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# HCESD 48 hires permanent fire chief

**BY R. HANS MILLER**  
NEWS EDITOR

Harris County Emergency Services District 48 has a new fire chief after hiring George McAteer to fill the role. The department had been without a permanent chief since the retirement of former Fire Chief Jeff Hevey in October of 2020.

"I'm very thankful to the ESD-48 Commissioners for their faith and confidence in me to guide this department forward. The fire service is about serving the community and being there to help during someone's worst day ever," McAteer said in a statement issued by the department.

See **FIRE CHIEF**, page 3



HCESD 48  
FIRE CHIEF  
GEORGE MCAETER



SOURCE: GOOGLE

Students at James E. Taylor High School and Cinco Ranch High School may not have won the overall title, but one Taylor student walked away with honors for his efforts answering 60 questions in preliminary rounds.

# KISD Quizbowl teams compete in national championship

**BY R. HANS MILLER**  
NEWS EDITOR

Students at James E. Taylor and Cinco Ranch high schools participated in the Quizbowl 2021 High School National Championship Tournament which was held virtually. The academic competition saw 29 Texas teams, including the Taylor and Cinco Ranch students participate this year.

"There were some tense moments. James E. Taylor defeated BASIS Silicon Valley from San Jose, California by the narrow margin of 225-220 during round seven

See **QUIZBOWL**, page 3

# REMEMBRANCE



World War II Navy Veteran Wilbur Duval delivers the keynote address at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 Memorial Day ceremony at Magnolia Cemetery in Katy. Duval spoke about the history of the holiday and the number of men and women who have sacrificed their lives in service to the United States.

## Katy-area residents gather to honor those who served

**BY R. HANS MILLER**  
NEWS EDITOR

More than 100 Katy-area residents showed up at Magnolia Cemetery Monday morning for Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9182's Memorial Day ceremony. The event featured Katy Elks Lodge 2628 poet laureate Ernie Cormier II as well as a 21-gun salute and WWII veteran Wilbur Duval as keynote speaker.

"(Memorial Day) was to honor those who gave their life for our freedom," Duval said. "That's what it was for."

Duval spoke about the history of Memorial Day which first began as a military observance in May of 1868 when General John A. Logan issued a declaration for the celebration of what was then called Decoration Day. The tradition began in Decatur, Ill. which Duval said was a small town at the time, though it has grown to a population approaching 100,000 today. He explained that the observance was not unique, with similar honors being performed as far back as the Roman Empire. In the U.S., Decoration Day was observed on May 5 for many years, Duval said.

Logan had chosen May 5 because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle at the time, Duval said.

"Now, this went on up until 1971 as Decoration Day, then Congress got involved in this thing, as usual, so they made changes," Duval said. "They decided to make it the last day of May, giving us a three-day holiday. And they also made changes, too, so that all veterans now would be

See **MEMORIAL**, page 3

# Constables looking for sexual assault suspect

**BY R. HANS MILLER**  
NEWS EDITOR

Harris County Constable for Precinct 5 Ted Heap's office is seeking the public's help tracking down Zhujiang "Sam" Li, 56. Charges have been filed against Li for the alleged assault of a 15-year-old girl at a Katy area spa.

"The teenager, accompanied by her parents, was assaulted while getting a

message at a licensed business in the 900 block of Westgreen Boulevard earlier this year," a statement from the constable's office said.

Investigators looking into the case found that Li is also wanted for similar charges for a similar incident in New Orleans. At the time of the alleged assault in Louisiana, Li was working as a masseuse under

See **ASSAULT**, page 3



Investigators are looking for Zhujiang "Sam" Li, 56, in connection with multiple sexual assault allegations, including one complaint involving a 15-year-old Katy area girl.

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# TEAM supports local enlistees as they ship off to training



COURTESY TEAM

A U.S. Army recruit speaks with supporters at a Texans Embracing America's Military event in 2019. Many of the events for 2020 were cancelled due to the pandemic, but organizers are working on getting the military recruit pep rallies started up again.

**BY R. HANS MILLER**  
NEWS EDITOR

Ralph Oliver, founder of Texans Embracing America's Military, formed the organization which seeks to offer support to new U.S. military enlistees after being inspired by a similar group in Colorado, he said. His friend, Sam Neighbor, conducts shippers' ceremonies in Oliver's hometown of Cañon City, Oliver said.

"Whenever the recruiting center had a young man or young lady going off to the military; they would just grab them up real quick and do (the shippers ceremony)," Oliver said. "And I kept hearing about it all the time. ... That was probably 2016, 2017 and I kept it in my mind and I was like, 'You know, I wonder if Katy does anything like that?'"

Oliver said he looked into it and didn't find anyone

local that was doing anything for recruits who were new enlistees and shipping out for training. He thought about it and decided to start something for the Katy area himself. He had surmised that, if Neighbor could do it in Colorado, he could start something in Katy. However, he wanted to make sure everyone from all branches of service would be included, not just the Army as he'd seen in Colorado. So, he approached local recruiting offices.

"I started kind of snooping around, talking to recruiters, and saying, 'Hey, this is what I want to try to do. Would y'all be on board with it,'" Oliver said.

Recruiters seemed excited about the idea of a sendoff for recruits, Oliver said. So he reached out to first responders and ran the idea by

See **TEAM**, page 3

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# MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE



Each year, Memorial Day brings with it a chance for good times with friends and family and the opportunity to appreciate the freedoms we have in the United States of America and its territories. By spending time using our freedom to enjoy time with those we love, doing the things we love and exercising our rights responsibly and with appreciation, we honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice or served our nation and have passed on after contributing to our country in many ways over the years. The Americans listed below now lie in rest at Magnolia Cemetery, Katy's Historic Black Cemetery or at the Pattison Methodist Cemetery. Their names and sacrifices represent more than 120 years of service to our nation. While this list is noncomprehensive, as not all graves are marked with headstones indicating the service of those whose resting places they mark, this tribute is intended to honor these heroes who have served our country well. The Katy Times family appreciates their sacrifices with humility and a commitment to use the rights they fought for in an honorable manner.

NAME	BRANCH
Alcover, Damian	U.S. Army
Allen, Robert A.	U.S. Navy
Andringa, Jacob C.	U.S. Air Force
Baker, Scott C.	U.S. Army Air Forces
Barker, Richard E.	U.S. Army
Basinger, Bill	U.S. Army
Battell, Christopher R.	U.S. Air Force
Beams, Jr., Ross E.	U.S. Navy
Bearden, Thomas M.	U.S. Army
Bearden, Vern	U.S. Navy
Boren, Dan A.	U.S. Army Air Forces
Bownds, Jr., William A.	U.S. Air Force
Brandenburg, Jacob R.	U.S. Army
Breedlove, Robert A.	U.S. Army
Brode, Jr., Eddie Lee	U.S. Marine Corps
Brunson, Norbrey L.	U.S. Army
Bruton, Jesse	U.S. Army
Buck, William E.	U.S. Navy
Buller, James H.	U.S. Army
Burton, James R.	U.S. Navy
Carlson, C. Wendell	U.S. Army
Comstock, James M.	U.S. Army
Crawford, Sandy Lee	U.S. Army
Creech, Jr., Sidney C.	U.S. Army
Crumpler, Roy Lee	U.S. Army
Culpepper, Gerald W.	U.S. Air Force
Curfman, P.A.	U.S. Marine Corps
Curry, Jr., Donald P.	U.S. Navy
Dennis, Gary	U.S. Coast Guard
DeWitt Spivey III, James	U.S. Army
DiStefano, James E.	U.S. Army
Dobson, Jr., Edwin D.	U.S. Coast Guard
Doughtie, Horace E.	U.S. Army
Edens, James M.	U.S. Army
Edmunds, John E.	U.S. Army
Ehlert, Calvin C.	U.S. Army
Elton, Roy R.	U.S. Army
Euton, Roy R.	U.S. Army
Evey, Jim Ed	U.S. Air Force
Fiebig, Harding E.	U.S. Army
Finch, O'Dell H.	U.S. Army
Flanagan, Hallie C.	U.S. Navy/
	U.S. Air Force
Freitag, Fred	U.S. Army
Garcia, Manuel J.	U.S. Army
Gazdig, Richard J.	U.S. Air Force
Giddens, J.E.	U.S. Navy
Gilpin, Rex D.	U.S. Marine Corps
Ginn, Norman	U.S. Army
Gonzalez Salce, Joab	U.S. Navy
Goynes, Jerry R.	U.S. Army
Gray, A. Kim	U.S. Army Air Forces
Guignard, Raymond A.	U.S. Air Force
Hagood, John W.	U.S. Army
Halbison, Ronnie O.	U.S. Marine Corps
Hankins, Russell E.	U.S. Army
Harrell, Jr., Dannie J.	U.S. Army Air Corps

NAME	BRANCH
Harris, Jimmie	U.S. Army
Harvard, William S.	U.S. Marine Corps
Harvey, John D.	U.S. Army
Helton, Ray Baldine	U.S. Army
Highbredian, Andrew	U.S. Army Air Forces
Hillen, Jr., Harold R.	U.S. Air Force
Horn, Sr., Robert	U.S. Air Force
Hoyt, Charles F.	U.S. Marine Corps
Hudson, Jr. Louis	U.S. Army
Hudson, Sr., Louis	U.S. Army
Jacobs, Howard, J.	U.S. Army
Johnson, Harvey L.	U.S. Army
Johnston, Edward M.	U.S. Navy
Jones, Warren W.	U.S. Army Air Forces
Keener, James J.	U.S. Navy
Kendall, James A.	U.S. Army
Kinneer, Kenneth D.	U.S. Air Force
Kitowski III, Charles B.	U.S. Army
Kitzman, Ellis E.	U.S. Navy
Kitzman, Otto F.	U.S. Army
Koehn, James A.	U.S. Army
Larsen, Kenneth H.	U.S. Army
Lauter, Donald	U.S. Navy
Lewis, Charles D.	U.S. Navy
Lyons, Fred Milton	U.S. Navy
Lyons, Leslie L.	U.S. Army
Mansell, M.L.	U.S. Navy
Marshall, Henry T.	U.S. Navy
Marshall, Thomas B.	U.S. Air Force
Mattern, James L.	U.S. Army
Matzke, William D.	U.S. Army
Maynard, Vernon G.	U.S. Marine Corps
McCellan	U.S. Marine Corps
McDonald, James K.	U.S. Army
McIlroy, Robert E.	U.S. Navy
Messenger, James C.	U.S. Army
Miller, Russell W.	U.S. Army
Moore, Joe K.	U.S. Navy
Morgan, Luther C.	U.S. Army Air Forces
Mosby, Kenneth M.	U.S. Army
Mullett, Jack H.	U.S. Army
Murnane, Thomas A.	U.S. Army
Neelen, Orval Lawrence	U.S. Navy
Paben, Elmer E.	U.S. Army
Parker, Earl R.	U.S. Army
Parsons, Ruford W.	U.S. Army
Pasierbowicz, Casimer F.	U.S. Air Force
Patterson, Malcolm	U.S. Army
Pederson, Ralph H.	U.S. Navy
Peek, Raymond D.	U.S. Navy
Pfeifer, Raymond I.	U.S. Marine Corps
Poorman, Robert	U.S. Navy
Powers, Thomas M.	U.S. Air Force
Prokop, Richard C.	U.S. Army
Prophet, Tonashia	U.S. Army
Pyka, Sr., Robert	U.S. Army
Pyles, James Henry	U.S. Army Air Corps

Pyles, William A.	U.S. Army
NAME	BRANCH
Quinton, Lowell M.	U.S. Army
Randall, Carleton C.	U.S. Army
Rathburn, George O.	U.S. Army
Rawls, Dustin M.	U.S. Marine Corps
Rayner, Sr., James D.	U.S. Navy
Rice, Wilbur H.	U.S. Army
Roark, Jesse F.	U.S. Navy
Robeson, Donald C.	U.S. Navy
Romijn, Antonius	U.S. Army
Ross, Frank	U.S. Marine Corps
Ross, Troy J.	U.S. Army
Rylander, Fred A.	U.S. Army Air Forces
Sable, Lavern E.	U.S. Army Air Corps
Sadler, Thomas C.	U.S. Army
Sassin, Alvin M.	U.S. Army
Saums, Charles L.	U.S. Army
Scallorn, Robert E.L.	U.S. Navy
Schieffer, William F.	U.S. Army
Schliff, Melbert C.	U.S. Army
Scott, Melvin	U.S. Navy
Sears, Charles A.	U.S. Navy
Shannon, Francis P.	U.S. Coast Guard
Shearer, Jr., Grady T.	U.S. Army
Shurbet, Homer D.	U.S. Army
Smith, Benjamin A.	U.S. Marine Corps
Smith, Felix O.	U.S. Coast Guard
Smith, William D.	U.S. Marine Corps/
	U.S. Navy
Spencer, Billy Ray	U.S. Marine Corps
Stanberry, Dennis R.	U.S. Coast Guard
Stanberry, Ward A.	U.S. Navy
Stasny, Reisel W.	U.S. Navy
Stevens, Curtis F.	U.S. Air Force
Stine, Ralph E.	U.S. Navy
Stogner, Huey P.	U.S. Navy
Sturm, Ray Henry	U.S. Army
Swogetinsky, Patt	Unknown
Taylor, Wayman C.	U.S. Army Air Forces
Teal, Cecil A.	U.S. Army Air Forces
Thomas, Wesley O.	U.S. Army
Thompson, Warren S.	U.S. Marine Corps
Thurston, Sr., Joseph	U.S. Army
Totman, Paul E.	U.S. Army
Tucker, Leonard E.	U.S. Navy
Turner, Charles B.	U.S. Army
White, Ronnie C.	U.S. Navy
Whitehead, Jr., E.C.	U.S. Army
Whiteing, Levy	U.S. Army
Wilhite, Jr., Russell W.	U.S. Marine Corps
Williams, Paul H.	U.S. Army
Wilpitz, Dan	U.S. Army
Wilpitz, Willie R.	U.S. Army
Wilson, Charles	U.S. Army Air Forces
Wilson, Tomie A.	U.S. Army
Wright, Jr., Frank W.	U.S. Navy



The monuments shown above are from the newly-installed Veterans Memorial at the Waller County Courthouse which was completed in September 2020.

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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

# SUDOKU

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

#### CLUES ACROSS

- Partner to "flows"
- French industrial city
- Diagrams
- Diplomat
- Hires
- Hawaiian island
- Set aflame
- Very happy
- Blue dye
- Small terrier with short legs
- One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- Northern pike genus
- Expression of annoyance
- Female deer
- Casella and Kellerman are two
- Actor's lines to audience
- Days (Spanish)
- Close a person's eyes
- Cloaked
- Comedic actor Rogen
- It's all around us
- Neutralizes alkalis
- Native people of New Mexico
- No seats available
- Famed "Air Music" composer
- Fit of irritation
- Psychic phenomena

#### CLUES DOWN

- Type of moth
- A Christian sacrament
- It lends books to Bostonians (abbr.)
- Turn away
- Impersonal
- Shortly
- Indigenous Alaskans
- Subtle difference of meaning
- Sicilian city
- Put in harmony
- Administrative divisions
- As happily
- Horse mackerel
- Muddy or boggy ground
- Monetary unit of Italy
- Construction site machine
- 22
- Tracts at the mouths of rivers

28. Earnings

30. Insect repellent

32. Runner-up

34. Musician

35. Serious or urgent

37. Esteemed one

38. Where rockers play

40. Work furniture

42. Greek prophetesses

43. Quantitative fact

45. Missing soldiers

47. Minute

49. This (Spanish)

50. Maintain possession of

51. Assault with a knife

55. Holiday text message greeting

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.



## MEMORIAL

from page 1

included, not just the ones from the Civil War.”

Duval also discussed the large numbers of veterans across the country who died in service or after serving in the U.S. military. He said that according to the Department of the Army who runs Arlington National Cemetery and other similar cemeteries, about 3.7 million Americans are buried across the country. He estimated that possibly as many as 3 million more are in private or small, local cemeteries across the country.

According to Pew Research, there are about 19 million veterans in the United States. The Department of the Army’s website says that any veteran who has received a discharge other than dishonorable is eligible to be laid to rest in a national cemetery.

Prior to Duval taking the stage, Larissa Plunto read a letter from Republican Congressman Michael McCaul who was unable to make it due to other events he was required to attend in his district. In his letter, McCaul expressed his appreciation for the sacrifices of the military men and women who have lost their lives in service to the United States. The letter said that without the sacrifices of those serving in the armed forces and their families, communities like Katy throughout the nation could not remain safe and enjoy the nation’s values of liberty, equality and freedom.

“Each year, Memorial Day offers us the opportunity to remember our fallen soldiers and reflect on their true heroism,” McCaul’s letter read. “Today, we thank these heroes for their sacrifices and honor their legacy and our nation’s fight for freedom.”

Following the speeches, members of the VFW post placed ceremonial bunches of flowers upon the podium alongside headwear worn by the Coast Guard, Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force in appreciation for each branch’s ongoing service and the service of those who had died in uniform.

Other attendees included Katy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris, Katy City Council members Janet Corte, Dan Smith and Rory Robertson, several motorcycle riders who gather to honor veterans, Navy Sea Cadets who participated by carrying the colors of each branch of the military, Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz and several deputies and a contingent

Katy Elks Lodge poet laureate Ernie Cormier read the poem below in honor of the veterans who lay at rest at Magnolia Cemetery at Monday’s ceremony.

### On This Day In May

BY HUBERT E. “ERNIE”  
CORMIER II

The start of summer comes on this day,  
Vacations, cookouts, summer games to play.  
We also take time to recognize, on this day,  
All of those who were taken away.  
We remember them, on this day,  
For protecting our right to live our own way.  
The red poppies we wear, on this day,  
Is in remembrance of them, in a special way.  
Old Glory flies at half-staff, until noon, on this day,  
Then She is taken back up, all the way.  
It was once called Decoration Day,  
Their graves were decorated on the 30th of May.  
We still decorate their graves, on this day,  
But now, it’s on the last Monday in May.  
So in memoriam, we will gather, on this day,  
To honor and praise them, on this day in May.

of the Katy Fire Department along with recently named Fire Chief Kenneth Parker.

The ceremony was finalized by the 21-gun salute performed by an honor guard made up of members of VFW Post 9182 and a closing prayer by VFW Chaplain Jeb Strickland.

“Now Lord, we ask for constant awareness of you, your blessings of freedom, your blessings of courageous men and women who step forward to protect your blessings on those who are supportive of those men and women,” Strickland said.

## TEAM

from page 1

them. Soon, the Katy Fire Department, Harris County Sheriff’s Office, Harris County Constable for Precinct 5 Ted Heap’s Office, Harris County Emergency Services District 48 and other local first responder organizations said they would be willing to show up and support the young soldiers, marines, seamen and airmen as they went off to defend the country, Oliver said.

It took Oliver a bit to figure out what he wanted to call the event though. The shipper service that Neighbor had set up in Colorado wasn’t quite right once Oliver involved all of the branches. Each branch’s recruits go to a different type of training and have unique jargon that identifies their initial training. But then one day, it came to him as he was lying in bed.

“I was laying there one night in bed and I said, ‘You know, it’s going to be a team effort to do all this, and

I have a couple friends that were already really interested in helping me get it started.” Oliver said.

The word “team” stuck with Oliver for a bit, and that’s when he figured out the name.

“God pumped this thing in my brain and said, ‘How about Texans Embracing America’s Military?’ and I was like, “That’s it,” Oliver said.

Oliver held his first event at the Elks Lodge Number 2628 in Katy in 2018, he said. Each event is a sort of pep rally for the young recruits. The ceremony starts with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Then someone sings the National Anthem and the recruiters bring up the new enlistees and introduce them. Each trainee’s branch of service and military occupational specialty – or MOS – is discussed. Each trainee talks a bit about why they decided to join the military. Each event also includes a keynote speaker, Oliver said.

The gatherings eventually outgrew the Elks Lodge’s space and went to the Second Baptist Church for a while. It has since been hosted by Crosspoint Community Church and future events may be held at Westland Baptist Church, Oliver said.

The events are also attended by veterans at organizations such as Katy VFW Post Number 9182, American Legion Post Number 164 and other veterans and civilians who want to support the recruits, Oliver said.

The pandemic put a stop to the gatherings for most of 2020, Oliver said, but he’s working on starting the events up again. One was scheduled for May 30 but was canceled because the recruits that were expected to attend were unable to make it due to other obligations. However, there will be more events in the future he said.

“The last one we did; we did a big event for Veterans Day, and so we may look at that direction,” Oliver said.

## ASSAULT

from page 1

the alias of James or Jason O. Cha.

Li is about 5-feet-5-inches tall and about 150 pounds with brown eyes and black hair. It is believed that he has lived in Los Angeles, Seattle, New Orleans, Houston and Dallas.

If you or someone you know has any information regarding Li’s whereabouts, the lead can be provided to Crime Stoppers of Houston. Information leading to the identification, charging or arrest of suspects in the case may earn a \$5,000 reward. Tips may be called in at 713-222-8477.

## FIRE CHIEF

from page 1

McAteer brings 36 years of experience to the role with his most recent position prior to taking the fire chief’s seat as deputy chief of Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting with the Houston Fire Department. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Business Administration.

McAteer lives in the Katy area and helped found HFD’s Pipes & Drums group, a formal bagpipe group that performs as a means to enhance ceremonial events for HFD and appropriate

community events.

Former Battalion Chief John Paetow acted as interim fire chief while the ESD conducted its search that resulted in McAteer’s hiring.

McAteer said he is looking forward to serving in the Katy area. HCESD 48 serves an area between Fry Road and the city of Katy from an east-to-west perspective and from Clay Road in the north to Westheimer Parkway to the south.

“I feel like the training and experience accumulated over 36 years with HFD in EMS, emergency

operations, and special operations has prepared me for this assignment and I’m very honored to have this opportunity. This Katy community is where I found my calling to the fire service and raised a family here for almost 40 years. I am eager for the opportunity to serve my home area with such a jewel of a fire department,” McAteer said.

## TRIBUTE

Ryan Beach Barton, 44, of Katy, Texas, stepped peacefully from this world into eternity with Jesus on Friday, May 21, 2021, after suffering an unexpected aortic dissection.

Ryan was born July 10, 1976, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, to Bill and Raylene Barton. A graduate of Katy High School, Ryan attended Texas A & M University where he was the CO of B-Battery of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band, Class of 98. He was also a Ross Volunteer, the Governor’s Honor Guard, and graduated with a BS of Agricultural Development. Ryan was then commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force where he served as a nuclear missile operator for the 742nd Missile Squadron. After completing his military service, Ryan worked in the oil field and was a founding partner of SageRider, Inc. as the Vice-President of Operations.

Ryan married Tiffany Elise Haney of Weatherford, Texas, on November 20, 1999. Rebecca Morgan was born in Minot, North Dakota, on March 12, 2003. Nathan Beach, born in Lafayette, Louisiana, April 3, 2007, completed the family. Eventually the family settled in Katy, Texas, in 2008.

Ryan was an avid hunter, fisherman, and overall outdoor enthusiast. Camping, four wheeling, jeeping and



RYAN BEACH BARTON  
1976-2021

shooting, and any other way to enjoy the outdoors filled him with great joy. He loved to spend time with his family, particularly outside. He was fiercely loyal to his family, and was a gifted leader and protector. He loved to teach and mentor his children, nieces, nephews, and anyone who fell under his leadership. Ryan’s motto was “Work harder than everyone else,” and he exemplified this in every aspect of his life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Ryan’s name and address to the Wounded Warrior Project.

A memorial service was held at Parkway Fellowship 27043 FM 1093, Richmond, Texas, 77406, on Saturday, May 29, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. A Celebration of Life followed at 1431 Lone Stirrup Richmond, TX 77406, until 3 p.m.

## QUIZBOWL

from page 1

and suffered a heartbreakingly narrow loss to Texas Math and Science, 245-230 during round 12,” said Dwight Kidder of National Academic Quiz Tournaments, LLC, the organization that hosts Quizbowl.

Cinco Ranch sent two teams to the competition. Team A included Charles Chen, Hayden D’Gama, Dimitrius Kalafatis and Aaryan Sagar. Team B was made up of Robbie Hahn, Tamim Hasan, Ben Hassall and Keegan Seymour. Both teams were coached by Robert Tiethrich with Ashley Miller and Matthew Smith performing duties as assistant coaches.

Team A completed the preliminary round with a 6-2 record, qualifying them for the playoffs while Team B earned a 3-5 record in the preliminaries.

“The A team defeated St. Joseph Central from Missouri by the narrow margin of 250-225 during round 2 and suffered a heartbreakingly narrow loss to Stanford Online from Redwood

City, California, 325-305 during round 4. The B team defeated Troy from Michigan by the narrow margin of 250-230 during round 1; suffered a heartbreakingly narrow loss to Central Hardin from Cecilia, Kentucky, 210-205 during round 4; and suffered another narrow loss to Mahomet-Seymour from Illinois, 190-165 during round 9,” Kidder said.

Taylor team members Emma Hopkins, Kate Hopkins, Mitchell Shadden, Katie Sturzu, and Jed Wang were coached by Christopher J. Harris.

While the team’s shot at the title ended with their round 12 loss, Shadden was honored as an all-star for correctly answering 60 tossup questions – 18 of them for “power” or answering so early as to earn extra points in the preliminary round. Overall, Taylor finished 73rd.

The 2021 event featured 224 teams from 32 states, China, Singapore and South Korea. Barrington High School of Barrington Ill. Took the championship.

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# Redefine rural

How do you know if you live in the city or the country? For some, any place without a Whole Foods is rural. For others, a stoplight is a harbinger of urban sprawl.

The federal government has more than ten definitions of what is and isn't rural. One of these, however, may be changing. And it could have big implications for our counties in Texas.

The federal Office of Management and Budget defines areas as urban if they contain a community of at least 50,000 people, known as a metropolitan statistical area. In January, OMB proposed to change the minimum population threshold for MSAs from 50,000 to 100,000. This new definition would move 251 counties nationwide — and 14 in Texas — out of the metropolitan category.

With the flick of a computer key, nearly 820,000 Texans in cities such as San Angelo, Longview, Wichita Falls and Victoria would be recategorized. In the popular vernacular, they would switch from urban to rural. I have visited a lot of rural Texas and can tell you: None of those cities are rural. Each has a Target, at least one Starbucks and other non-rural characteristics.

But does it really matter how a federal agency categorizes a place?

The trouble is that this definition is used by federal agencies to distribute funds. Even though OMB insists that agencies not use the definitions to make grants, money for highways, housing and community block grants are all issued based in part on OMB's definition of metropolitan. We don't know exactly how many federal agencies use OMB's definitions to allocate funds, but a few examples include the Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Housing and Finance Agency and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, so it's clear there will be broader implications.

Texas Rural Funders is a funder collaborative focused on bringing attention and resources to rural Texas. We are deeply immersed in rural Texas and the issues impacting rural Texans, their businesses, their families and communities. We're a welcoming bunch, but we want Texas communities to know the potentially far-reaching impact of this seemingly innocuous move.

OMB's new definition has been in the works for years. The current metropolitan definition was devised after the 1950 Census. The nation's population has doubled since then, so OMB reasoned the minimum population size for a metro area should double, too, from 50,000 to 100,000.



No one knows what it will mean to all the federal programs using this definition. It appears that OMB made its recommendation for statistical reasons. However, there will likely be real-world consequences. It could alter federal reimbursements for health care costs in already underserved communities. It could mean fewer mortgages in rural areas, which are identified as underserved by the Federal Housing Finance Agency and less public transportation.

According to the Brookings Institution, the current non-metropolitan county has an average of 23,240 people. The proposed reclassification means that non-metropolitan areas would have an average of 75,533 people. Towns of those average sizes are different in most every way.

In Texas, the 14 counties that would be re-classified are 3.6 times larger than the counties currently in the rural category. And the new definition of non-metropolitan areas would encompass communities ranging from 10,000 to 100,000 people. However, despite the differences across such a large range, they would be considered the same when applying for federal grant money from some government programs. There will likely be unintended consequences for communities, both small and large, on either end of the newly defined category.

There is a simple fix to this issue. OMB should postpone any action on its proposal. It should convene stakeholders, rural experts and local leaders to examine the consequences of such a change. Let's find out what effect this new definition of rural would have on 170 Texas counties before it is made official.

*Kelty Garbee is executive director of Texas Rural Funders, a philanthropic coalition that works with rural communities to develop and implement solutions to their unique needs.*

*About Texas Rural Funders: Texas Rural Funders is a coalition of funding organizations that believe the future of Texas depends on strong, successful rural communities. We are dedicated to working with rural communities to develop and implement solutions to their unique challenges. Learn more and find online tools and resources for rural Texas communities at [texasrural-funders.org](https://texasrural-funders.org).*



# Remembering an ace pitcher and war hero

Whether Warren Spahn was on the mound or in World War II trenches, his opponents agreed that no one was tougher.

Spahn's 363 career wins are the most of any left-hander (he won 75 games after his 40th birthday), and he dominated during the modern post-1920 era, an exceptional achievement since he didn't win his first game until age 25. He is legitimately among the top ten pitchers in baseball history, and many of Spahn's achievements and records will never be matched.

Spahn often joked with scribes about his pitching arsenal – fastball, curve, circle curve, slider, screwball, knuckleball and change-up which he delivered overhand, three-quarters motion or sidearm, and at speeds ranging from 75 MPH to 90 MPH. In all, Spahn could fool batters with an assortment of 40 different pitches. But Spahn said that despite his deep bag of tricks, he only needed two pitches – “the one they're looking for and the one to cross them up.”

On July 2, 1963, pitching for the Milwaukee Braves, the 42-year-old Spahn faced the San Francisco Giants' Juan Marichal, 25 years his junior. Sixteen innings later, and after four hours and fifteen minutes, both eventual Hall of Fame pitchers were still toiling away. Giants' manager Alvin Dark wanted to pinch hit for Marichal in the 13th inning. But an outraged Marichal, who threw 227 pitches that night, refused: “A 42-year-old man is still pitching. I can't come out!”

During WWII, Spahn showed the same determination and grit that foreshadowed his extraordinary baseball career. At the war's outbreak, he enlisted in the Army, and received combat engineering training in Camp Gruber, near Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Two years later, Spahn arrived in France as part of the 1159th Engineer Combat Group's 276th Battalion, where he was assigned to repair Nazi-demolished roads and bridges.

Spahn fought in and was injured during the Battle of the Bulge and at the Ludendorff Bridge. Defending the bridge, vital to the allies, Spahn was struck in the foot by incoming shrapnel that surgeons later removed. Spahn remembered that when the day's fighting ended, he went to sleep with his feet frozen, and woke up with them still frozen.

Spahn deflected praise for his bravery, later saying he served with “a tough bunch of guys. We had people that were let out of prison to go into the service.... they were tough and rough and I had to fit that mold.” Knowing that Nazi soldiers often disguised themselves in U.S. Army uniforms, Spahn's unit developed a plan to weed out imposters. If a suspected Nazi couldn't name the Brooklyn Dodgers shortstop, Eddie Stanky, the fraud's fate was sealed.

The most decorated baseball player in WWII, Spahn earned a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and a presidential citation.

Spahn's war heroism cost him three full seasons and 400 wins. But, career-wise, Spahn viewed his war experiences positively. “After what I went through overseas, I never thought of anything I was told to do in baseball as hard work,” Spahn

said. “You get over feeling like that when you spend days on end sleeping in frozen tank tracks in enemy-threatened territory. The Army taught me what's important and what isn't.”

True heroes, Spahn added, never returned.

As Spahn continued to pitch effectively year after year, his long-time nemesis Stan Musial predicted that the Braves' ace would never get to the Hall of Fame because “He won't stop pitching.” But Spahn's career finally ended after the Braves sold him in 1964 to the New York Mets, who soon released him. He played one more year for the Giants in 1965, and at 44-years-old was given his release after the season.

“I didn't retire from baseball. Baseball retired me,” Spahn said.

Spahn pitched a handful of games in the early 1970s for the Mexico City Tigers and for the AAA Tulsa Oilers before spending a few tumultuous seasons as a pitching coach for the St. Louis Cardinals, the Cleveland Indians and in the Los Angeles Angels minor league system. By then, Spahn was outspoken about his dislike for air travel, long-haired players and designated hitters.

In 1973, the Hall of Fame inducted Spahn, who joked that his career lasted so long that he was the only man in baseball history to play both before and after Casey Stengel was deemed a genius. In 2003 Spahn, by then wealthy from his 2,000-acre Oklahoma cattle ranch and oil leasing, died in Broken Arrow from multiple medical complications.

Numerous posthumous awards followed, including statues of Spahn in Oklahoma City and Guthrie, Oklahoma that celebrate the war hero and his intimidating high-kick motion.

# Katy Times

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# CONSTITUTION CORNER

## U.S. Constitution

### Article IV: Section 3.

**New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.**

**The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.**



## TRIBUTES

David Kerry Clark was born on December 28th, 1967 to Marion David Clark and Cheryl Ann Pokorny at Hill Air Force Base near Ogden, Utah. Dave died in Katy, Texas on May 21st, 2021 leaving behind a large group of family and friends who celebrate gratefully his life and love.

David spent much of his young life in and around the Bay Area of Houston near NASA's Johnson Space Center. There he first met the love of his life, Cynthia Renee Lewandowski, in 1985 at a youth group picnic and married her in 1993. In their 28 years of marriage, Dave and Cindy opened



DAVID KERRY CLARK  
1967-2021

their home and their hearts to adopt three children: Victor, Bruno, and Fiona.

David made a life out of opening his heart to all sorts

of people. He became the Youth Minister at St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Clear Lake City in 1988. It was there he started his 30-plus year youth ministry career, putting his charming smile, hearty laugh, and boisterous fun presence to work for the Lord. Over three decades of retreats, lock-ins, and Life Nights, David helped move thousands of young people closer to Christ. A number of those kids became youth ministers themselves, moved by David's influence.

David was truly great at moving people. He moved thousands of teens out of their chairs to praise

and worship God, moved countless kids to dance and sing his signature "High Five the Lord!" song and, as a professional DJ, he moved people onto the dance floor with fluid mastery.

Dave was talented in all sorts of surprising ways. He could DJ your event and run a photo booth, karaoke, cotton candy, and snow cone machines simultaneously. He invented ingenious ways to make Jell-O in various forms for his signature and epic "Jello-rama" events. He could also silkscreen the t-shirts for your group. David was a one-man carnival when the occasion called for it.

David loved Diet Coke, tie-dyed t-shirts, overalls, and snickerdoodles. He was convivial and clever at dominoes and cards. He loved going to Las Vegas, tailgating for the Texans, and taking teens on mission trips to serve the poor. David was love and service and joy and fun personified with a broad whiskery smile and generous bear-paw hands. He will be missed by so many.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Dave Clark Youth Missions Fund to continue David's beloved mission trips for future teens. Contributions can be sent to

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church, care of the Dave Clark Youth Missions Fund or via a link on the church website at <https://www.epiphanycatholic.org>.

There will be a visitation for David on Friday, June 4th starting at 5:00 p.m. with a vigil and rosary at 7:00 p.m. A funeral mass will be offered at noon on Saturday, June 5th with a reception to follow. All events will be held at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church 1530 Norwalk Drive in Katy, Texas. Prudence regarding masks and social distancing are encouraged, especially for those who have yet to be vaccinated for Covid-19.

Maggie Lou Brown Smith went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, May 22, 2021, from a Katy hospital, at the age of 82.

Maggie was eldest of two daughters born on October 12, 1938, in Houston, during the Great Depression, to John Wilson Brown and Verline Margarette Thompson Brown. She was a 1957 graduate of Katy High School in a class of 41 people and in the summer of 1962 received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a minor in Music and later a teacher's certification, all from Sam Houston State University.

Maggie loved music and started taking piano lessons at age of five and continued throughout high school. The last two years were with the Houston Conservatory of Music. Not only did she play the piano and organ for church and other events, but she was also in the Katy



MAGGIE LOU BROWN SMITH  
1938-2021

High Band where she played the clarinet and earning the spot of first chair first clarinet in the BIG band when she was in 6th grade, and in 12th grade made All-State Band playing the string bass. She continued playing all of these instruments in college.

After college, in September of 1962, she got a teaching position in Angleton teaching elementary

music. In 1964, she caught the attention of her future husband, Don Smith, the new Weingarten's store manager. In November 1964, they married and started a family, Cindy (1966), Jeffrey (1968) and Jennifer (1972). They eventually settled in the Conroe/Willis area. She tried to get her children involved in any and everything from piano lessons to roller skating, bike and motorcycle racing.

As far as work, Maggie was the bookkeeper for her husband's various businesses; then she worked at Exxon in downtown Houston and later worked as a driver's ed teacher and bus driver. After moving back to Katy in 1988 to care for her father, she worked at the Katy Chevron Station as a station attendant and then manager before retiring.

Maggie loved spending time with her family, cousins, aunts & uncles

and friends. Maggie had a resilience and love of life. Her smile and laugh were infectious, and she found the humor in most any situation, whether when she was watching old tv show reruns or sharing a funny story or joke. She loved old historical photos of Katy. Her grandparents owned the Brown Hotel and the Featherstone House, which now sits in the Johnny Nelson Historical Park. Maggie loved to crochet and anyone that received an afghan, a hat or gloves, a hot pad, or any other handmade gift has a lasting memory of her. Maggie also loved playing online games but was always calling her grandsons for free computer repair if she couldn't get her games to work.

Maggie's quiet strength, independence, and resilience helped her to raise three wonderful children and survive her home being

flooded twice then repaired and raised. Maggie saw or talked daily with her family and found great humor in watching and listening to each child, grandchild, and great-grandchild declare or argue that they were her "favorite".

Maggie knew by the age of six when she was baptized that Jesus was her Lord and Savior. She is a longtime member of Katy's First Baptist Church.

She is survived by her children, Cindy Metzler of Katy, Jeffrey (Courtney) Smith of Crosby, and Jennifer (Ricky) Lee of Crosby; sister, Johnese "Dodie Brown" Turner and husband Dan of Conroe; grandchildren, Matthew (Bridget) Metzler of Sealy, Melody Metzler of New Ulm, Jeff (Alana) Smith of Crosby, Joseph Smith of Crosby, Christopher (Colleen) Lee of Richmond, and Mason Lee of Crosby; great-grandchild-

dren, Rylin, Jocelynn, Bailey, Grace, and arriving soon great-grandson, Elliot Grey Lee; as well as nieces and nephews.

Maggie was preceded in death by her parents.

The family received friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, May 31, 2021, at the Schmidt Funeral Home, 1508 East Avenue, Katy, Texas. Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at Katy's First Baptist Church with Dr. Charles Wisdom officiating. Interment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.Schmidt-FuneralHome.net](http://www.Schmidt-FuneralHome.net).

Funeral services held under the direction of: Schmidt Funeral Home 1508 East Avenue ~ Katy, Texas 77493 ~ (281) 391-2424

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REV. MARK WILKINSON

LUTHERAN  
CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH  
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PAUL GOEKE, LEAD PASTOR  
LIVING WORD EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN  
3700 SOUTH MASON ROAD • 281-392-2300  
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3RD ST. & AVE. D, KATY • 281-391-0171  
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WISCONSIN SYNOD  
20351 CINCO RANCH BLVD. @ PEEK RD.  
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5601 FIFTH STREET • 281-391-2121  
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2655 S. MASON ROAD (NEXT TO GREAT S.W. EQUESTRIAN CENTER)  
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HOLY COVENANT UNITED METHODIST  
22111 MORTON ROAD (AT MASON) • 281-579-1200  
FRED WILLIS, SENIOR PASTOR

ST. PETER'S  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
20775 KINGSLAND BLVD. • 281-492-8031  
DR. PAT SPARKS, PASTOR  
MORMON  
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF  
LATTER DAY SAINTS  
1928 DREXEL • 281-391-0687 • 281-391-5439  
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF  
LATTER DAY SAINTS  
1603 Norwalk • 281-578-8934  
BISHOP SCOTT BAUER  
NOTTINGHAM COUNTRY WARD  
281-578-8930

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF  
LATTER DAY SAINTS  
9950 SOUTH MASON  
281-398-7796  
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3434 FRY ROAD • 281-492-0234  
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20701 KINGSLAND BLVD. @ DOMINION • 281-578-2550  
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FAITH WEST CHURCH  
2225 PORTER ROAD • 281-391-LIFE  
GARY KERR, PASTOR

THE FELLOWSHIP  
22765 WESTHEIMER PARKWAY • 281-395-3950  
[WWW.THEFELLOWSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.THEFELLOWSHIP.ORG) • JERRY EDMONSON, PASTOR  
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DON GRIFFIN, PASTOR  
HOSANNA!  
17700 CLAY RD. • 281-345-1182  
JAMES P. BELL, PASTOR  
KAINOS COMMUNITY CHURCH  
19946 SAUMS ROAD • 281-599-1473  
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KINDRED SPIRIT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
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281-855-3402 • REV. L. R. FUHR, PASTOR

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CHURCH SERVICES: 11:30 - 1:00  
5819 10TH STREET  
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KATY, TX 77494  
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1351 S. MASON RD. • 281-579-1080  
REV. CARTER SANGER, PASTOR  
GRAND LAKES PRESBYTERIAN  
6035 S. FRY RD.  
REV. DEAN POGUE, PASTOR  
281-646-7500  
NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN  
1350 N. MASON ROAD • 281-492-8520  
REV. BRIAN LONG  
CHRIST CHURCH PCA  
10818 GASTON ROAD  
281-392-0002  
REV. FRED GRECO, SENIOR PASTOR

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
1913 EAST AVENUE • 281-398-1301  
PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST



HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Falcons’ program-best season ends in regional semis



RAY BORCHERT | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins senior Will Stark rounds past second base during the first inning of Game 3 of the Falcons’ Region III-6A semifinals against Strake Jesuit on Saturday, May 29, at Cy-Falls High. Stark eventually scored on an RBI groundout by Jace Laviolette.

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

CYPRESS—It happens. Sometimes the pitches that were called strikes in one series are balls in another. Sometimes the hard hits that went for extra bases start finding the outfielder’s glove. And while all of that could have been said for Tompkins’ baseball team in its Class 6A Region III semifinals against Strake Jesuit, another fact was difficult to accept. The Crusaders proved to be better. In what was ultimately a proud and historic campaign for coach Kyle Humphreys’ club, the Falcons fell to Strake Jesuit, 5-2, in Game 3 of the series on Saturday, May 29, as their season came to a close at Cy-Falls High School. After winning Game 1 on May 27, 8-1, the Falcons dropped the last two games of the best-of-three series, losing Game 2, 5-1, before falling short in the elimination game.

“I think we were a little nervous,” senior shortstop Graiden West said. “It happens. But they did a great job. Their pitching did great. They threw strikes, more strikes than we did, and that’s how you win games.” Tompkins, generally a prolific, efficient offensive team, was held to 10 hits over the final two games, striking out 12 times and walking four times, as Strake Jesuit starters Andy Leon and Carson Brown pitched admirably. “The pitching on their behalf was pretty good,” senior second baseman Will Stark said. “They threw their breaking ball over the plate. They threw a three-pitch mix. We hit good enough to win games, but we gave away some walks that shouldn’t have happened and they came up in big situations and hit.” The Falcons’ pitching, impressive through the first three playoff series, hit a wall. Humphreys used seven pitchers over the last two games in a desperate attempt to find

an answer for the Crusaders’ hard-hitting bats. Strake Jesuit pounded out 19 hits and walked 14 times, striking out 11 times, in its wins. “Our pitching has been pretty good in the last couple series, but we had some rough innings in this one,” Humphreys said. “We started off and got behind, had to use more pitching than we wanted to. Up until this point, our pitching had done a great job, but we just didn’t seem to have it.” Nerves. Uncharacteristic subpar hitting and pitching. Whatever the case might have been, it could be as simple as the Falcons, young and precocious, running into a tradition-laden program with a vast amount of experience. Not only is Strake Jesuit (25-12-1) known for long playoff runs, these Crusaders had 14 seniors dotting the roster. Tompkins had eight, and only two—West and Stark—started.

See **FALCONS**, page 8

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Handlin back home to lead Rams baseball

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Will Handlin badly wanted the Mayde Creek head baseball coaching job. To say it was destiny might have been a slight exaggeration, but only slight. It was, if nothing else, perfect casting, and the former Rams football and baseball standout was ready to come home.



WILL HANDLIN

Of course, Handlin was grateful and appreciative for his job as Katy High’s assistant baseball coach, a role he had held since 2016. As a Tiger, he learned from the best of the best. He embraced and attacked his responsibility as pitching coach and head coach of the sophomore team the same way he called signals and hit fastballs as a Ram.

But there was no question where his heart desired to be. “I wanted it,” said Handlin, 31. “It was an opportunity and a dream come true to come home. Any chance you get to do that, and you can make a difference in the community that has given you so much ... you have to jump on it. You have to maximize it.”

While not the deciding factor, Handlin’s passion for the green and white was significant in Katy ISD hiring him May 19 to lead Mayde Creek baseball.

“Will had a plan specifically for Mayde Creek,” said Mayde Creek campus athletic coordinator J Jensen, a former Ram, Class of 1998, who was hired in early March to lead the Rams football program. “So, I think knowing the community and knowing, like, to go get Bear Creek Little League rallied up and to go get Katy National and Katy PONY (leagues). What we’re trying to do is activate the younger ages, build pride in the community, and have these little kids grow up wanting to be Rams. Knowing the community was important.”

Handlin is a 2008 graduate of Mayde Creek, where he was a two-year letterman in baseball and quarterbacked the Rams’ football team back to the postseason in 2007 for the first time since 1997.

Handlin threw for 1,500 yards and 12 touchdowns that senior year.

See **HANDLIN**, page 9

2020 OLYMPICS

# HOME AWAY FROM HOME

*Olympic hopeful Rutty training in Katy for Brazil*

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

PHOTOS BY RICARDO BUFOLIN AND AMY SANDERSONS | PAGU

Raegan Rutty had to leave home. Had to. She was too talented of a young gymnast not to. About five years ago, Rutty, born and raised in the Cayman Islands, was told by her coach that she had to “leave the nest” and go to America. The Islands, where Rutty’s family has lived for eight generations, simply did not have the coaching or resources Rutty needed to advance in the sport. So, Rutty did. After a year commuting back and forth on the 2 ½-hour flight between home and Dallas with her mother, Rutty, then 15 years old, left home for good, her mother staying home at the Islands and Rutty eventually finding herself in Katy as she pursued her dream of making the Tokyo 2020 Olympics this summer. For the last four years, Rutty, now 19, has trained with Eddie Umphrey and his wife, Johnnie, first in the Memorial area and for the last three years in Katy. Rutty is eligible to earn an Olympic berth via the tripartite invitation at the Pan American Championships this weekend in Brazil. It is the final qualifying stage for Rutty, who has not competed since February 2020 because the COVID-19 pandemic suspended competitions.

See **RUTTY**, page 9

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<b>2,000 SQ FT, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, fireplace, kitchen island, granite downstairs bar located in quiet neighborhood in Crystal Beach, Tx by School. For more information, call 936-488-1314.</b>	<b>PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:</b> All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.	<b>SUPERINTENDENT ENGINEER</b> (Brookshire, TX) - sought by MAN Energy Solutions USA Inc. responsible for technical after-sales services of MAN proprietary engine products. Travel req (at least 50%) to various unanticipated locations. Apply online at <a href="https://usa.man-es.com">https://usa.man-es.com</a>	<b>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</b> 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.			<b>Katy ISD Public Notice and Opportunity to Comment</b>  In accordance with federal regulations, Katy ISD is offering an opportunity for public comment on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) grant application, the Use of Funds Plan and the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at the School Board meeting on June 28, 2021. The meeting will be held at 6301 S. Stadium Lane at 5:00PM in the Board Room. Individuals who wish to participate in the public comment portion of this meeting may do so by signing up in advance. Email <a href="mailto:publicrecords@katyisd.org">publicrecords@katyisd.org</a> with your name and specific topic of discussion no later than 2:00PM on the day of the meeting. Written comments can also be sent to <a href="mailto:erinlhyko@katyisd.org">erinlhyko@katyisd.org</a> by June 28, 2021 if unable to attend the School Board meeting.		
<b>850 HELP WANTED</b>	<b>850 HELP WANTED</b>							



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**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](mailto: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  
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](mailto: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 OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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.

**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 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 Landscape”**, Harris County, Texas.

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.

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](http://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.

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE  
AND MOWING  
“CITY FACILITIES”**

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING OF **CITY FACILITIES** IN THE CITY OF KATY. CLEARLY-MARKED, SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493, UNTIL **2:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. A BID MAY BE AWARDED AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD AT 6:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021. **EACH PROPOSAL SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CASHIER'S CHECK OR CERTIFIED CHECK DRAWN UPON A NATIONAL OR STATE BANK IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID AMOUNT PAYABLE TO CITY OF KATY, OR A BID BOND IN THE SAME AMOUNT FROM A SURETY COMPANY AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN TEXAS AS A GUARANTEE THAT THE BIDDER WILL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AND EXECUTE BONDS WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER NOTICE OF AWARD.**

**MANDATORY** PRE-BID MEETING AND TOUR OF WORK LOCATIONS AT **9:00 A.M., TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021** STARTING IN THE LOBBY OF KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PACKETS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING [BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM](mailto: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 ANY BID THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew  
City Secretary  
City of Katy, Texas

**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](mailto:a.younts@wallercounty.us). The County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises including Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. The County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

**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 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](mailto: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

**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](http://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.



FALCONS  
from page 6

That in itself made this post-season all the more remarkable for Tompkins. The Falcons weren't necessarily supposed to be in the fourth round. But they over-achieved, thanks to great talent and a close-knit team.

Tompkins finished 32-9-1, besting its previous best in single-season wins by six, and made it to the regional semifinals for the first time.

"It was a great year," West said. "The first time for a lot of things. We made a good run at it. It feels special to be a part of a great team and great coaches. I'm glad to be part of starting something of a legacy."

West and Stark have played together since the eighth grade. They first stepped onto Tompkins' campus four years ago knowing they

**"This is a successful season for us. Thirty-two wins. Fourth round. This was special for our group to get this far. We've got a lot of young guys in the dugout, and to be here and know what this feels like is big."**

TOMPKINS COACH KYLE HUMPHREYS

were the future of the program.

They worked tirelessly to make their mark, and it showed.

"Ever since freshman year, Will and I have been grinding," West said. "We knew then we'd take over the spots in the middle infield. We've been playing together for a while, and used that connection to spark the other guys. It worked until now. But I had a lot of fun."

Stark said the success of the

Falcons and how far they've come was a nice surprise.

"I'm really proud of Coach Humphreys and the coaching staff we have here," Stark said. "To put this season together for us, I'm very grateful. Coach Humphreys did everything in his power for us seniors to make this season perfect and to have an awesome last run."

Humphreys commended West and Stark for being rocks of a

culture that continues to blossom with each season. They were part of a small senior class that was team-oriented and spirited.

"We had eight seniors, whether they were starters or not, that were great teammates," Humphreys said. "Guys like (pitcher) Sean Brownson coming in and doing a great job when we needed him. All those guys are set up to do great things in the future, whether it's

baseball or not."

They helped bring Tompkins to a stage it had not known previously. And now it's up to a slew of gifted youngsters, like Drew Markle, Jace Laviolette, Landon West, Solomon Rotberg, Michael DeBattista, Cash Russell and Ty Dagley, among others, to carry on.

"This is a successful season for us," Humphreys said. "Thirty-two wins. Fourth round. This was special for our group to get this far. We've got a lot of young guys in the dugout, and to be here and know what this feels like is big."

West and Stark, meanwhile, are left with so much more as they move on to play baseball at Rice and Wichita State, respectively.

"I made a lot of new friends," West said, "and they're now my family for life."

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE  
AND MOWING  
"CITY PARKS AND ENTRANCE  
FEATURES"**

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING OF "CITY PARKS AND ENTRANCE FEATURES" IN THE CITY OF KATY. CLEARLY-MARKED, SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493, UNTIL **2:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. A BID MAY BE AWARDED AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD AT 6:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021. **EACH PROPOSAL SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CASHIER'S CHECK OR CERTIFIED CHECK DRAWN UPON A NATIONAL OR STATE BANK IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID AMOUNT PAYABLE TO CITY OF KATY, OR A BID BOND IN THE SAME AMOUNT FROM A SURETY COMPANY AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN TEXAS AS A GUARANTEE THAT THE BIDDER WILL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AND EXECUTE BONDS WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER NOTICE OF AWARD.**

**MANDATORY** PRE-BID MEETING AND TOUR OF WORK LOCATIONS **AT 9:00 A.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021** STARTING IN THE LOBBY OF KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PACKETS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING [BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM](mailto: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 ANY BID THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew  
City Secretary  
City of Katy, Texas

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE  
AND MOWING  
"CITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS"**

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING OF "CITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS" IN THE CITY OF KATY. CLEARLY-MARKED, SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493, UNTIL **2:15 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. A BID MAY BE AWARDED AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD AT 6:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021. **EACH PROPOSAL SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CASHIER'S CHECK OR CERTIFIED CHECK DRAWN UPON A NATIONAL OR STATE BANK IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID AMOUNT PAYABLE TO CITY OF KATY, OR A BID BOND IN THE SAME AMOUNT FROM A SURETY COMPANY AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN TEXAS AS A GUARANTEE THAT THE BIDDER WILL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AND EXECUTE BONDS WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER NOTICE OF AWARD.**

**MANDATORY** PRE-BID MEETING AND TOUR OF WORK LOCATIONS **AT 9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021** STARTING IN THE LOBBY OF KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PACKETS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING [BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM](mailto: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 ANY BID THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew  
City Secretary  
City of Katy, Texas

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

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

**CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
(SPECIAL MEETING)**

6:30 p.m., Monday, June 21, 2021  
The City Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a special meeting on Monday, June 21, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.,  
*In person\* or by teleconference at 1-877-391-0239,  
Access Code: 891 5944 7669*

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING  
(REGULAR MEETING)**

6:30 p.m., Monday, June 28, 2021  
The City Council of the City of Katy will hold a regular meeting on Monday, June 28, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.,  
*In person\* or by teleconference at 1-877-391-0239,  
Access Code: 819 6188 7945*

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 621; Creating The "Katy Court" Planned Development District, A Residential And Commercial Development On Approximately 110.861 Acres Of Vacant Land Located At The South Of Clay Road And West Of Katy Hockley Cut-Off Road. Allowing For Future Subdivisions Of Tracts Of Land Within The "Katy Court" Planned Development District; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Amending The Comprehensive Plan To Conform To The Land Uses Provided For In The Ordinance; Providing A Penalty In An Amount Of Up To \$2,000 For Each Day Of Violation Of Any Provision Of This Ordinance; Repealing All Ordinances Or Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; And Providing For Severability. Applicant is Parkside Capital And Agent Is META Planning + Design LLC.

*\*Subject to Governor's, County orders.*

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**May 20 Puzzle Answers**

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

H	E	R	D			H	E	R		E	S	T	E
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**Katy Times**



## RUTTY

from page 6

“This is about getting back out there, remembering what it’s like to compete, and just getting the nerves out in preparation of hopefully making it to Tokyo,” Rutty said.

Rutty fell in love with gymnastics when she was 4, following in the footsteps of her older sister. The self-described “adrenaline junkie” loved to flip in the air. She remembers watching Shawn Johnson compete for the United States in the 2008 Olympics, admiring Johnson’s humble nature and fun-loving style.

“That’s what I want to do one day,” Rutty said to herself.

Rutty met the Umphreys not long after leaving the Islands. Eddie, whose brother Chainey helped United States gymnastics to a fifth-place finish at the 1996 Olympics, competed at Michigan, Johnnie at Oregon State. They took to coaching not long after. One of Eddie’s students when he started in Minnesota was Maggie Nichols, a former college star at Oklahoma.

The Umphreys started their own training program—Grace Gymnastics, currently housed out of the Showcase Gymnastics facility on Mason Road—almost a year ago. Rutty is their prized pupil.

“What stood out for Raegan was she was the top athlete from the Cayman Islands,” Eddie said. “So, not only did she want it and had the drive and talent, but she was the top one from her country, paving the way. Like Mary Lou Retton paid the way for gymnastics in the U.S., that’s Raegan in the Cayman Islands.”

### IN STRIDE

Since leaving home, Rutty has stayed with four host families. She has been forced to grow up quickly.

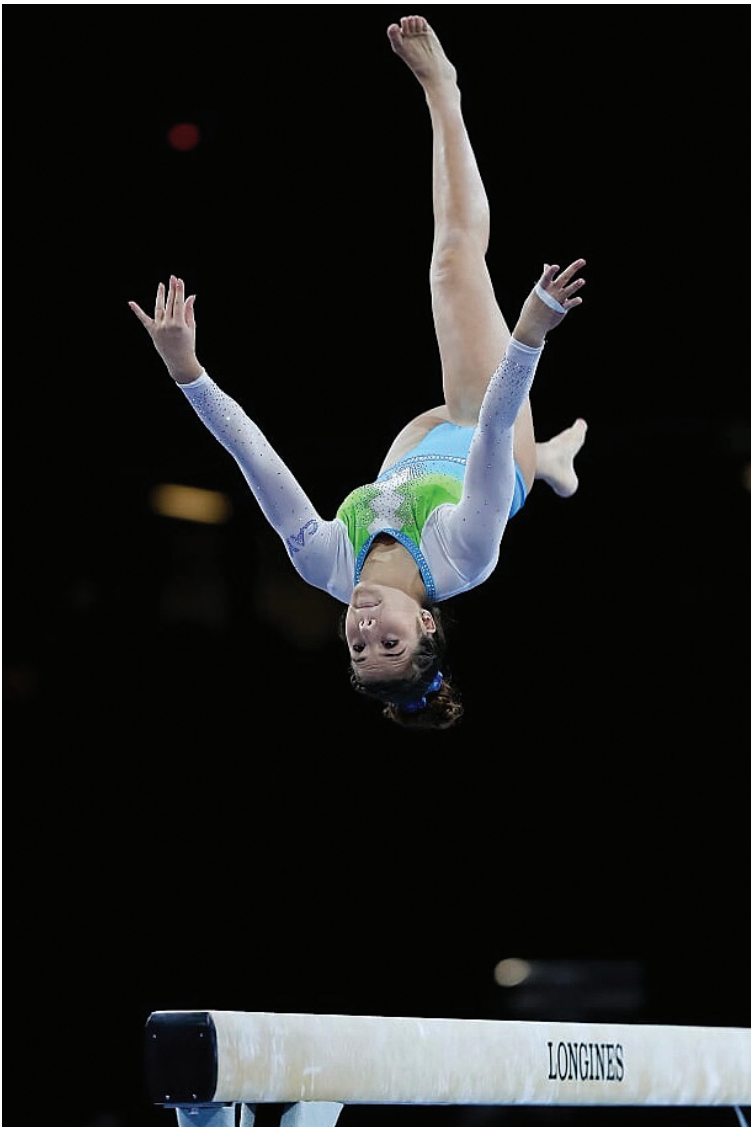
“I think parents shape who a kid is, and being away made me realize who I am,” Rutty said. “Being around strangers and different families, you have to learn to stick to your own values and morals. It’s very easy to become a chameleon, but it shaped me into who I am and I’m grateful for that.”

She found her home away from home in Katy. When she first arrived, she would call her mother and talk excitedly about going to Sonic and “living the Katy life.”

“It’s fun for me. I love it,” Rutty said. “I fed ducks. I’ve gone to football games. I’ve gone to two Homecomings. I feel like I’m living the American dream.”

Rutty glows when talking about Chick-fil-A and Whataburger. She has friends that attend Tompkins and Cinco Ranch high schools. She is considerably more comfortable away from home than she used to be—she returns to the Cayman Islands three times a year—but it’s still difficult at times.

Rutty calls her mother “about six times a day” just to talk, exchange stories and tell her she



COURTESY OF STACEY PATERSON

Raegan Rutty, 19, has trained in Katy the last four years and will compete in the Pan American Games in Brazil this week. Rutty is the top gymnast from the Cayman Islands and a 2020 Olympics hopeful.

***"Now I realize that every opportunity and experience I get is unique, once in a lifetime, and to never take it for granted. I want to enjoy this beautiful sport while I can still do it. I want to do my best, have fun, and make the most of this experience."***

### RAEGAN RUTTY

loves her. Initially, she questioned whether she even wanted to continue with gymnastics because of how much she missed home.

“But I’ve always wanted to go to the Olympics, and I never wanted to look back and wish I kept going,” Rutty said.

It has helped to have a second family like the Murrays.

Rachel and James Murry have been Rutty’s host family in Katy since 2017. They had never hosted anyone before Rutty, but they took her in when their old gym sent an email introducing Rutty, seeking a family for her to stay with.

“Raegan is the best,” Rachel said “She is polite, she is gracious. She’s taught my kids manners. She’s so thankful for everything, always happy.”

The Murrays have four kids—three daughters and a son. The daughters train with Rutty and the Umphreys. James said Rutty is a great big sister to their kids.

Rutty said the Murrays are the most loving and best people anyone could ever meet.

“I don’t even like calling them my host family. They’re just my family,” Rutty said. “I get homesick a lot, but I feel I genuinely have

another mom here.”

Rachel said Rutty is funny, always laughing and smiling. Rachel and James smile over Rutty’s love of chocolate ice cream. Rutty is a beach girl and enjoys Soku music.

But, while the good times far outnumber the bad, it hasn’t always been easy for Rutty, particularly as the Olympics draw closer. She wants nothing more than to compete in Tokyo.

“There’s been anxiety, of course, and some stress,” Rachel said. “Some tears, sometimes. But she handles it really well. Everything has been so uncertain, but she’s handled it all in stride, with positivity and knowing God has a plan.”

### ‘ONCE IN A LIFETIME’

Rutty has made the most of her time in the States, training more than 35 hours a week and centering her schooling around her training regimen. She took high school classes and now college classes at the University of Florida online to accommodate her schedule.

Rutty represented the Cayman Islands at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, 2019 Pan American Games, and the 2018 and 2019 World Championships. She is the first Cayman Island gymnast to compete at the Pan American Games.

She knows she is making her country proud.

“They’re so supportive,” said Rutty, who uses Instagram to keep in touch with people back home. “If I post something, or my mom posts something or the federation does, the comments are so positive. It’s nice knowing everyone at home is still rooting for me even though I’m in the States. It’s the best feeling to represent your country, and I try and hold onto that, especially when things get down.”

Rutty was hard on herself when she was younger. She showed up to practices shaking, because she so badly wanted to perform well, and often saw herself as a disappointment whenever she didn’t.

But through the Umphreys’ training—she’s not as skilled on leaps as she is on turns, for instance, so the Umphreys established routines to highlight those strengths—Rutty is surer of herself.

“I’m the only one from the Cayman Islands who’s done as much as I’ve done, gone as far as I’ve gone, and they’ve been able to understand that, realize that and take advantage of that,” Rutty said. “I may not be the best gymnast internationally, but I’m not the worst. But I’m still the best from my country, and I want to make the most of that. Them seeing that has motivated me. They make me feel special.”

To make the Olympics, Rutty has to finish in the top two overall out of all the Pan-Am countries competing in Brazil. Realistically,

Eddie said that is a tough feat.

But there is another way. Because the Cayman Islands is underrepresented in the Olympics, it can be awarded a tripartite invitation. The bid is meant to give smaller countries representation. The Olympic committee looks at those countries and the two previous Olympics (2012 and 2016), and if a country has an average of eight athletes or less competing, total, the country qualifies for a tripartite bid. Then, Eddie said, the committee will take the highest-placed athlete from the 2019 World Championships, where Rutty placed 158th in the all-around competition. Her score of 43.066 secured a Cayman Islands national title as the highest tallied by any competitor in an International Gymnastics Federation event that year.

An Olympic judge evaluated Rutty’s routines on video and declared her eligible for this week’s Pan American Championships. Rutty is expected to compete on Saturday.

Over the past few months, the Umphreys made “upgrades” to Rutty’s routine on the bars, working on two new release moves. They’ve also worked on improving her vault to a front handspring front pike half. She could go up about two points in each event with those additions.

Still, even if she doesn’t qualify for the Olympics, Rutty knows she’ll be OK, though she is sure to be disappointed and heartbroken at first. She now understands there is more to life than gymnastics.

Rutty no longer allows the sport to consume her. She is happiest when her social life and training are equally balanced, when she can enjoy hanging out with friends after a long morning’s work of training.

Rutty used to get overwhelmed with gymnastics. Sometimes, she still does. As recently as three weeks ago, she said she was “freaking out” in anticipation of the Olympics. But those moments are occurring less often, and a week before the Pan American Championships, she was “excited” and “thrilled.” The nerves and stress had eased.

As Rutty has gotten more consistent in her routines, thanks to her tireless training, her confidence has grown. And as her confidence has matured, so has her perspective.

“I’ve gotten to the point in my gymnastics career where I wish I would have enjoyed it more,” Rutty said. “I used to be super stressed and worried about competitions, and I wish I enjoyed the moments more. Now I realize that every opportunity and experience I get is unique, once in a lifetime, and to never take it for granted. I want to enjoy this beautiful sport while I can still do it. I want to do my best, have fun, and make the most of this experience.”

## HANDLIN

from page 6

“When Will was our quarterback, he was a leader on the field,” said Jensen, who was an offensive line coach from 2005-2010 for the Rams. “He was hard-working, hard-nosed and didn’t take anything from anybody as a 17-18-year old. I’m excited about the energy he’s bringing. He can get people to do way more than they think they can.”

Handlin remembers how special it was at Mayde Creek when the Rams were winning.

“The whole atmosphere of the school was changed,” Handlin said. “Kids were excited. Teachers were excited. Stands were packed on Friday nights. And that carried over into baseball. It was so much fun. The community was amazing.”

“And I think now with Coach Jensen coming back and this opportunity coming up ... it felt like two like-minded guys that are going to row the boat in the same direction.”

Handlin played baseball at Murray State University as a relief pitcher. He spent two years coaching baseball with his father, Bill, at Spring Woods High before coming to Katy High in 2016, where he was an assistant football coach under Gary Joseph for four years and one of baseball coach Tom McPherson’s top lieutenants.



COURTESY OF WILL HANDLIN

Former Katy High assistant baseball coach and new Mayde Creek head baseball coach Will Handlin is pictured pitching for the Rams. Handlin is a 2008 graduate of Mayde Creek, where he played baseball and football.

Under Joseph, Handlin admired the “expectation for excellence.” Under McPherson, the state’s winningest active high school baseball coach, Handlin learned the business side of being a head coach.

“Coach Mac prepares his assistants to be head coaches,” Handlin said. “I never realized, until I started diving into everything here at Mayde Creek, how well he prepared me. The way he handles things administratively, I learned a ton.”

Success was ingrained in Handlin’s upbringing. Until the seventh grade, he spent a lot of time around Spring Woods High. Handlin’s god-

father, the late, great Charlie Maiorana, was the longtime coach at Spring Woods and the winningest baseball coach in Spring Branch ISD with 703 career wins. Bill was an assistant under Maiorana.

Along with Joseph and McPherson, Handlin also soaked in the teachings of former Mayde Creek football coaches Joe Sheffy and Lance Carter, the latter now an assistant athletic director for Katy ISD.

Handlin’s coaching pedigree is impressive.

“I’ve known nothing but excellence, and the expectation is we’re going to go get after it,” Handlin said. “You give everything you have all the time.”

Jensen, whose oldest son, J, used to compete against Handlin’s team as a sophomore when J was at Taylor, has always been impressed with Handlin’s coaching discipline. Handlin holds players accountable for their actions, no matter how talented the player is.

“It’s going to be above reproach, everyone is going to do right, everyone is going to be locked in,” Jensen said. “Will is highly invested in Mayde Creek. To have him back is huge.”

Handlin will emphasize relationship-building as the backbone of his program’s culture.

“Everything in life comes

back to how you treat people and the relationships you build with them,” Handlin said. “I go to church in the community. It’s about building a trust that I’m here for the kids.”

Caleb Matthews, a Rice signee who graduated this season as Katy High’s all-time leader in career wins (21), said Handlin is not only a coach, but a true friend.

“He helped shape me into the player I am today,” Matthews said. “Not only physically, but mentally. He puts his all into everything he does. He is a friend I can count on, and I know he and I will remain close in the future. I am beyond blessed for the relationship we have created. He will be an amazing head coach.”

Handlin is fond of saying coaching is as much about people as it is about X’s and O’s, if not more so. At Mayde Creek, it won’t be so much about pitching or hitting as it is about the mentality.

“It’s going to be full-go, all the time,” Handlin said. “It’s going to be high energy, high intensity and a lot of competition. If you build competitors, it doesn’t matter if it’s Murderers’ Row from the Yankees standing across from you, you’re going to give it everything you have and compete. We’re going to do everything we can, as hard as we can.”

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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

# Tigers highlight 19-6A all-district honors

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy High won its sixth consecutive outright district title this season, and therefore dominated the 19-6A all-district softball superlative awards.

Junior catcher Kailey Wyckoff, a Fresno State signee, was named 19-6A's Most Valuable Player as a clutch hitter and terrific backstop for the district champs. Freshman ace/slugging Cameryn Harrison was a revelation with her power-hitting at the plate and intensity in the circle and was named Newcomer of the Year. Longtime coach Kalum Haack earned Coach of the Year honors as his young, precocious club rolled through the district with a 12-0 record.

Cinco Ranch freshman Faith Piper was named Defensive Player of the Year. Tompkins sophomore Morgan Brown was named Offensive Player of the Year.

Tompkins finished second in district play this season at 9-3. Cinco Ranch was third at 8-4, and Seven Lakes, Taylor and Mayde Creek all tied for fourth at 4-8.

Seven Lakes won a round-robin play-in tournament for the fourth seed.

The following are the all-district teams by position.

## FIRST TEAM

**Pitchers:** Krista Burg, Cinco Ranch, jr.; Ashley Martinec, Tompkins, jr.

**Infield:** Riley Rutherford, Cinco Ranch, sr.; Brooke Lorenzo, Tompkins, sr.; Makinzie Stutts, Seven Lakes, jr.; Amy Abke, Seven Lakes, so.; Amanda Croteau, Cinco Ranch, so.; Emily Kristynik, Taylor, sr.; Olivia McFadden, Katy, sr.; Peyton Watson, Katy, so.

**Outfield:** Sammy Bencivengo, Cinco Ranch, sr.; Ashtyn Reichardt, Katy, fr.; Erynne Castillo, Katy, jr.; Megan Brown, Tompkins, so.

**Utility:** Jordyn Rodriguez, Mayde Creek, sr.; Michelle Meeks, Morton Ranch, fr.

## SECOND TEAM

**Pitchers:** Alyssa Gonzalez, Mayde Creek, so.; Mallory Reynolds, Taylor, sr.

**Infield:** Mariah Hinojosa, Cinco Ranch, jr.; Lea Avila, Morton Ranch, fr.; Kaylee McGary, Tompkins, jr.; Zoe Frausto, Morton Ranch, sr.; Shelby Hodge, Cinco Ranch, jr.; Emma Wingate, Seven Lakes, so.; Isabel Macias, Mayde Creek, jr.; Paige Schulze, Katy, fr.; Mackenzie Paredes, Mayde Creek, jr.; Sophie Jenkins, Taylor, jr.

**Outfield:** Emily Parks, Katy, jr.; Tayden Alexander, Tompkins, so.; Brynna Pate, Cinco Ranch, jr.

**Utility:** Chela Kovar, Cinco Ranch, so.; Katherine Brunner, Taylor, so.

## HONORABLE MENTION

Ashley Woodring, Katy, sr.; Taylor Gage, Tompkins, sr.; Lilly Saenz, Morton Ranch, so.; Savannah Henningson, Cinco Ranch, fr.; Priscilla Flores, Taylor, sr.; Chineye Uzoh, Seven Lakes, so.; Bella Yanez, Mayde Creek, jr.

In Class 5A, Paetow finished 7-7 in District 19-5A, in its third year of varsity play, and only one win shy of making the playoffs in a hotly-contested district.

Junior Sade Guerra, sophomore Samantha Guillory and freshman Alexis Rodriguez earned 19-5A all-district first team recognition. Seniors Angelina Gonzales and Keegan Lanzerio were named to the second team.

Honorable mention all-district selections were senior Bella Gonzales, junior Peyton Luna and sophomore Jade Catherwood.



FILE PHOTO BY SHEA DONALDSON | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy High junior catcher Kailey Wyckoff was named District 19-6A softball's Most Valuable Player for the 2021 season.



COURTESY OF PAETOW ATHLETICS

From left to right, Paetow's Samantha Guillory, Alexis Rodriguez and Sade Guerra were named to the 19-5A softball all-district first team.

## KATY ISD BASEBALL PLAYOFF RESULTS

THURSDAY, MAY 27

CLASS 6A REGIONAL SEMIFINAL  
PLAYOFFS

- Game 1: Tompkins 8, Strake Jesuit 1.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

CLASS 6A REGIONAL SEMIFINAL  
PLAYOFFS

- Game 2: Strake Jesuit 5, Tompkins 1
- Game 3: Strake Jesuit 5, Tompkins 2 (Strake Jesuit wins series, 2-1)

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