daignault, Brett Roberts, Victor Essien, Sebastian Aguilar, Michael Huang, Ashton McCutcheon, Nick Rangel, Caillin Linton, Andrew Tyrell, Jana Van Dyk, Jonathan Romero, Thomas Cedeno, Parker Duck, Tony Meneses, Trent Robinson, Savanna Zavidny, Andres Pena, Ben Clapp, Hannah Ryan, Jonah Campbell, Kyle Coleman, Lia Doherty, Sarabeth Elkins, Erica Gorski, Ben Pham, Lauren Stanley, Rania Tumajan, Ellen Carrico, Caitlin Hirst, Eliza Willhoit, Emma Reeves, Felise Bressler, Brittany Garland, Miranda Tryon, Becca Barton, Faith Seybert, Ann Nguyen, Jaylynn Allen and Liz Fowler.



**FELISE BRESSLER - SALUTATORIAN** 

4.81 GPA
Baylor University
Major: University Scholars concentrating in Neuroscience,
Psychology and Sociology

Bressler has attended Faith West Academy since the 3rd grade.

She has been on the cheer team since junior high and was captain of the varsity cheer team her junior and senior years.

Bressler has also participated in school musicals and the One Act Play competition. She was involved in National Honor Society, Connect 2 Christ, and Speech and Debate. She served as class president, vice president of the Thespian Society, Chapel Band leader and Pancakes and Praise leader.



### ROYAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



KAI SEMIEN – VALEDICTORIAN

4.338 GPA Prairie View A&M University Major: Psychology



EMMA GARCIA RIVERA – SALUTATORIAN

4.28 GPA Houston Baptist University Major: Nursing

### **ROYAL ISD TOP 10% OF 2021**



JESSICA AGUILAR

Texas A&M University
Major: Interdisciplinary Studies



ZAIRA ARRIAGA AGUILAR
University of Houston

Major: Marketing



JESSICA PARDO AVALOS

University of Houston Major: Pre-Med



TRINITY BLUFORD

Prairie View A&M University Major: Plant and Soil Science/Chemical Engineering



VERONICA CHAVEZ

Texas State University Major: Nursing



LORELEI GARCIA

Lone Star College/University of Texas San Antonio Major: Nursing



HODET GONZALEZ

University of Houston

University of Houston Major: Accounting



VALERIO MARTINEZ

University of Texas at Austin Major: Computer Science



ALEISHA MATIAS

U.S. Army enlistee Texas A&M University Major: Cybersecurity



PERRY HANNAH MATIAS

Lone Star College Transfer to University of Houston Major: Business



NIMVE NUNEZ

Sam Houston State University Major: Criminal Justice



SUSAN RAMOS
Texas State University

Major: Nursing



HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

### **SOLO FLIGHT**

Tompkins baseball is Katy ISD's last team standing, earns 1st regional semifinal appearance

BY DENNIS SILVA II

SPORTS EDITOR

TOMBALL —Tompkins' baseball team added another chapter to a storybook season on Saturday, May 22, with a 5-0 Game 3 regional quarterfinal win over Cy-Fair at Tomball Memorial High.

In winning a do-or-die Game 3 for the second straight playoff series, the Falcons earned their 31st win, continuing to eclipse their previous program-best single-season mark of 26. But even more significant, No. 31 booked their first trip to the regional semifinals.

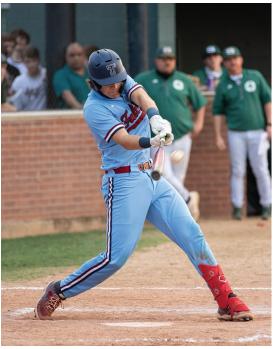
'We got a lot of firsts this year," coach Kyle Humphreys said. "Thirty wins. Now the regional semis. It's a credit to our pitching staff. We're going to hit, but our pitching is going to have to be good. We put up a lot of zeroes."

Indeed, Tompkins (31-7-1) outscored a gritty Cy-Fair club, 12-1, to advance to this week's Class 6A Region III semifinals against Strake Jesuit. In doing so, the Falcons showed off a deep pitching rotation.

In a Game 17-0 win in Tomball on May 20, junior left-hander Solomon Rotberg threw a complete-game shutout, striking out six and walking one while allowing four hits in seven innings. In a 1-0 Game 2 loss the following night in Cypress, only the second time all season the Falcons have been shutout, sophomore left-hander Ty Dagley and junior right-hander Trevor Esparza combined to allow one unearned run on two hits while striking out five and

In the crucial Game 3 win, junior right-hander Michael DeBattista threw six innings for the win,

See **TOMPKINS**, page B6



RAY BORCHERT | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins junior Landon West, shown here during a Game 3 win over Stratford in the area playoffs May 14, and the Falcons are in the regional semifinals for the first time."



LAURA ROWE | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

### STAR SHOOTER

### Former Katy hoops standout Rowe's photo goes viral

BY DENNIS SILVA II

random road trip to break up the monotony of a listless Sunday afternoon turned into a life-changing experience Laura Rowe will never forget.

The Katy native went out for a drive with her boyfriend on May 16, looking for something—anything—to do. The couple departed Portales, New Mexico, for Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge about 40 minutes away. Driving back home, they saw a tornado touch down near Earth, Texas.

"We were like, 'Well, we don't have anything else to do today. Let's go chase this storm," Rowe said

Rowe, an elementary education major and shooting guard for Eastern New Mexico University's basketball team, has always been adventurous, never one to back down from opportunity. It was her admirable fearlessness that defined her high school career at Katy High, where she was an allstate selection and McDonald's All-American nominee in 2017 before graduating as

See ROWE, page B3



LAURA ROWE

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL** 

### Katy's North, Phillips enjoy championship season at Sam Houston State

BY DENNIS SILVA II SPORTS EDITOR

Jaylen Phillips knew Sam Houston State was in for a special season. Though just a freshman, Phillips knows what a strong team culture is like.

He'd grown acclimated to exactly that at

So, the former Tiger team captain was not surprised Sam Houston State ran through a 10-0 season this spring that resulted in the program's first FCS national championship earlier this month.

'Coming from Katy, where we were big on culture and everything, you can tell when the environment is good and you have a close-knit team that's player-led, not just coach-led," said Phillips, who played one



**NORTH** 



**PHILLIPS** 

snap on defense and six snaps on special teams in No. 2 Sam Houston State's 23-21 win over No. 1 South Dakota State in the title game in Frisco on May 16. "That's what I saw in this team. We had players who led the team more than coaches, and I feel like that put us over the top. You knew you

could count on one another, and that's real in college. I've heard stories where guys are jealous of other guys because they're getting more playing time or starting or whatever. We have no egos at Sam Houston. We're a

Phillips was one of two Katy area players on the Bearkats' roster this season. The other was redshirt freshman defensive back Daniel North, a former standout at Seven Lakes.

"It's surreal, really," North said of winning a national title. "We had a team meeting talking about how much of rarified air we're in with what we did. We're enjoying it."

The 6-foot-2, 210-pound Phillips, who played defensive end and linebacker, played in all 10 games, collecting 13 total tackles, five for a loss, one sack, one fumble recovery, one interception and one pass breakup. The 5-11,

180-pound North played four games, seeing spot time on special teams and defense.

'There's no better feeling than getting to play for a championship," Phillips said. "We had a really good team, so I never had doubts in my mind about us winning that game. The city of Huntsville really cares about the team. They've been waiting a long time for this to happen. It was a great experience, to say the least."

The opportunity to win a championship and the camaraderie of the coaching staff led North to choose Sam Houston State during his recruitment as a Spartan. He credits the coaches for fostering a family-like atmosphere, which aided the Bearkats overcoming adversity.

See CHAMPIONS, page B7



#### HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Paetow coach BJ Gotte talks to his players after their Blue-Black spring football game Tuesday, May 18, at Rhodes Stadium.

### Panthers move forward after unfortunate end to '20

BY DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

After almost any season, a team knows where it stood that year. Playoffs or no playoffs. Good start, bad finish; Bad start, good finish. Injuries or no injuries. There is nowhere to hide.

As legendary NFL coach Bill Parcells famously said, you are what your record says you are.

But the 2020 Paetow football team is a rare exception. Paetow had its outstanding season canceled abruptly when the program was forced to shut down because of an abundance of COVID-19 cases in the second week of the postseason.

A week earlier, the Panthers defeated Baytown Lee handily, 70-18, for their first ever playoff win in just their third season of varsity play.

And then ... curtains.

"It was really upsetting to know our season got cut short due to something out of our control, but it really set a fire under us," incoming senior quarterback C.J. Dumas said. "We sat in quarantine for two weeks talking about how we were going to come back and show what we were capable of. Last year, we knew we had a chance to make a run. This year, we prove it to everybody."

The Panthers graduated only 33 seniors from that 9-1 team. Many players return. And five months later, following the conclusion of the spring ball season with the

"It was really upsetting to know our season got cut short due to something out of our control, but it really set a fire under us. We sat in quarantine for two weeks talking about how we were going to come back and show what we were capable of. Last year, we knew we had a chance to make a run. This year, we prove it to everybody."

— PAETOW QUARTERBACK C.J. DUMAS

Blue-Black game on Tuesday, May 18, none have forgotten that disappointed feeling.

"We have a big chip on our shoulder from last year," incoming senior defensive back Kentrell Webb said. "That was big. We have a lot of guys returning from last year, so, hey, same thing. Let's get back out there, build these younger guys up and let's get going again."

Coach BJ Gotte is hoping his players learned from last season. He did. For instance, Gotte has a better read on the significance of the spring season.

Despite last year's spring season being canceled because of the pandemic, Paetow still produced a wildly successful year, posting a program-best number in total wins and getting to the area playoffs for the first time. If Gotte had reconsidered the influence of spring football—teams can opt for a spring season or an extra week of fall preseason in August—it would have been understood.

Instead, Gotte wonders how much better last year's team could have been at the start of the season had it had spring ball. And he embraced this year's spring season for the maturity and improvement players showed.

"Not having spring football was something that happened in the past, and we learned that we've got to go to work. We're missing time," Gotte said. "Our kids put in the work and we had success last year. Now getting to do spring ball has really helped us and hopefully it'll pay off."

Gotte said the impact of spring football is immeasurable.

"Their overall understanding of the game, being able to go out and get reps and improve as players is one thing," he said. "Leadership, we grew ... it's just something about going out and playing football in the spring that helps evolve leaders, especially senior leaders. We had some guys step up and lead in some key moments, and that's one of the key components of spring. Putting our guys in situations to where they grow as a team related to football. You can lift weights and do all the skill work you want. But when you put the pads on and get in the huddle, and you're competing with those 10 other guys with you, that's when you find out who your leaders are."

The primary leaders are the newly-named team captains for the 2021 season. They are incoming senior offensive lineman James Bailey, incoming junior linebacker Alex Kilgore, Dumas and Webb.

Off the field, the Panthers are coming along as well as can be expected. On it, they remain a work in progress, but Gotte was able to answer some questions he had.

Offensively, Gotte was impressed with the spring performances of linemen Jeremiah Richard, Anthony Dorantes and Isaiah Villanueva. Josh Prado, a backup fullback last year, showed promise at tight end as well this year.

Schematically, the Panthers

ran more shotgun formation this spring due to the wealth of skill they have at receiver in Kole Wilson, Dez Myers, Tyler Collinsworth, Brandon Shanks and Price Johnson, a move-in from Louisiana.

"We have the most depth at receiver that we've ever had," Dumas said. "We're giving more people a chance to show what they can do. Of course, we'll stay true to who we are under center, but we'll definitely change some things up to give our guys more room in space."

Defensively, many players emerged as potential key contributors. They include incoming sophomore lineman Loghan Thomas, linebacker Luke Fitch and defensive back Christian Hurd.

"I like how we've been way more aggressive," Webb said. "Tackling, hitting ... that's the name of the game. I feel like we did that very well this spring and some of our younger guys have stepped up big."

In all, it's enough for the Panthers to move forward from the misfortune of last season's ending and reset the course.

"Control the controllables, right? We really focus and talk to our kids about trying to get better every single day," Gotte said. "We reference the goals we're obtaining, and we learn from the past. But our focus is on the present. We don't focus on the past."



### ROWE

from page B1

the program's all-time leading scorer with 2,088 career

So, storm chasing was simply another cool experience in a life full of fun stories so far.

"It was a beautiful storm," Rowe said. "We went down all these backroads, stopped for a bit, took a few pictures, hung out."

Rowe and her boyfriend turned on country music and admired the scenery. Their travels eventually took them down a dirt road in between Earth and Littlefield, where they caught a storm intertwined with a gorgeous sunset.

Rowe's phone was about to die, so she snapped a few more photos before the couple headed back home.

"And I just can't believe what has happened since then," she said.

Rowe, who only started taking photography seriously two years ago when she began learning how to use her boyfriend's Canon 70D, took a mystical photo for which words do no justice. At 8:42 p.m., using the wide-angle lens on her iPhone 11, she captured a storm cell cloud of yellow, gray, white and pink, sneering above the dirt path, barren green lands, tree shrubbery and electrical power lines.

"At the time, I was just admiring God's work. It was incredible," Rowe said. "The storm was huge and twisting and turning, and it was cool to watch it change. It looked like a huge bomb had gone off. I took that one, and I was like, 'Wow, this looks really cool.' But it didn't even come close to actually seeing it in person."

Rowe first posted the photo on Facebook the next day, May 17, at 1:17 p.m. It had 358 likes, 268 shares and 69 comments as of Monday afternoon, May 24.

"I thought my mom would be the only one to comment on it.," Rowe said. "A couple people liked it. and then I put it on Twitter. I was like, 'Maybe Twitter will appreciate this picture.' I posted it, and I noticed one of the photographers I follow who I think is incredible, Charlie Stout, had been retweeting pictures of this same storm. So, I tagged him, he retweeted it, left a comment, and it took off from there."

About two hours after posting it to Facebook, Rowe posted the photo on Twitter. It had more than 512,000 likes, 83,000 retweets and 2,000 comments as of Monday, May 24.

"I had no idea this would do this," Rowe said. "People were asking for prints. It was incredible. The whole thing is a complete and total blessing from God. There's no way to explain it. I was in the right place at the right time with a good, quality camera, even if it was just an



Laura Rowe is a shooting guard at Eastern New Mexico University, where she is majoring in elementary education. Rowe is a product of Katy High, where she was in the Class of 2017. During her senior season, Rowe was a Texas Girls Coaches Association all-state selection, McDonald's All-American nominee, and broke four school records: points in a game (39), points in a season (756), assists in a game (10) and career points (2,088).



To buy a print and/or canvas of Katy native Laura Rowe's photo of a West Texas storm, visit laurarowe.smugmug.com.

iPhone."

Stout, a well-known West Texas songwriter who is also a photographer, filmmaker, producer and has more than 12,600 followers on Twitter, said the shot was "incredible."

"I especially loved how she captured a haphazard sort of symmetry between the base of the cloud and the dirt road," Stout said. "That's something I'm always looking for when I'm shooting—some kind of path for the eye to follow through the scene. It adds interest and tells a story."

Stout thinks the photo resonated with so many people because of its purity. He said professional storm chasers spend weeks on the road, thousands of dollars in hotels, fuel and replacement windshields, in hopes of creating the response that Rowe "quite accidentally" generated.

"I've seen people sharing this image as 'evidence' of the existence of God," Stout said. "You've really got to move someone emotionally, with what they see in your photograph to inspire them to consider that which is unseen, and I think Laura accomplished exactly that."

The photo is so unbelievable, many have said it was Photoshopped.

"I don't even know how to use Photoshop, and if it was, don't you think I would have taken out the power lines?" Rowe said, laughing. "Do you know how dumb those

Stout helped Rowe set up a SmugMug website account to appease the requests for prints of the photo. Others have told Rowe she should

enter it into photography competitions. "Major news sources," Rowe said, have contacted her for use of the photo, so she hired a lawyer to handle circumstances that deal with copyright. There have been times where people on social media have taken Rowe's photo and attempted to pass it off as their own work.

But those instances are few and far between compared to all the good the photo has done.

"We'll see where it goes from here, but even if it doesn't go anywhere, I have gotten so many really kind emails from people all over the world," Rowe said. "An overwhelming amount. Messages on Instagram and Facebook and Twitter telling me their perspective on the photo. It makes me cry. I'm so grateful."

Early during the afternoon of Friday, May 22, Rowe received a particularly inspiring email from someone who had seen the photo.

"The first time I looked at it, my heart was settled, and I was deeply reminded about Christ calming the storms in our lives and seeing the beauty that he allows in those storms," the email said. "It's been a crazy season of storms in my life, yet this picture is about everything and puts everything in perspective."

Rowe said that kind of impact is "amazing."

"I think that's what struck people the most about this image—there's nothing staged about it," Stout said. "She was out riding around on the backroads and that storm is what captured her



imagination. It seems to have captured thousands of imaginations all over the world."

To buy a print and/ or canvas of Katy native Laura Rowe's photo of a West Texas storm, visit







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### HARRIS-WALLER COUNTIES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 4

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDER ADOPTING DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 4 (the "District"), at a meeting held on May 10, 2021, adopted an Order Adopting Drought Contingency Plan (the "Order"). Violation of any of the rules contained in the Order will subject the violator to penalties, including disconnection of water and sewer service, a fine of up to \$5,000.00 per breach and/or day and may include payment of any costs or damages resulting from the violation.

A copy of the Order is on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where it may be read in full.

/s/ Rhonda Patterson
President, Board of Directors

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS — ADDENDUM WALLER COUNTY

WALLER County intends to participate in the 2021 CDBG-MIT (INCLUDING HARVEY ROUND 2) AND COG-MOD Programs with funding from the Texas Land Office. We are soliciting proposals for a Grant Administrator related to these programs. Submittals for these services will be accepted until 2:00 pm on June 14, 2021 (previously noted as May 24th in the newspaper notice and May 31st in the RFP packet) at 836 Austin St, Hempstead, TX, 77445, Attn: Alan Younts, County Auditor or a.younts@wallercounty.us. The County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises including Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. The County is an Affirmative Action/Equal

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS GASOLINE & DIESEL FUEL

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CONTRACT DELIVERY OF UNLEADED GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023. CLEARLY-MARKED, SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL 2:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. A BID MAY BE AWARDED AT THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021, AT 6:30 P.M. SPECIFICATIONS AND THE BID PROPOSAL FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM.

THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT BIDS THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew City Secretary City of Katy, Texas 950

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

950

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT June 23, 2021, 9:00 A.M. COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM, WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the authority of Chapter 251.152, Transportation Code, to consider the establishment of Controlled Intersections and the installation of Stop Signs at the following roads:

> Pine Ridge Rd at S Clear Creek Rd (Pct 2) Domino Rd at Blinka Rd (Pct 3)

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in the Public Hearing.

### CINCO MUNICIPAL UTILITY **DISTRICT NO. 14**

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDER ADOPTING AMENDED AND RESTATED DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 14 (the "District"), at a meeting held on March 27, 2019, adopted an Order Adopting Amended and Restated Drought Contingency Plan (the "Order"). Violation of any of the rules contained in the Order will subject the violator to penalties, including disconnection of water and sewer service, a fine of up to \$2,500 per breach and/or day and may include payment of any costs or damages resulting from the violation.

A copy of the Order is on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where it may be read in full.

> /s/ James Reuss Mr. James Reuss President, Board of Directors

### **March 20 Puzzle Answers**

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### **NOTICE TO BIDDERS CHLORINE AND SULFUR DIOXIDE GAS CYLINDERS**

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CHLORINE AND SULFUR DIOXIDE GAS CYLINDERS STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023. CLEARLY-MARKED, SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL 2:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. A BID MAY BE AWARDED AT THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021, AT 6:30 P.M. SPECIFICATIONS AND THE BID PROPOSAL FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM.

THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT BIDS THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

> Becky L. McGrew City Secretary City of Katy, Texas

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS HAULING SLUDGE AND LANDFILL DISPOSAL

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR HAULING SLUDGE AND LANDFILL DISPOSAL FROM THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022. CLEARLY-MARKED, SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL 2:15 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. A BID MAY BE AWARDED AT THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021, AT 6:30 P.M. SPECIFICATIONS AND THE BID PROPOSAL FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM.

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> Becky L. McGrew City Secretary City of Katy, Texas

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

950

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT June 23, 2021, 9:00 A.M. COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM. WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the authority of Chapter 251.152, Transportation Code, to consider the establishment of a speed limit and the installation of a speed limit sign on the following roads:

Pine Ridge Rd (Pct 2) – Entire length – 30 mph

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in the Public Hearing.

### **CINCO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 10**

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDER ADOPTING AMENDED AND RESTATED DROUGHT **CONTINGENCY PLAN**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 10 (the "District"), at a meeting held on March 20, 2019, adopted an Order Adopting Amended and Restated Drought Contingency Plan (the "Order"). Violation of any of the rules contained in the Order will subject the violator to penalties, including disconnection of water and sewer service, a fine of up to \$2,500.00 per breach and/or day and may include payment of any costs or damages resulting from the violation.

A copy of the Order is on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where it may be read in full.

> /s/ Danny Bober Danny Bober President, Board of Directors

### **INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, will be received in the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, until 2:30 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, July 1st, 2021, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read via ZOOM for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of "Elyson Basin B Phase 3 Trail", Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction concrete trail, concrete pads, and site furnishings.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, June 17th, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/97377340297 or join the call via telephone number +1 346 248 7799 and use access code 973 7734 0297.

A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.

Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. Documents will be available for download on Wednesday, June 16th, 2021.

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.

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Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, June 17th, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/98509743199 or join the call via telephone number +1 346 248 7799 and use access code 985 0974 3199.

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Seven Lakes coach Jimmy Hamon talks to his players following their spring football game Thursday, May 20, at Rhodes Stadium.

### Spartans' spring offers strong evaluation

BY DENNIS SILVA II SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes receiver Kyler Foster was hurt during a spring football practice earlier this month, so a younger player assumed his role in the offense. The young player didn't quite know what to do, however, so incoming senior linebacker Scott Stanford went over to him.

'Yo, just stand right here and then go across," Stanford directed.

On a young Spartans team, Stanford is a rarity as an experienced veteran. His know-how is not taken for granted. A two-year letterman, Stanford has played quarterback, linebacker and is an all-state selection as a punter. His greatest asset at the moment, though, may simply be experience, which he is using to help out a slew of underclassmen the Spartans will

be depending on next season. 'Whenever I was a sophomore, I looked up to guys like (former linebacker) Parker Jones and I try to be like him, a great leader and teammate," Stanford said. "Now all the play calls are second nature to me. Now I can be a leader and tell the younger guys how to do something."

Stanford doesn't just talk the talk. In Seven Lakes' Blue-White spring game May 20, Stanford had three "sacks"—quarterbacks were off limits for tackling-and a fumble recovery.

"Physically, he's improved in the weight room and improved his speed," coach Jimmy Hamon said.

"That's great; it's expected. But it's his leadership ability and knowledge of our defense that really stands out. You can see he can get people in the right spaces and right places. He dissects the offense very well and makes reads a lot quicker. He's just comfortable out there. You could see the game was very slow to him."

Stanford is one of few certainties for a Seven Lakes team still trying to figure out the depth chart on both sides of the ball.

At quarterback, incoming senior Grayson Medford is making the transition from receiver. He struggled early during the spring game but threw a gorgeous, perfectly-placed 34-yard bomb to Foster in the back left coffin corner of the end zone on the game's final drive.

He has a great arm and can really let the ball go," Hamon said. "Once he got the speed of the game, which is still different than practice even though it's still our defense, I liked how he improved through these four quarters."

There are times when Medford still relies on his speed and quickness to bail him out. Hamon said when drop-back passes are called, Medford has to do a better job reading through progressions instead of escaping and running



**GRAYSON** 



**STANFORD** 

isn't open. beginning, learning

"It was tough at the all the run-play stuff," Medford said. "It's all a process, as far as making the right decisions, making the right throws, knowing when to scramble, knowing when to stay in the pocket."

when the initial read

Incoming sophomore quarterback Anthony Bates Jr. had the best game among all offensive performers, throwing two touchdowns and showing off breakaway ability with

his speed. "He's a decision-maker," Hamon said. "He's a point guard on the basketball team, and you saw that poise. He'll make a quick decision and he has a quick release. I was impressed."

Hamon, entering his fourth year at the helm of the Spartans, has gone with a platoon system at quarterback before, but prefers

"If we have a more experienced guy that can lead us, maybe we go with the senior," Hamon said. And if Anthony becomes the guy we can go with, and we can always move Grayson back to receiver, that will make us only more explosive. But that's a lot to ask a sophomore to do early."

With the graduation of a pair of three-year lettermen at running

"We just have to win the games we need to win and focus on ourselves. We have to play one team each night, and not two; we can't be battling ourselves as well. We'll be alright."

—SEVEN LAKES LINEBACKER SCOTT STANFORD

back in Nick David-West and Milton Jones, Hamon also took a close look at his backfield. The standout from the spring game was incoming sophomore Barrett Hudson.

At one point, Hudson got one-on-one with a linebacker and made him miss easily. Hamon likes the way Hudson slides and keeps his shoulders square to the line of scrimmage, always leaning

Incoming senior Michael Amico, who saw quality varsity reps last season, and incoming junior Marcel Davis, who scored a touchdown and showed versatility with his pass-catching skills, also figure into the mix at running back.

Inside linebacker is where Hamon has the most competition. Incoming seniors Cooper Whitten and Jonah Thigpen, and incoming juniors Preston Bozeman, Shane Rasefske and Ethan Duke are all capable.

Thigpen, in particular, caught Hamon's eye in the spring game. Elsewhere on the defense, incoming senior lineman Shashwat

Singh and incoming sophomore linebacker Dakyus Brinkley have drawn rave reviews from coaches

and players. Overall, Hamon likes where his team is going into the 2021 fall season opposed to last season, when the pandemic canceled spring football and Hamon had only one scrimmage and two non-district games before facing Katy in the district opener.

"We were trying to figure things out still in district play," he said.

Now he has a better idea who his playmakers are and is more comfortable with personnel and who can, and can't, do what. Despite a 0-4 start to last season, Seven Lakes still made the playoffs by winning three of its last five games.

There is optimism that momentum can carry over to 2021.

"We just have to win the games we need to win and focus on ourselves," Stanford said. "We have to play one team each night, and not two; we can't be battling ourselves as well. We'll be alright.'

# 

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HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

### Katy ISD players fall short at state tennis tournament

BY DENNIS SILVA II

Katy ISD tennis players competed admirably at the UIL Class 6A state tournament May 20, but ultimately came up short at Northside Tennis Center in San

Taylor's boys doubles team of senior Cristopher Cequea-Rivero and junior Jonathan Lin fell in the semifinals. Cequea-Rivero-Lin topped The Woodlands' Eli Sam and Carson Moore, 6-1, 6-1, before dropping a competitive match to Round

Rock Westwood's Daniel Antov and Marko Mesarovic, 7-5, 6-2.

It was an impressive season for Taylor's dup. Cequea-Rivero and Lin also won the District 19-6A and Region III boys doubles championships. It was Cequea-Rivero's second appearance at state. The

Rockhurst University commit qualified as a singles player in 2019. The state tennis tournament did not take place in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In girls singles, Taylor freshman Ally Lin fell to Austin Bowie's MiaAngelina Ruja, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 in

the quarterfinals. In boys singles, Tompkins junior Charles Kulcher fell to Midland's Tyler Stewart, 6-0, 6-0, in the quarterfinals.

Lin and Kulcher each came in second in their respective events at the Region III tournament after winning District 19-6A championships.

### **KATY ISD SOFTBALL PLAYOFF RESULTS**

**THURSDAY, MAY 20** 

**CLASS 6A SOFTBALL REGIONAL SEMIFINAL PLAYOFFS** 

Game 1: Clear Springs 2, Katy 1

FRIDAY, MAY 21

**CLASS 6A SOFTBALL REGIONAL** SEMIFINAL PLAYOFFS

Game 2: Clear Springs 3, Katy 1 (Clear Springs wins series, 2-0)

### **KATY ISD** BASEBALL PLAYOFF RESULTS

**THURSDAY, MAY 20 CLASS 6A BASEBALL REGIONAL** 

**QUARTERFINAL PLAYOFFS** 

Game 1: Jersey Village 4, Katy 3 (11) Game 1: Tompkins 7, Cy-Fair 0

FRIDAY, MAY 21 **CLASS 6A BASEBALL REGIONAL** 

**QUARTERFINAL PLAYOFFS** Game 2: Jersey Village 3, Katy 2 (9) (Jersey Village

wins series, 2-0) Game 2: Cy-Fair 1, Tompkins 0

**SATURDAY, MAY 22** 

**CLASS 6A BASEBALL REGIONAL QUARTERFINAL PLAYOFFS** 

Game 3: Tompkins 5, Cy-Fair 0 (Tompkins wins series, 2-1)

> KATY ISD BASEBALL **PLAYOFF SCHEDULE**

**THURSDAY, MAY 27 CLASS 6A BASEBALL REGIONAL SEMIFINAL PLAYOFFS** 

Game 1: Tompkins vs. Stratford, at Cy-Falls High, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 28

**CLASS 6A BASEBALL REGIONAL SEMIFINAL PLAYOFFS** 

Game 2: Tompkins vs. Stratford, at Cy-Falls High, 7 p.m.

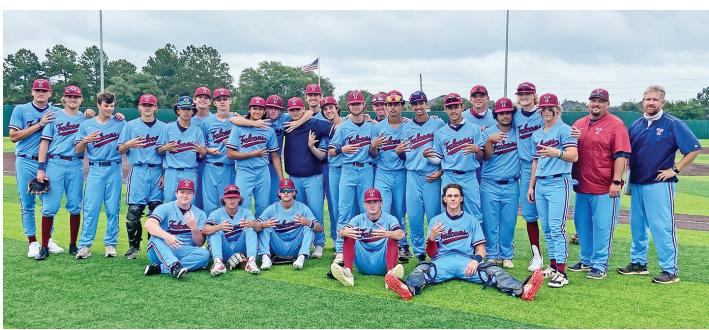
**SATURDAY, MAY 29 CLASS 6A BASEBALL REGIONAL** 

**SEMIFINAL PLAYOFFS** 

Game 3 (if necessary): Tompkins vs. Stratford, at Cy-Falls High, noon.



Pictured are Tompkins baseball players, from left to right, Drew Markle, Jace Laviolette, Jack Little, Graiden West, Cash Russell, Ty Dagley and Tyler Brownlee as they look on prior to a Game 3 area playoff game against Stratford on May 14. Tompkins booked its first ever regional semifinal appearance with its Game 3 regional quarterfinal win over Cy-Fair on May 22.



DENNIS SILVA II

Tompkins baseball coaches and players pose for a photo in celebration of their Game 3 regional quarterfinal win over Cy-Fair on Saturday, May 22, at Tomball Memorial High School.

### TOMPKINS

from page B1

allowing no runs on five hits while striking out five and walking two. Junior left-hander Jace Laviolette pitched the seventh, striking out two and allowing two hits.

'Shout-out to our pitching," senior shortstop Graiden West said. "No earned runs through the entire series. That's what we need to win games. They threw strikes, they limited walks. That's huge. They didn't let too many free bases, and that's what we need. Teams will try to steal on us and get ahead on us, and our pitching shut that down."

DeBattista, who had an up-and-down early part of the season, was impressive. He threw strikes, mixed pitches well and was commended by Humphreys for holding runners on base. Despite a finger infection that caused DeBattista's velocity to dwindle late, Cy-Fair hardly threatened against him.

'I knew they're aggressive hitters, so I tried to get ahead, locate my fastball early. Not walk anybody," DeBattista said. "I had a job to do. I feel pretty happy about how I did. Early in the season, I was down on myself a bit with how I was pitching. I feel like I've improved, and right now I have the confidence in myself to perform whenever I need to."

He had more than enough help at the

After a bizarre offensive performance in which they struck out five times and only had two hits against Bobcats ace Gray

**Katy** Times

St. Amant in Game 2, the Falcons were aggressive and potent against right-hander Ionathon Burrer.

West got it started with a no-doubt shot to deep left field to lead off the second inning, his fifth homer of the season.

"I saw first-pitch fastball right down the middle," West said. "I let it loose. Crack the game open, get it started. We were looking for first-pitch fastball. We obviously hopped on it. Lots of doubles, lots of extra-base hits. That was our approach. We needed some momentum, so we got some right there."

It was an avalanche from there. Junior Tyler Brownlee scored on an error. Junior Jack Little had an RBI double and RBI single. Senior Patrick Chastain had a perfectly-executed run-scoring sacrifice bunt.

In all, Tompkins had 10 hits, led by sophomore Drew Markle going 3-for-4.

"(In Game 2), they threw their best guy, and props to him. He threw a great game," Markle said. "But I think our mindset just changed. We did what we needed to do to score runs. I knew (Burrer) was going to go fastball-in. I knew he'd break his stuff away, My approach was to take it away, take it up the middle. They left some off-speed on the inside I was able to pull."

Another key for Tompkins was limiting Cy-Fair in the running game. The Bobcats had just four stolen bases in the three games.

The Falcons' defense and pitching were

### **REGION III-6A SEMIFINALS**

TOMPKINS (31-7-1) STRAKE JESUIT (23-11-1)

**GAME 1** Thursday 5/27, 7 p.m.

**GAME 2** Friday 5/28, 7 p.m.

**GAME 3** (IF NECESSARY) Saturday 5/29, noon

ALL GAMES AT CY-FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

conscientious about playing the drag bunt and keeping the lead-off hitter each inning from reaching base. In Game 3, the Bobcats' lead-off hitter reached base in only three of seven innings.

After Cy-Fair eliminated Tompkins in the regional quarters two years—with Tompkins winning Game 1 in decisive fashion before dropping the next two games—the Falcons exacted sweet revenge. And now they've earned the right to keep playing as Katy ISD's lone team left standing for the 2020-21 sports season.

"It's a great program to be a part of," West said. "Coach Humphreys does a great job, man. I'm excited to be a part of history. This is awesome."



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"We had players who led the team more than coaches, and I feel like that put us over the top. You knew you could count on one another, and that's real in college. I've heard stories where guys are jealous of other guys because they're getting more playing time or starting or whatever.

We have no egos at Sam Houston. We're a team."

BEARKING REAL ARTS

COURTESY OF JAYLEN PHILLIPS

Former Katy High standout Jaylen Phillips, right, is pictured with a Sam Houston State teammate.

### **CHAMPIONS**

from page B1

Sam Houston State did not have use of a locker room this season because its facility was being renovated. Players took their uniforms home and washed their own gear. On game days, they put on their pads and uniforms in the stands.

Because of the pandemic, players were tested for COVID-19 three times each week. Phillips was quarantined for two weeks for contact tracing. He was around a friend who tested positive for COVID-19, but Phillips tested negative.

"It was a long, annoying process," Phillips sad. "But I feel like our whole staff did a really good job making sure we stayed safe. I feel like we did a pretty good job maintaining that issue."

Players arrived on campus last June, preparing and working as if they would play their typical season in the fall. But the pandemic forced the delay of the season to the spring.

"We were just happy to play games and have the opportunity to compete for a championship," North said. "We took the fall to fine-tune some things and get better on what we needed to do. I think it really paid off in the end."

Phillips had an impressive fall camp. Because coaches told him he could expect playing time if he prepared and worked hard every day, he figured he'd play some as a true freshman.

Coaches raved about Phillips' leadership abilities, and he said he grew substantially in that regard as he became more comfortable around his teammates.



COURTESY OF DANIEL NORTH

Former Seven Lakes standout Daniel North (45) was a redshirt freshman on FCS champion Sam Houston State this season.

"It was different, more challenging playing on a collegiate level," Phillips said. "Everybody is on scholarship here, so everybody is good. It was a bit of an adjustment, but I felt once I was able to get settled in, I was able to play at a high level on the defense and special teams."

Phillips' toughest adjustment from high school to college did not come on the field. It was in time management, balancing football and classes.

"Once you get your schedule and routine, you're able to move faster throughout your day," Phil-

North improved throughout the season on being a better student of the game. He is better watching, studying and understanding film,

"After the championship game, (Phillips and I) gave each other a big hug and told each other we loved each other. We're good friends. We're champions."

—DANIEL NORTH, FORMER SEVEN LAKES PLAYER

knowing how to break down offensive tendencies and what to look at and when to look for it.

This summer, he plans to add weight and more definition in his upper body, while continuing to

work on being more explosive.
"I feel like my role will be bigger
next year," North said. "The coach-

es have told me I've improved. I feel I'll see some more playing time, and I'm real excited to go for a two-peat as well."

Phillips and North were aware of each other as District 19-6A rivals in high school, but never talked much. That changed in Huntsville, where they developed a closer relationship, not only being from the same city, but also play-

ing on the same side of the ball.

"I knew who he was, obviously, through football," Phillips said of North. "But once I got here, I reached out to him and we've hung out a few times"

Now they are promising prospects for a Sam Houston defense that is becoming known for its physicality and speed, two things Phillips and North provide in spades. If things work out the way they wish, they will be big-time contributors in the Bearkats' title defense.

"After the championship game, we gave each other a big hug and told each other we loved each other," North said. "We're good friends. We're champions."



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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 BAKER'S BOOKS, Katy, TX 22237 Katy FRWY (close to Landry's)

(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.

### KATYTIMES.COM

### KATY DB RODRIGUEZ COMMITS TO HBU



COURTESY OF JAYDEN RODRIGUEZ

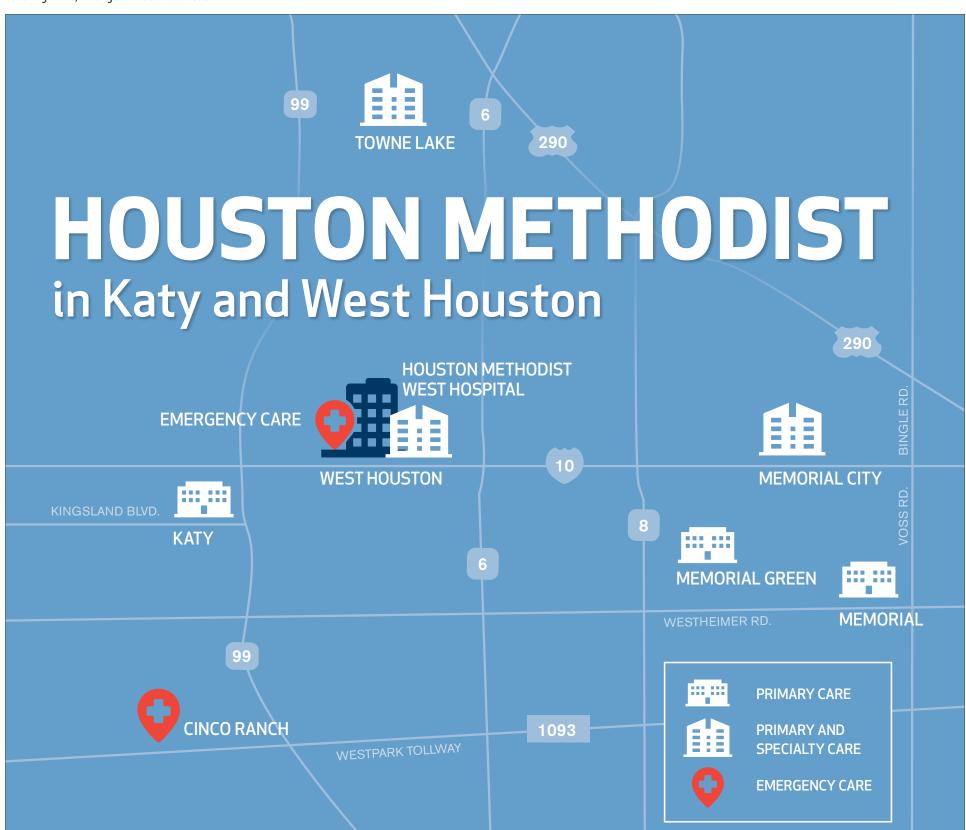
Katy High senior defensive back Jayden Rodriguez (pictured, second from right, with his family following a state championship ring ceremony earlier this month) verbally committed May 21 to continue his football career at Houston Baptist University. Rodriguez totaled 22 tackles with two interceptions and five pass breakups in helping lead Katy to the Class 6A-Division II state championship in January. "I want to thank my coaches, parents, teachers and family for always believing in me," Rodriguez wrote in a tweet.



COURTESY PHOTO OF DANNY MCCRAY

## TOMPKINS SPRINTER NGEI SIGNS TO HBU

Tompkins senior sprinter Mark Ngei signed May 22 to continue his track and field career at Houston Baptist University. Ngei was the District 19-6A champion and area champion in the 400-meter dash this season, posting times of 48.72 seconds and 48.26 seconds (the latter a personal record). Ngei also ran the second leg of the Falcons' 4x100 relay that won silver with a time of 40.490 seconds at the Class 6A state meet.



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