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THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021

KATY

City Council amends well contract



R. HANS MILLER

A sound-dampening barrier stands between homes neighboring the city of Katy's newest water well. The drilling has caused noise concerns and regular house vibrations that have caused nearby residents to complain about the situation. Katy City Council has approved additional sound barriers to alleviate the distress the project is causing.

City leaders also reaffirm Harris as mayor pro tem

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy City Council amended the contract for construction of the city's newest water well, Water Well No. 10, at 29900 Kingsland Blvd. near Bryant Elementary. Council also renewed At Large Councilmember Chris Harris as Mayor Pro Tem during their June 14 meeting.

"(Harris) has done a great job for me," Katy Mayor Bill Hastings said. "Anytime I've ever needed anything (he was there). I have found out that there were several times that he put his own personal life on hold to make a meeting (or) make a function."

Harris was first appointed as Mayor Pro Tem in September 2019 and is a graduate of Sam Houston State University. The Mayor Pro Tem position backs up the mayor and is selected from among serving city council members after each city council election. The role is established in Article III, Section 2 of the Katy Home Rule Charter which also says that if the mayor is unable to fulfill his duties as mayor for any reason, the mayor pro tem then serves as acting mayor, Harris said.

See **COUNCIL**, page A3

UH Summer Scholar Academy gives Taylor grad foundation for success

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The University of Houston Summer Scholar Academy is currently in progress for its 2021 edition and one former participant says the program is well worth the time invested. The program, funded by TC Energy, is a nine-week program through the Cullen College of Engineering that focuses on math and natural sciences.

"I think the program prepared me for my first semester of college.. We

have a Chemistry I preview class, and we gain Calculus I credit. It's calculus every day for three hours," said UH freshman and first-generation college student Jean Paul Fuentes.

The program is running from June 7 to Aug. 6 this year and includes Calculus I, Chemistry I and a college prep course. After completing the course, students are evaluated for admittance to the UH College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics,

See **ACADEMY**, page A3



The University of Houston Summer Scholar Academy gives new high school graduates a foundation for success in STEM-related studies. As a 2020 participant, Katy native Jean Paul Fuentes earned college credits and developed success skills the summer before he started his UH freshman year as a physics major.

3 KISD students earn \$20K scholarships from TX FFA Association

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Three Katy ISD Future Farmers of America students were recently awarded \$20,000 Texas FFA Association scholarships, sponsored by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Katy High School students, Camryn Wilder and Skyler Weathers, along with Taylor High School's Chloe LaBard, were awarded the scholarships after an extensive screening process, according to a KISD

press release.

"These students have worked extremely hard in their four years of FFA at Katy ISD. All three of them are FFA state champions in poultry judging, which is a very challenging and unique FFA career development event contest. Camryn and Skyler are national FFA poultry judging champions and Chloe will compete at the National FFA Poultry Contest this year," said KISD

See **SCHOLARSHIPS**, page A3

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June 17, 2021
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CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Lumber price surge not affecting timber prices

AND 4 OTHER **TEXAS ISSUES** READERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

BY GARY BORDERS
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

One economic consequence of the pandemic lockdown has been a surge in lumber prices of more than 300%, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. However, landowners who grow and harvest timber are still facing stagnant prices, as they have since the housing crash of 2008. At \$30 a ton in Texas, the price has remained about the same for the past decade.

The challenge for timber owners is an



Workers continue to build homes in the Elyson subdivision along FM 529 in the northern portion of the Katy area. Builders have been hard-pressed to find lumber which experts say has increased in price by about 300% recently, in part due to the pandemic, though raw timber prices have remained steady.

abundance of ready-to-harvest timber, according to TFS.

"Landowners have been struggling to get their timber harvested for a while," said Rob Hughes, executive director of the Texas Forestry Association. "The mills are produc-

ing more wood than they have before, but it's still not to the capacity of how much timber is being grown in their areas."

A consolidation of sawmills is partly to

See **CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**, page A3



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Tsounakas retires from Snappy’s, heads to golf course

COURTESY BRENDA HUNTER MARTIN

Alex Tsounakas (right) poses for a selfie with a Snappy’s regular, Brenda Hunter Martin (left). Tsounakas is retiring after running Snappy’s with his business partners for nearly 20 years and is looking forward to playing golf and visiting Greece, where he grew up.



BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Alex Tsounakas, co-owner of what is perhaps Katy’s best-known local eatery, Snappy’s Café & Grill, is retiring after he and his business partners Bobby Katsabas and Effie Katsabas sold the eatery to Anna Liu. Tsounakas said he is proud of what he was part of building at Snappy’s – a hometown restaurant that treats guests like family.

Tsounakas said one of his favorite things about Snappy’s is that running the restaurant has connected him with lifelong friends that he will keep in touch with even as he moves into retirement. Those friendships and connections with the Katy area have lifted him and his co-owners up repeatedly as they faced challenges such as Hurricane Harvey and the recent pandemic.

“I’m proud of the community. They’ve stayed behind us with all the disasters we’ve had – the good times and the bad times – and all

of the hard work of our employees,” Tsounakas said. “They stuck with us as well through bad times and my gratitude to them is significant.”

Tsounakas said he is also incredibly proud of the employees at Snappy’s and emphasized that many of the staff have been with the restaurant for a long time.

“Most of the employees, they came here over 10 years (ago),” Tsounakas said. “Some have been with us over 18 years – and even in the bad times they were around helping us to rebuild this place (after Hurricane Harvey). ... And I hope they stay to help Anna succeed as well.”

Tsounakas said he is completely confident that Liu will keep up the traditions he and his business partners have established at Snappy’s.

Liu has said she will not be making any changes to the restaurant because she feels that the eatery is a success just as it is.

Tsounakas said he is looking forward to traveling and playing

golf during his retirement, though he’ll still stop by Snappy’s regularly for breakfast and coffee on the way to the golf course. He’ll also be traveling to Greece, where he and the Katsabases grew up. Retiring will give him time to spend in his native country before he returns to Katy, he said.

“And I’m going to go back to the old country,” Tsounakas said. “And this time I will stay more than three weeks – maybe a couple of months until I get tired of it and come back.”

Correction:
Volume 109, Issue 23

Snappy’s new owner hopes to honor Katsabases’ legacy: Alex Tsounakas was co-owner of Snappy’s Cafe & Grill along with the Katsabases prior to its recent sale.

KATY ISD
KISD appoints new principals for Bethke and Winborn elementaries

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

When school resumes on Wednesday, August 18, students and staff members at two Katy ISD elementary schools will start the school year with new principals. This week, KISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski appointed Kara Morgan principal of Bethke Elementary and Lisa Frison as principal for Winborn Elementary.

Both educators hold more than 20 years of experience in education and are familiar faces within Katy ISD.

Kara Morgan has had the unique opportunity of educating students of all levels and demographics ranging from 3rd through 12th grades. She began her

career in education in 2001 at Sutton Elementary, just east of Katy ISD, at Houston Independent School District where she was a team leader for fifth-graders in addition to facilitating English as a Second Language (ESL) interventions for third through fifth-graders. She went on to teach sixth-graders in Fort Bend ISD in 2006. While there, in 2007, she moved into administration to serve as assistant principal at First Colony Middle School and then associate principal at Bowie Middle School and Sugar Land Middle School between 2011 and 2017.

Morgan joined KISD in 2017 as an assistant principal at Tompkins High School. Most recently, she was given

the opportunity to establish a new KISD campus in 2020, when she opened Jordan High School as the sophomore assistant principal. Morgan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Houston and a Master of Science in Educational Management from the University of Houston in Clear Lake.

“I would like to express how much of an honor it is to become a part of the Bethke family of educators and community members,” Morgan said. “My passion has always been working with students in their young transition years and growing their knowledge base with life experiences and a solid foundation. It is already evident to me that



Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski has appointed Kara Morgan (left) as principal of Bethke Elementary and Lisa Frison (right) as principal of Winborn Elementary. Both educators have decades of experience.

Bethke is a very special place to be and I look forward to continuing our partnerships,” added Morgan.

Lisa Frison has 27 years of teaching and leading experience, 15 of which have been with KISD. Her teaching career began in 1994 when she

joined Blue Valley Unified School District, found within the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, as a sixth-grade math teacher. Two years later she moved to Texas when she took on the role of a third-grade and a fifth-grade teacher at Hunters Creek Elementary in Spring Branch ISD. In 2006, Frison joined KISD at Griffin Elementary where she spearheaded multiple roles within the next 10 years of her career, including instructional coordinator, instructional coach, math liaison and fourth and fifth-grade math and science teacher. In 2016, she made a career move to Beck Junior High as the school’s new assistant principal. As KISD continued to see an influx of student growth, Frison moved to Adams Junior High as the campus’s assistant

principal where she assisted in the hiring process, the school’s logo and branding initiative and ultimately the opening of the newest campus in KISD. Frison holds a bachelor’s degree in Education from the University of Kansas and a Master of Science in Educational Management with principal certification from the University of Houston in Clear Lake.

“Being named Principal of Winborn Elementary is the highlight of my career,” Frison said. “I am excited to collaborate with staff, students, and parents as we continue to support the legacy of excellence in the Winborn community,” added Frison.

Both educators are beginning their roles as principals this summer in preparation for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

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Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- “Sleepless In Seattle” actress Ryan
- One of Santa’s reindeer
- Before the present
- Type of butter
- Location of White House
- Motion
- Tree part
- Regions around the North Pole
- Fits on a boat’s gunwale
- Discuss after it’s happened
- Milk substitute for coffee
- Describes one who believes in supreme being
- Equally
- Famed director Forman
- Popular apartment style
- British School
- Advanced degree
- Order of architecture
- Investment account (abbr.)
- Snakelike fishes
- Children’s tale bear
- Norse personification of old age
- Atomic #58
- Moving your head
- 1878 Kentucky Derby winner
- Frankfurter
- Small, seedless raisin
- Device in papermaking machine
- Go
- Open payment initiative (abbr.)
- “Westworld” actor Harris
- Saturated with salt
- Marry
- Report on
- Midway between north and northeast

CLUES DOWN

- Rays
- Self-centered person
- One you look after
- Prosecutor
- Portion
- Speaks ill of
- Formal system for computer programs
- To make angry
- Rural delivery
- Group of languages
- Large First Nations group
- Circulating life force in Chinese philosophy
- Excludes
- Body cavity of a metazoan
- Swedish monetary unit
- Works with
- Partner to “to”
- Rewards (archaic)
- One of Caroline Islands
- Type of alcohol
- Eat a lot
- Nuns
- Dog
- Become more serious
- Choose
- Newspapers use it
- World’s longest river
- Commanded to go faster
- Cabs
- Mr. T’s “A-Team” character
- Document signed (abbr.)

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

COUNCIL

from page A1

Well issues

Council's approval of the nearly \$91,000 amendment to the contract with Weisinger, Inc. to build the new water well will provide multiple benefits. These include the installation of larger well casings as well as temporary sound walls. Sound walls have been in place for an extended time; however, residents whose properties are neighboring the drilling operation have complained about sound issues as well as near-constant vibration under their homes.

Nearby resident Jason Orr, whose home sits directly adjacent to the currently existing sound wall, said he has contacted the city repeatedly and expressed concerns about violations of noise ordinances, safety concerns about items suspended by a crane coming over his property line and generally poor living conditions. Despite the noise-canceling wall, he said, the vibration under the home and the noise has kept his wife, who is recovering from cancer, from getting proper rest.

Orr said at the time that a part of his frustration was a lack of response from the city.

"I apologize if my tone seems harsh, that is not my intention. A year of major construction next to the rooms we work and sleep in

has taken its toll," Orr wrote in the May 12 email. "My wife is sick and the lack of response is a little insulting."

Katy City Administrator Byron Hebert responded to a Katy Times inquiry that the city is doing what it can to alleviate the problems for neighboring homes and hopes to have the project completed soon.

A city staff member overseeing the project said it will be about two weeks before the sound walls come down, after which the noise concerns for the project should be alleviated.

Recently-elected Councilmember Dan Smith said it was important to acknowledge the difficulties the project had caused the city's neighboring Willow Creek Farms subdivision.

"... Just kind of acknowledging that the whole thing has been a temporary hardship for our neighbors there and it's necessary and we've done everything we can to make accommodations," Smith said. "Obviously, we're approving a significant change order for the temporary sound wall and we've got a light at the end of the tunnel for this project."

Other issues

During the June 14 meeting, council also:

- Approved final plats for multiple sections of the Cane Island subdivision as well as extending plats for



R. HANS MILLER

Construction continues for Katy's Water Well No. 10 near Bryant Elementary. The well associated with the site will be the tenth for the city and noise from the drilling process has caused distress for neighboring homes.

multiple detention ponds in the master-planned community.

- Approved the Saint John's Walk for Friday, June 25 which is sponsored by the Katy Masonic Lodge and will be held from 4-7 p.m. that day.
- Authorized Hastings to sign an amendment to the contract for drainage work in the Riceland Terrace subdivision that will save the city about \$740.
- Authorized the implementation of a new procurement policy.
- Authorized the mayor

to sign an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to replace tasers for the Katy Police Department.

- Authorized the execution of a contract with Thomson Reuters for software that will allow Katy PD to more efficiently look up the records for inmates at the city jail.

- Approved the amendment of employee classifications and compensations for various Katy Fire Department staff members and updating the salary grades and ranges for Katy FD staff.

ACADEMY

from page A1

according to the university's website. While the program is generally held in-person, this year's program is virtual due to COVID-19 concerns.

Tuition and fees are covered via TC Energy's funding which provides \$50,000 in support this year and another \$75,000 for next year's program.

Students receive daily homework, critical thinking and self-management skills, an opportunity to network with faculty, staff and administrators and a chance to connect with classmates that will soon enter UH. It also helps students simply prepare for university classes.

"High school experiences for our entering freshmen vary widely in terms of quality, and this can leave very talented students under-prepared for college," NSM Assistant Dean for Student Success Donna Pattison said. "Calculus I is one of the first hurdles for students seeking to pursue a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degree. Very few go on to complete a STEM degree if they have not passed Calculus I by the end of their freshman year."

Forty-six students from 42

Texas high schools are participating in the program this year, most from the Houston area. More than half are Black or Hispanic and about one-third are female, according to a UH press release. Last year, the year Fuentes participated, about 50% passed the credit-by-exam for Calculus I and 42% were placed directly into Calculus I in the fall without needing to take pre-calculus.

Fuentes said he feels that the program has set him up for success as he continues his education over the summer at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics - University of Houston Chapter. The summer program has him launching hobby rockets and learning skills to pursue his aspiration to create an aerospace company similar to SpaceX.

"The academy had daily sessions where we would learn how being optimistic about our work can help us in our studies," Fuentes said. "It mentally prepared me for the first semester. However, there are many other factors that come into play when mastering courses. If you want to get a high grade in a class, you don't want to slack off."



Camryn Wilder (left) and Skyler Weathers (center), 2021 graduates of Katy High School, join Chloe LaBard (right), of Taylor High School's class of 2021 in taking home \$20,000 scholarships to help them through college. All three performed well during their high school careers and in the application process for the educational assistance.

SCHOLARSHIPS

from page A1

Career and Technology Education Instructional Specialist Ashlee Laird.

The three students traveled to Stephenville, Tex. to the State FFA Degree and Scholarship Event to interview for the scholarship award. In Texas, there are more than 115,000 FFA members and each year only 140 scholarships of various dollar amounts are awarded by donors from throughout the state to students who demonstrate leadership and a passion for the field of agriculture. Applicants must be active Texas FFA Association members for the current year and at least two of the three prior years. They must also be listed on the State FFA Roster in good standing and have declared their intent to attend a Texas college or university in the fall of the application year.

Wilder and Weathers will be attending Texas A&M University to study Poultry Science while LaBard will be attending Texas A&M University to study Animal

Science & Agriculture Business.

Upon graduation from high school, the student must have completed at least three academic calendar years and five different semesters of instruction on agriculture, food and natural resources during their high school careers. They must also score a 1,000 or better on the SAT or at least a 19 on their ACT and be in the top 50% of their graduating class for the first three and a half years of high school.

Scholarships applicants must also perform well in the interview presentation while wearing official FFA attire whether at the district, area or state competitions.

"Receiving a Texas FFA scholarship is a huge honor, that many students strive to earn each year. This scholarship is unique in that it is buildable, they can renew it after their first year enrolled in college and get an additional \$20,000. We are so proud of their accomplishments," Laird said.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

from page A1

blame. In 1997 Texas had 168 active sawmills, a number that has dwindled today to about 50. Some landowners have opted to supplement their forest income through carbon markets, which are bought by companies or governments to offset greenhouse gas emissions. One drawback is that the credits can only go to timberland owners if the forest is at risk of being harvested.

"There are a few contracts now that are just a one-year deal," said Hughes. "These seem more tolerable to the production-minded forest landowners that we've talked with. You defer your harvest, and you get paid for that amount of carbon as you sequester it."

Landowners can contact a consulting forester or a Texas A&M Forest Service office for more information.

1 Abbott vows to expand border 'barrier'

Gov. Greg Abbott vowed last week at a border security summit to build a barrier to slow the flow of migrants through the state's southern border.

Abbott said details would be forthcoming for the wall, which would be part of a new enforcement plan administered by several state agencies, ranging from the governor's office

to the Texas Department of Public Safety. He said he intends to sign legislation appropriating more than \$1 billion for enhanced border security.

"While securing the border is the federal government's responsibility, Texas will not sit idly by as this crisis grows," Abbott said. "The state is working collaboratively with communities impacted by the crisis to arrest and detain individuals coming into Texas illegally."

The president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) blasted Abbott's actions.

"Governor Abbott stated that he intends to use Texas state budget dollars not for education, improving our electric grid or for Texas roads and highways," said Domingo Garcia, LULAC president. "Instead, he says he will continue to build a wall and other barriers along the border with Mexico. This is a huge waste of taxpayer money, and very likely illegal."

LULAC plans to take legal action on grounds that the federal government has authority over immigration and borders, not individual states.

2 A wet May increases reservoir storage

May is historically the state's wettest month. This

year was no exception, with above-average rain in much of the state, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board.

By the end of May, drought conditions covered 25% of the state — down 45 percentage points from the end of April. The La Niña conditions, which are key factors in droughts in Texas, have dissipated and won't return this summer, Wentzel said.

"If you were trying to reduce drought in Texas, you couldn't pick a better month to have above-average rainfall," Wentzel wrote in a press release.

He added that besides greening up the landscape, May's rain increased reservoir storage to 84.6% of capacity, about normal for this time of year.

3 New COVID-19 cases rise week-to-week

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week rose to 17,724, up 46% from the previous week, while deaths stayed steady at 213, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,600 hospitalizations of lab-confirmed

cases, up about 100 from the previous week. Vaccinations continue to rise, with 10.85 million Texans fully vaccinated — 37.2% of the state's population.

4 PUC lifts moratorium on utility disconnects

The moratorium on utility disconnections for non-payment will be lifted June 18. Last Friday the Texas Public Utility Commission cited a proliferation of financial support and the need for electricity, water and sewer providers to resume normal business operations.

"This is not an easy decision, and it was not taken lightly," PUC Chairman Peter Lake said. "But by acting now, customers will be able to take advantage of deferred payment plans or federal assistance ahead of the summer season."

There are numerous options for ratepayers having difficulties paying their utility bills. The PUC has created a one-page fact sheet that can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/4fdch5dt>.

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It was this day 244 years ago that Congress adopted Betsy Ross’s flag as our star-spangled national banner. Our nation’s been ruled under 27 different versions of that flag since then. And it wasn’t until a few iterations later – in 1949 – that National Flag Day came to be.

Texas celebrates Flag Day

BY U.S. SEN. JOHN CORNYN, R-TEXAS

It’s summertime in Texas, a season saturated with patriotic pride.

We observed Memorial Day in May, honoring those in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation.

Next month, we’ll celebrate Independence Day with family and friends, smokers and grills as we reflect on how proud we are to call ourselves Americans.

But this June, let’s not neglect an oft forgotten American holiday. It’s equally patriotic, but admittedly comes with less pomp and circumstance.

On June 14th, we celebrate Flag Day.

It was this day 244 years ago that Congress adopted Betsy Ross’s flag as our star-spangled national banner. Our nation’s been ruled under 27 different versions of that flag since then. And it wasn’t until a few iterations later – in 1949 – that National Flag Day came to be.

You won’t be surprised to hear that, like most items of national significance, the annual recognition of the American Flag has its roots right here in the Lone Star State.

On June 14th of 1910, soldiers at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio conducted their annual military flag ceremony to honor the colors. Nothing unusual transpired that evening, except for a lone man from St. Louis in the crowd watching “with sparkling eyes.”

That St. Louis man was banker and cotton broker Ben Altheimer, and he was so filled with patriotism at the Soldiers’ flag ceremony that when he returned home, he put a call out to his hometown. Altheimer offered to buy an American flag for every single St. Louis shop that would agree to display it on the next June 14th, the official anniversary of our stars and stripes.

Apparently, Altheimer underestimated the patriotism of his hometown. To keep up with demand, he began purchasing flags by the bundle. He hired secretaries and staff to field requests. And come Flag Day 1911, all the streets of St. Louis were adorned in red, white, and blue.

He didn’t stop there. Overwhelmed with the outcome, Altheimer saw potential to make Flag Day even bigger. He continued to advocate, in his words, “to impress upon others the deep religious and patriotic

significance.”

At a ceremony in New York, he explained his philosophy to the audience:

“It is our custom to give those we love birthday gifts. You love your country. This is the country’s birthday and you wish to give your country a birthday gift. Give it your aspirations and efforts. Give it your love and devotion, your character. Give it the best you have – yourself, heart and soul. This will enable you to pay in a measure to your country what it has given you and all its citizens – independence, opportunity, freedom of conscience to serve your God and your religion in your own way. God save America,” Altheimer said.

President Woodrow Wilson officially marked the anniversary of the Stars and Stripes over 100 years later in 1916 when he proclaimed June 14th “Flag Day.”

Altheimer’s love for Old Glory really caught wind, to say the least, and he became famous for his contagious patriotism. For the flag’s 150th anniversary in 1927, he was invited to a celebration in the nation’s capital, Washington, DC. Due to illness, he had to decline, but in honor of his efforts, he received a cross of honor and a citation signed by President Calvin Coolidge “for having planted the true appreciation of the flag in the hearts of the American people.”

Just a decade later, the U.S. Capitol started the Capitol Flag Program, through which the public can purchase flags flown over the U.S. Capitol in celebration of national holidays and special occasions, and to recognize special achievements. Each year, the Architect of the Capitol fulfills on average more than 100,000 Capitol flag requests nationwide through the offices of Members of Congress – and my office alone sends out hundreds to Texans each year. You can visit my website or call my office for help purchasing a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol Dome.

A man from St. Louis may have sparked Americans’ appreciation for the Star Spangled Banner, but now you and I know that for his admiration of the U.S. flag – and the roots of Flag Day – we owe none other than the soldiers at Fort Sam Houston in Texas.

U.S. Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.



Parents: The front line against cyberbullying

BY MAURINE MOLAK AND RANIA MANKARIOUS
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

In the U.S., roughly one in five children has been cyberbullied. And with 95% of teens connected to the internet and 85% using social media, cyberbullying is an imminent threat. On this national Stop Cyberbullying Day we hope parents will talk with their children about expectations of their behavior on-line and expectations when it comes to cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying is a virtual form of bullying. The principals of traditional bullying remain: Someone repeatedly picks on, harasses, intimidates, threatens, or humiliates a particular person, with the intent to harm. But unlike old-school bullying, cyberbullying attacks can be launched anytime of the day, are hard to defend against, and have the potential to draw hundreds if not thousands of other people into the attack. No one is there to intervene and often the attacks are anonymous.

Cyberbullying takes the form of false rumors spread online, mean texts and images, threats, hurtful comments and posting, and sharing hurtful or doctored photos to make someone look bad.

The adage, “Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me,” doesn’t apply in today’s world. Words do hurt and when it comes to social media, they are a sharp weapon.

Experts say cyberbullying can be worse or more extreme than in-person bullying because there

is no break from it at home or at school. Bullies are often far more aggressive when hiding behind a screen or an anonymous post. A study published in Science Daily found cyberbullying makes young people twice as likely to self-harm or attempt suicide.

Cyberbullying is difficult for parents to detect because it is hard to see everything communicated with our children via social media and their on-line interaction. But experts have agreed on a few signs to watch for. Signs include seeing your child nervous or jumpy when a social media notification or text comes through. A child who becomes upset, angry, or sad while using a digital device. Withdrawing from family and friends. Tech habits change, and children are often unwilling to discuss or share information about their on-line accounts or activities.

The most effective way to stop cyberbullying is for parents to help their children build their on-line identity and learn how to interact on-line with others. We must clearly define our family values for interacting on-line and in person. Just as we teach our children not to say something hurtful to someone standing next to them, we need to teach our children it isn’t acceptable to say mean, hurtful things on-line either. They must also know that “liking” or supporting bullying posts is not ok. And they must know we are trusting them to always report cyberbullying to us immediately, even if it is not directed at them.

It is important for the mental health of our children they feel

supported and encouraged to report cyberbullying. Research shows after the bullying incident is over, many bystanders are weighted down with guilt. Bystanders feel bad for what happened to the victim and experience overwhelming guilt for not intervening, not knowing what to do or being too fearful to step in.

By teaching our children that a safe world is everyone’s responsibility, we empower them to take positive actions – like reporting bullying, reporting a mean comment on-line, and not liking or forwarding mean or humiliating posts. By teaching our children to be upstanders instead of bystanders we can stop the escalation of cyberbullying.

To give our kids the confidence to stand up to cyberbullying, they must know they won’t lose their device if they share with us something they are seeing or experiencing on-line. Taking away a child’s on-line access punishes the victim, not the bully. Experts say without this reassurance many will stay silent out of fear of being disconnected from their social world – even if that world is causing them pain. We must reinforce social media apps are not the problem, the problem is people who use social media to intentionally hurt.

Bullying and cyberbullying are toxic actions that can and do result in fatalities and isn’t going away soon. But early intervention and strong communication with our children can stop cyberbullies from gaining power. Now is the time for action. Our children are depending on us.

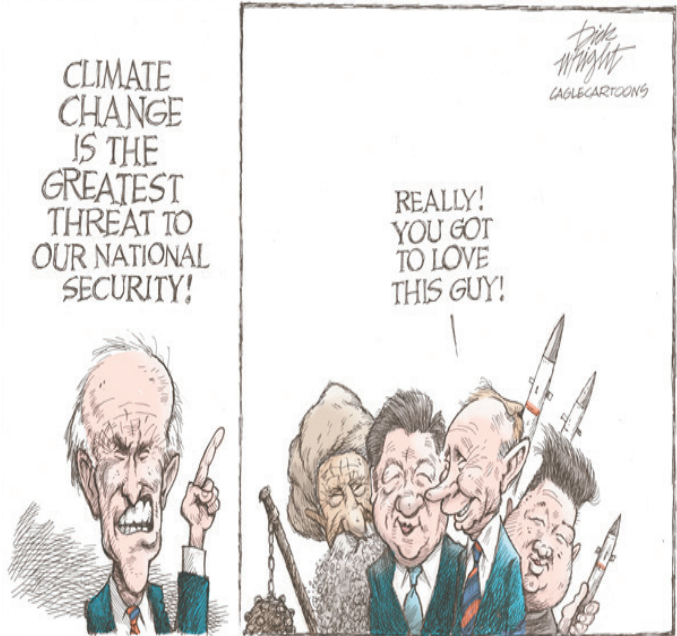
Maurine Molak is the co-founder of David’s Legacy Foundation, a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to eliminating cyber and other bullying. Rania Mankarious is the CEO of Crime Stoppers Houston.



RANIA MANKARIOUS



MAURINE MOLAK



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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
The Katy Times (ISSN 067-180) is published on Thursday for \$35 per year in Harris, Waller and Fort Bend Counties and \$45 elsewhere by The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678. Periodical-rate postage paid at Katy, Texas 77494.

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CIRCULATION:
Address billing inquiries at 281-391-3141.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678.

ABOUT OUR NEWSPAPER:
The Katy Times is a member of the Texas Press Association. The weekly newspaper is published every Thursday. Visit our Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.katytimes.com for more news and information.

TRIBUTES

Betty Jane Deady was born on February 17, 1922, in Gary, Indiana to Herbert Carl and Isabelle Emily Schmidt Anderson. On March 15, 1941, she married Eugene Francis "Gene" Deady in Chicago, Illinois. When her children were young, Betty was very active in the Boy Scouts, as well as the Katy Elks Lodge Ladies Auxiliary. She has lived in Katy since 1977 where she was a member of St. Bartholomew Catholic Church.

Betty Jane Deady passed away on Saturday, June 5, 2021, in Windcrest, Texas, at the age of 99.

She is survived by her children, Patricia Arends of Florida, Mary Louise Hansen of San Antonio, Michael K. Deady and his wife Elizabeth Michele of



BETTY JANE DEADY
1922-2021

Katy, Eugene F. Deady, Jr. of Canyon Lake, and Charles John Deady and his wife Debbie of Streator, Illinois; 15 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren; as well as other loving family members and friends. She was preceded in death by

her parents; two sisters; and her husband, Gene Deady in 2005.

The family received friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy, where a rosary was recited at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Mass was celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2021, at the St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, in Katy. Interment was in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the Houston SPCA.

Funeral services held under the direction of: Schmidt Funeral Home 1344 W. Grand Parkway South Katy, Texas 77494 (281) 391-2424

KISD names Edwards new assistant superintendent for school leadership

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski has appointed Ronnie Edwards as the district's new assistant superintendent for school leadership and support. Before moving into this role, Edwards served as principal of Mayde Creek High School for the last five years.

"It is an honor for me to be part of a thriving school district where our goal is to ensure every student excels in a supportive academic environment, from their first day of school up to the last day of their senior year," Edwards said. Edwards has a long career in education, having started out as an English teacher and coach for Santa Fe ISD in 1991. A year later, he became head coach for Van Vleck ISD. Edwards decided to move closer to his hometown in 1994 and began coaching and teaching for Abilene ISD. A few years later though, South Texas pulled him back



RONNIE EDWARDS
KISD Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership and Support

to be a part of Brazosport ISD as head basketball coach and an English teacher. In 1999, Edwards joined KISD after accepting a head basketball and gym teacher position at Katy High School. Five years later, he spent time with Fort Bend ISD at Kempner High School as head coach and English teacher. In 2009, he moved into administration at FBISD at Clements High School as assistant principal and remained there until 2011. He then transferred to an associate principal position at Travis High School in FBISD and in 2013 was named principal of John Foster Dulles High School. In 2016, he returned to KISD as principal at Mayde Creek High School, where he has served until today.

Edwards holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education with a minor in English from Tarleton State University and a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision from the University of Houston-Victoria.

"As a former principal, I can relate with the struggles and strengths of campus leaders. I look forward to working with them and staff from across the district to ensure this growing school district continues providing an A+ education," Edwards said.

BVSCU BRANCH GRAND OPENING



SUSAN ROVEGNO

BVSCU employees stop for a photo inside the new Brazos Valley Credit Schools Credit Union branch at 6646 Argonne Drive in Fulshear during the new location's grand opening June 12. Membership at the credit union is open to anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in Fort Bend County. For more information about the new branch, visit www.bvscu.org.

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HCSO SWAT team responds to double-suicide

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

A Harris County Sheriff's Office SWAT team responded to a report of a shooting in the 24900 block of Acadia Park Circle in Katy, just northeast of the intersection of Franz Road and Katy Fort Bend Road, slightly south of the Mason Creek Hike and Bike Trail, shortly after 9 p.m. on Friday, June 10.

"SWAT team made entry and discovered two deceased persons. At this time, appearing to be a double-suicide. Two female(s) were transported to the hospital earlier with gunshot wounds (and) are expected to survive," Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said via Twitter.

Deputies reached the residence prior to the SWAT team being called in, Gonzalez said. Upon arrival they had found the two women outside of the home with gunshot wounds. The victims, a woman in her mid-60s and her mother in her mid-80s, reported that the daughter's husband had shot himself during an argument. The adult son then shot his mother and grandmother. The women then fled the home and the son barricaded himself in the home, Gonzalez said.

"HCSO SWAT arrived at the residence, made entry, finding both the husband and his adult son deceased from apparent self-inflicted gunshot wounds," Gonzalez said.

In a news briefing near the scene, HCSO Lieutenant Paul

Bruce said EMS, a bomb technician and hostage negotiation team as well as emergency medical personnel, a helicopter and drone assistance had been contacted as a precaution while the status of the men inside the home was being determined.

"So, patrol responded. We set the perimeter up. We tried to get medical care (for the victims). We had EMS staged," Bruce said. "When our two deputies arrived, they drug the 65-year-old to safety to where medical (responders) could (give) her attention. The elderly female in her mid-80s came outside (and) we escorted her to the EMS that was also staged down the street for safety."

Both shooting victims were

transported to the hospital and are expected to survive, Gonzalez said.

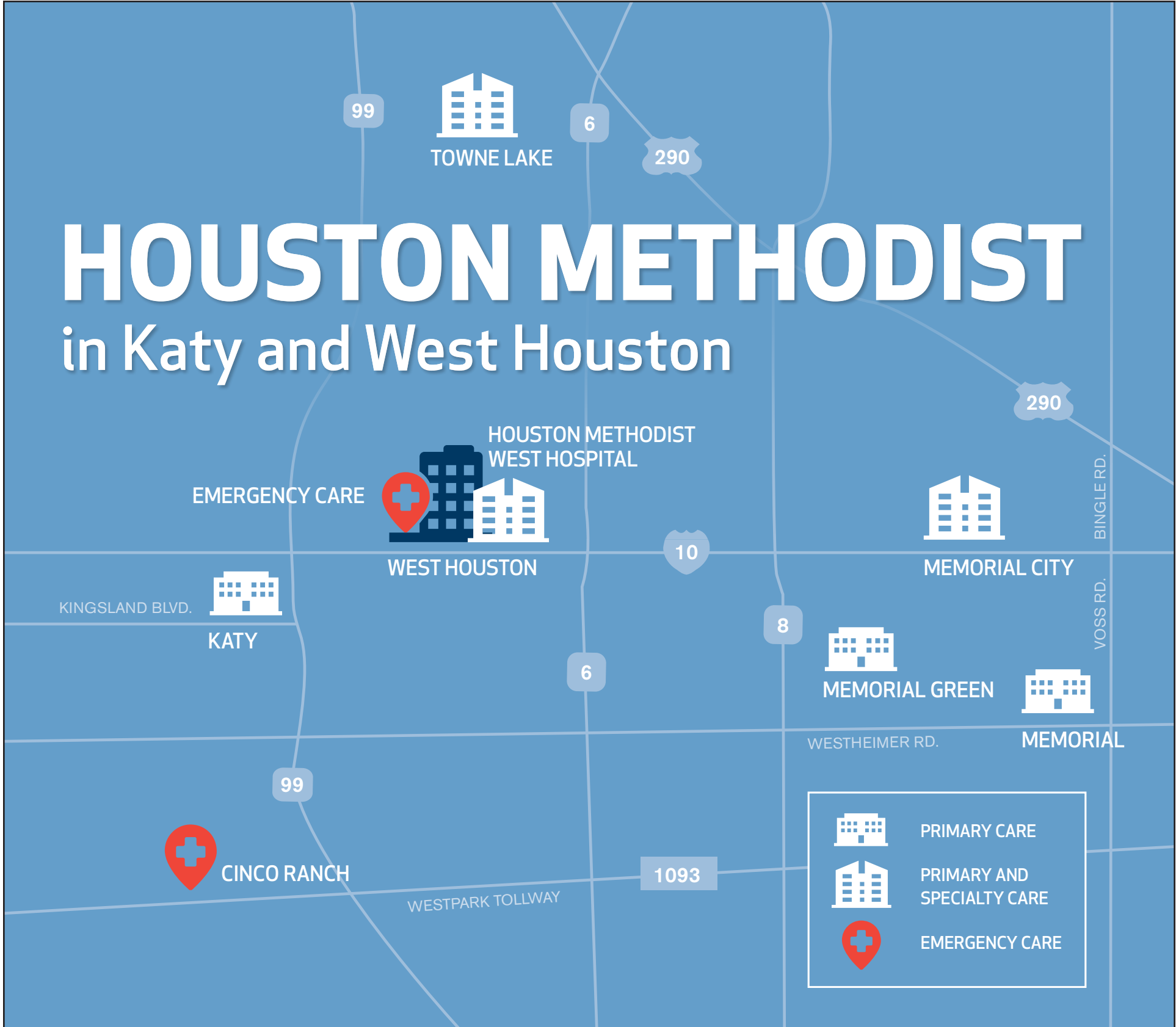
Everyone involved in the situation is believed to have been identified and no additional suspects in the situation are being sought, Gonzalez said.

"Investigators are attempting to determine the cause of disturbance which led to the shootings," Gonzalez said.



SOURCE: TWITTER/HCSO

Harris County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Paul Bruce briefs members of the press regarding a double-suicide just outside of Katy city limits Friday night. Two women were injured and a father and son died from self-inflicted gunshot wounds after a domestic disturbance in the 24900 block of Acadia Park Circle, authorities said.



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COLLEGE BASEBALL

THE CHAMP

Former Cinco Ranch
standout Henderson leads
McLennan to national title

BY DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Barely a year removed from thwarting Katy ISD batters, Katy native and freshman right-handed pitcher Logan Henderson pitched McLennan Community College to a 7-3 win over Central Arizona to help the Highlanders take the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association Division I national championship on June 4 in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The former Cinco Ranch standout was named Outstanding Pitcher and Tournament MVP after striking out 17 batters and surrendering one run in

See **HENDERSON**, page B5



COURTESY OF LOGAN HENDERSON

Former Cinco Ranch standout and freshman right-handed pitcher Logan Henderson helped McLennan Community College win the NJCAA Division I national championship earlier this month. Henderson struck out 17 batters and allowed two hits in eight innings to beat Central Arizona, 7-3, in the championship game in Colorado.

ACADEMICS



SCOTT COLEMAN | FENICE COMMUNITY MEDIA

Not only did Will Saxman rank third in his graduating class at Cinco Ranch with a 4.8 GPA, but he also placed fourth at the UIL Class 6A state track and field meet in May with a personal record of 15-feet, 6-inches in the pole vault. Saxman was honored with the THSADA Whataburger Scholarship Award last week.

CINCO RANCH GRAD **SAXMAN** AN ACADEMIC, ATHLETIC
STANDOUT

BY DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Will Saxman embodied the essence of a student-athlete during his four years at Cinco Ranch. Saxman graduated third in his class this spring with a 4.8 GPA. That paved his way to the University of Texas at Austin, where he will be in the Canfield Business Honors Program. At the UIL Class 6A state track and field meet in May, Saxman placed fourth in the pole vault with a personal record of 15-feet, 6-inches.

Such academic and athletic success proved substantial

early last week, when Saxman was honored with the THSADA (Texas High School Athletic Directors Association) Whataburger Scholarship Award. Saxman was one of two male student-athletes gifted the \$1,500 scholarship, and it was his 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in athletics that helped.

"Vaulters are this unique subgroup within track and field," Saxman said. "Pole vault is a bit segregated, and you really develop bonds with these guys because pole vaulters typically only do that sport. If somebody needs to borrow a pole at a meet, for being

too small or whatever reason, other vaulters will lend their poles, even if they could lose. I've had experiences where I've given poles to people, and I've received poles. You're prepared to give the other athlete an advantage, right? Pole vaulters are just super supportive of one another. Even if it means you might lose, seeing someone else get their personal best is also super cool."

Because there is a limit to how many vaulters can compete at a time at any one pole vault pit, there is a lot of down time. Vaulters have

See **SAXMAN**, page B5

PRO WAKEBOARDING

Brown, Silveira take
1st at pro wakeboard,
wakesurf tours

BY DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2021 Pro Wakeboard, Pro Wakesurf and Junior Pro Wakeboard tours were held in Katy on June 11-12. The longest-running professional wakeboard circuit took place at August Lakes, Katy's 100-plus acre watersports community facility located at 3707

Pitts Road. The event marked the opening of the 2021 season for the sports. The eight highest-ranked competitors from 2020 pre-qualified for the 2021 tour, leaving eight spots reserved for the best runs submitted to the digital qualifier. Pre-qualified riders include Nic

See **WAKEBOARDING**, page B6



COURTESY OF DENNY HARTWIG

The 2021 Pro Wakeboard, Pro Wakesurf and Junior Pro Wakeboard tours were held in Katy on June 11-12. In pro men wakeboarding, Sam Brown ran away with the finals win with a score of 90. In pro men wakesurfing, Sean Silveira took first with a score of 91.66.



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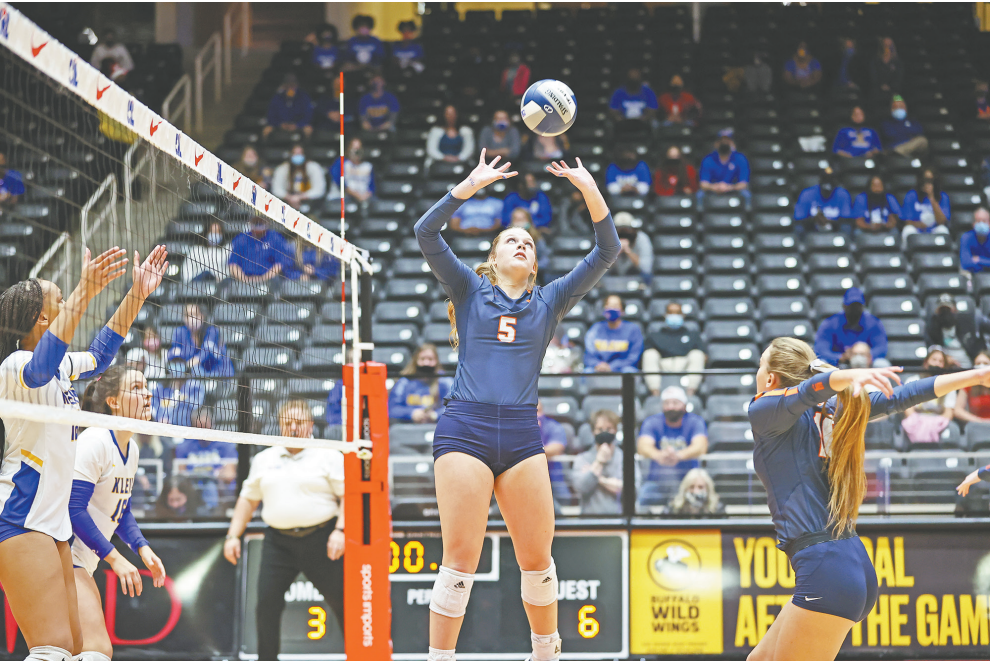
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REWIND



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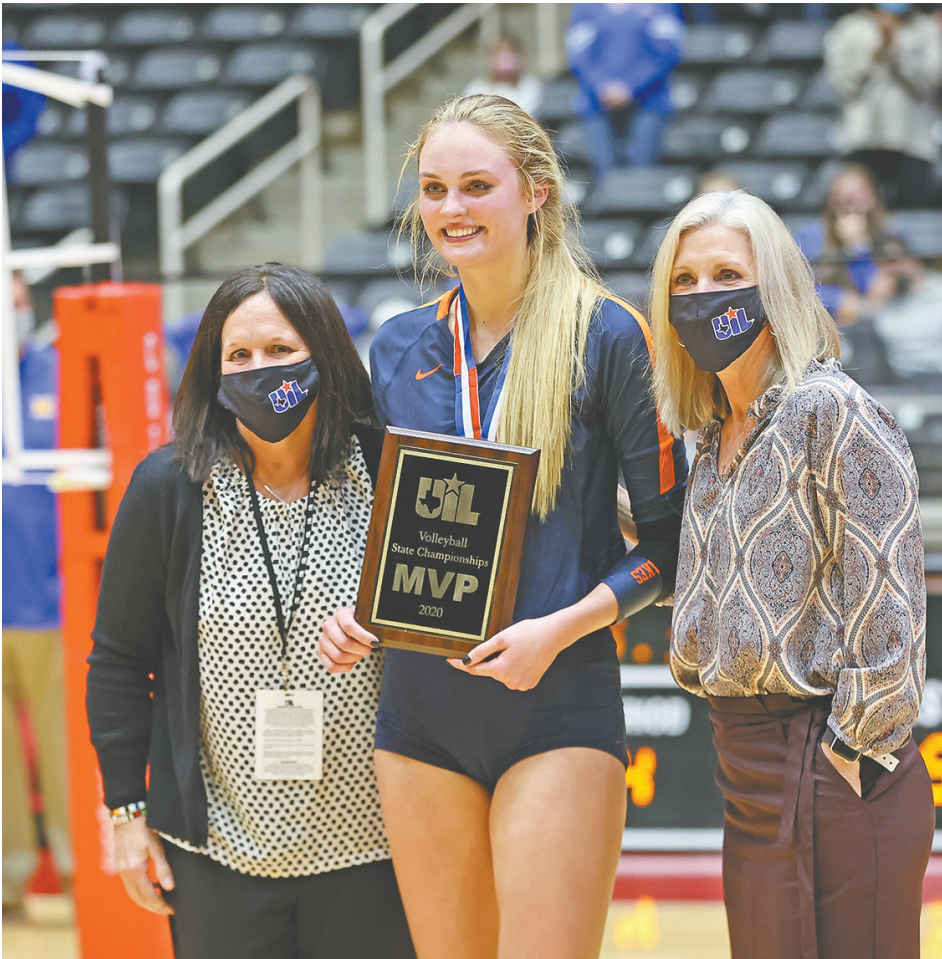
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The 2020-21 high school sports season was a championship campaign for Katy ISD. In January, Katy High won its ninth state football championship with a demonstrative 51-14 win over Cedar Hill in which the Tigers' vaunted defense scored as many points as Cedar Hill's offense. But it was Seven Lakes that got the championship party started. The Spartans captured the district's first volleyball state title when they toppled Klein in four sets in the Class 6A state final in December. Senior outside hitter Ally Batenhorst earned the game's Most Valuable Player honors with 30 kills, 15 digs and two blocks, and eventually went on to be named the 2020-21 Gatorade Volleyball National Player of the Year in May. Here's a look back at that state title Seven Lakes club, with photos by Dave Sanders.

REWIND



SEVEN LAKES 2020 CLASS 6A STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS



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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.

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SUMMER INTERNSHIP

SEEKING SUMMER INTERNS

We are looking for local students in high school or college with writing experience to participate in our internship program. Our editors will work with aspiring journalists to introduce them to the business of journalism, writing techniques for successful reporting, photography, layout and design practices and more. **This is an unpaid internship.**

Interested parties should submit their application at <https://fenicecommunitymedia.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=106> no later than 6/21/2021. No phone calls please.

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Katy Times

Katy Sports Editor

Are you a sports reporter hungry for the opportunity to cover some of the best local and regional teams anywhere? The Katy Times is now seeking its next sports editor.

The Houston suburb of Katy is home to Katy ISD, where local schools make deep playoff runs and compete in state championship events in multiple sports every year. In addition to covering our local high school programs, the chosen candidate will have the opportunity to cover competitive college and professional programs including Texas A&M, the University of Houston, as well as the Houston Astros, Rockets and Texans.

The Katy Times coverage area includes the entirety of Katy ISD, encompassing a population of nearly 300,000 in west-suburban Houston. We publish in print weekly but publish daily at katytimes.com.

We're seeking a sports editor who can do more than simply cover games. Our ideal candidate is a storyteller who can take our viewers behind the scenes and give readers rare insights into the athletes, coaches, parents and support staff who make these programs successful.

If you can bring solid reporting skills, a passion for covering top-quality sports programs, solid social media skills including use of video and an interest in podcasting and live stream video, we'd like to talk with you. Prior experience in a community newspaper environment preferred. Must be fluent in AP Style. Photo and video skills required.

Please apply by submitting your resume, cover letter, salary requirements and any relevant sports writing samples at: <https://fenicecommunitymedia.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=107&source=aWQ9Mw%3D%3D>

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Katy Times

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT
July 14, 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 throughout the following subdivision:

Rolling Hills Colony

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DIVISION OF NEW YORK

TARASMATTI NAGESSAR v. NORTHWEST ALLIANCE MORTGAGE BANKING CORP.

Case No. 1:18-CV-06709-KAM-RER

To: Northwest Alliance Mortgage Banking Corp.
565 Mason Rd.
Katy, TX 77459

An [Amended] Petition for Quiet Title has been filed against you on 9/16/2020. You and you have 30 days to respond. The [Amended] Petition sets forth that:

1. That Defendant NORTHWEST ALLIANCE MORTGAGE BANKING CORP. ("NAMBC") has clouded Plaintiff's title and encumbered the property without any right to do so.
2. That Defendant NAMBC has recorded fraudulent documents against the title of Plaintiff's property in Kings County (NY) Recorder's Office thereby making the Plaintiff's title unmarketable

Plaintiff has asked the Court for an order/judgment: 1) quieting title against Defendant and in favor of Plaintiff decreeing and declaring that the Property is owned and possessed by Plaintiff TARASMATTI NAGESSAR; and 2) Issue and order/judgment declaring that any and all documentation recorded by Defendant NORTHWEST ALLIANCE MORTGAGE in Kings County Recorder's Office against the Subject Property, be deemed fraudulent, invalid and vacated.

Respectfully submitted,
Dated: 9/5, 2020

By:
Tarasmatti Nagessar

June 10 Puzzle Answers

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

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			I	S	M	S		C	A	R	S	
A	N	O	D	E	S		N	O	T	E	C	
P	E	D	E	S		S	U	P	E	R	H	E
O	B	I	S		M	E	R	L				S
T	U	N		O	M	A	S	A				T
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT
July 14, 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 speed limits and the installation of speed limit signs throughout the following subdivision:

Rolling Hills Colony – All County Maintained Roads, Entire lengths – 30 mph

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien.

Sale to be held ONLINE AUCTION StorageTreasures.com
The facilities are at Langham Mini Storage, 18619 FM 529 Rd, Cypress TX 77433 Bidding will open at 10:00 am on June 17, 2021 and end at 12:00 pm on July 17, 2021. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Ronald Bartlett, Tatiana Valencia, Johnathan Byrne, Brandy Almaraz, Robert A. Longoria, Yolunda Price, Angelo Thompson, Cedric Tudmon, Chris Craft, Mark A. Alonzo, Yvette Allen, Adan Duarte, Irma Jiminez, Sanji Mulabuh.

Katy ISD Public Notice and Opportunity to Comment

In accordance with federal regulations, Katy ISD is offering an opportunity for public comment on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II and III) grant applications, 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 publicrecords@katyisd.org 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 ErinLHyko@katyisd.org by June 28, 2021 if unable to attend the School Board meeting.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – APPRAISAL SERVICES WALLER COUNTY

Waller County received a Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery award from the General Land Office - Community Development & Revitalization (GLO) for a street improvements project (Contract 20-065-062-C180). The County is seeking to contract with a qualified certified general appraiser (individual/firm) to appraise one property. Please submit your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the address below: Attn: Alan Younts, County Auditor, 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX, 77445, or via email to a.younts@wallercounty.us. Additional submission requirements are available by emailing Cliff@grantworks.net.

Proposals shall be received by the County no later than 2 pm on June 29, 2021, which is at least ten (10) days after this publication and contact dates of the RFP. 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.

Waller County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

BID NOTICE

The Waller County Road and Bridge Department will accept bids on surplus scrap metal. You may inspect the scrap metal between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Waller County Road and Bridge yard, located at 775 Business 290 East, Hempstead, Texas.

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m. on July 13, 2021. Office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. You must mail or deliver the bid to 836 Austin Street, Room 221, Hempstead, Texas. Plainly mark the sealed envelope on the outside "BID FOR R & B SCRAP METAL-2021".

Bids will be opened and awarded to the HIGHEST bidder on July 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at Commissioners' Court, Hempstead, Texas. The successful bidder must pay Waller County the bid amount plus tax within 15 days of award.

All material must be removed with 30 days after bid is awarded. Additionally, all material within the marked area must be taken.

Bid Form may be downloaded from the Waller County website at www.co.waller.tx.us or obtained from the Waller County Road and Bridge Department.

All inquiries regarding this bid should be directed to the Road and Bridge Department by calling 979-826-7670 or via email at roadandbridge@wallercounty.us



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENNY HARTWIG

The 2021 Pro Wakeboard, Pro Wakesurf and Junior Pro Wakeboard tours were held in Katy on June 11-12. In pro men wakeboarding, Sam Brown ran away with the finals win with a score of 90. In pro men wakesurfing, Sean Silveira took first with a score of 91.66.



WAKEBOARDING

from page B1

Rapa, the 2020 overall winner, and Cory Teunissen and Tyler Higham. In pro men wakeboarding, Sam Brown ran away with the finals win with a score of 90. Rapa came in second place at 84.33. Teunissen was third at 80.66. Fynn Bullock finished fourth at 70.66, followed by Guenther Oka (62) and Massi Piffaretti (34). In pro men wakesurfing, Sean

Silveira took first with a score of 91.66. Taylor Swanson finished second with a score of 70, followed by Camron Swanson in third at 64.33. In junior pro men wakeboarding, Jamie Huser placed first with a score of 74.66, barely eluding Parker Swope with a 71.66. Cody Hunnicutt finished third with a score of 56.66. Tanner Higham finished fourth at 46.



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