

FIND OUT WHAT'S BLOOMIN' IN BROOKSHIRE
NEWS | PAGE 2

Katy Times

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THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021

KATY ISD

Trustees hear proposed attendance boundary modifications

Board also approves employee pay increases

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy Independent School District Board of Trustees heard a briefing from Chief Operations Officer Ted Vierling and Population and Survey Analysts – otherwise known as PASA – regarding proposed attendance boundary modifications for Bryant Elementary and Paetow High School at Monday's meeting. They also approved a 2% pay increase for permanent staff and a 1% bonus for contract employees.

"Within the next two to three years, the northwest quadrant of Katy ISD will begin to see an increased growth that includes community developments," Vierling said.

See **KATY ISD**, page 2



R. HANS MILLER

Work is progressing on Innovation Drive, which will border Katy ISD's Elementary No. 44 on the south and west. Trustees heard a briefing from Katy ISD COO Ted Vierling during Monday's meeting regarding possible attendance boundaries for the new campus as well as a minor adjustment to the attendance zone for Paetow High School.

EDUCATION



R. HANS MILLER

Event attendees sign the final beams to be mounted atop the new Houston Community College Katy campus on June 25. A topping out ceremony dedicates the building and celebrates the installation of the uppermost piece of a large construction project. The new campus is expected to be in operation in the spring of 2022.

HCC hosts topping out ceremony for new 24-acre Katy area campus

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Houston Community College celebrated the placement of the last bits of upper framework of the main building for its new 24-acre campus at 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy, near

Katy Asian Town. The event celebrating the construction of the project and HCC's partnership in the area with the University of Houston was attended by HCC and UH staff as well as Katy City Council members and other local officials.

"I believe that an education is so

important and is the means to a better way of life," said Katy City Council Member Janet Corte. "Which is why I was so excited to see Houston Community College and then the University of Houston bringing locations out

See **CAMPUS**, page 3

KATY

Council approves new development near Clay Road, OKs drainage work

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

In a meeting that lasted just more than two-and-a-half hours on June 28, councilmembers heard the results of the city's annual financial audit, approved the sale of \$2.5 million in bonds and a roughly \$214,000 amendment to drainage work being done in the Riceland Terrace subdivision. They also passed a new ordinance creating the Katy Court planned development district in the southeast corner of Clay and Katy Hockley Cut Off roads.

"The commercial component is primarily along Clay (Road) and at the corner of Katy Hockley Cut Off (Road)," said Kathryn Parker of META Planning, a consultant working with Parkside Capital, the



CITY OF KATY/SWAGIT

Katy Mayor Bill Hastings listens to Brett Walker of Parkside Capital as Walker presents the company's proposal for the Katy Court Planned Development District.

developer of the Katy Court project.

The PDD is about 111 acres and will feature about 46 residential lots that are 55-feet wide, 46 residential lots that are 65 feet wide,

See **COUNCIL**, page 3

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ROYAL ISD

Bond proposal provides option for new facilities

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Royal Independent School District's Community Advisory Committee has come to a consensus to recommend a roughly \$99.5 million bond package to the district's trustees at the July trustee meeting. RISD Superintendent Rick Kershner said the bond will not increase the district's property tax rates.

"We actually refinanced series (2013 and 2014) bonds last week and with the refinancing of those we were able to save several million dollars and some time, so that gave us some additional room in our bonding capacity without increasing the tax rate," Kershner said.

If approved by the trustees, voters will decide on the bond referendum during this year's November elections, Kershner said.

The proposal would provide an option for a new pre-kindergarten through 5th-grade



FILE PHOTO BY R. HANS MILLER

RISD Operations Director Derrick Dabney shows where urinals are missing from the walls in the boys' bathroom at Royal Junior High School. Collapsed drainpipes in the walls and under the floor have prevented the installation of new urinals – one of many serious maintenance issues at the half-century-old campus. An advisory committee made up of RISD residents is set to recommend a \$99.5 million bond proposal to the RISD board of trustees in July to remedy this and other extensive problems throughout the district's campuses.

campus and a new junior high school for the district. Both of those campuses have severe renovation needs with foundation, HVAC and asbestos issues among the more concerning issues that affect student and staff safety, according to presentations by district staff. Land would be purchased for the elementary school as well. Renovations would be funded for the RISD Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Academy, the early childhood

campus, the current junior high school – to keep it usable while the new campus is constructed – improvements to the early childhood center and transportation expenses, according to the district's presentation.

While the tax rate is not expected to increase, RISD Financial Advisor Lucas Janda said the district's fast growth will also help to mitigate the overall cost for existing taxpayers.

See **ROYAL ISD**, page 3

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Bloomin' 90 a dream come true for gift shop owner

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Jennifer Cruseturner says she fell in love with the idea of owning a gift shop about 20 years ago when working at her first job. Now, her dream is coming true as she runs her own store, Bloomin' 90 at 3719 Hwy. 90 E. in Brookshire, featuring crafts, plants, clothing and curios for her customers to enjoy.

"I've had dreams for about 20 years," Jennifer said. "My first job was a carwash, and the carwash had a gift shop. So, I eventually ordered all of the merchandise. After that, I just knew one day I was going to want to have a gift shop."

Time went by and Jennifer kept bringing up the idea for a shop from time to time and setting it up in Brookshire, she said. Her father, Gary Cruseturner - who also helps run the store - spotted the building that eventually became their location in February of 2020. Now, Jennifer said, her dream is finally coming true and has evolved into a craft shop with a heart for the community.

"I mean, anything and everything you can think of," Jennifer said. "We want to offer 'how to make it' classes, and maybe rent out our woodshop area."

Besides planning for crafting classes, Jennifer also offers consignment

options for clients to bring their crafts in. Additionally, she is working on setting up a conference room that can be rented out, community events such as the weekly Shop the Shire markets in the lot next to the gift boutique and family-friendly activities such as a dog show she has planned for July 17 in partnership with Hand Built Pets. The contest will have five judges and feature categories such as "best tail wag" and "best smile," Jennifer said.

"The (Shop the Shire) market worked out perfect," Jennifer said. "It just kind of landed in our laps and we're running with it. We charge a very small fee of just \$25 right now per vendor."

The shop also hopes to have live entertainment, Gary said.

"We want to have community events," Gary said. "Barn dances and that sort of thing to provide activities on Fridays and Saturdays."

Gary said the pair have live musicians in mind they'd like to have provide the entertainment, but details are still being worked out on any dances or concerts.

The building, which used to be the Wayside Theatre, is spacious inside and father and daughter are making adjustments to the interior to make it suit their purposes. In addition to adding a conference room that can be rented out, a woodworking shop is nearly finished and a large area in the back of the shop will allow vendors with the Shop the Shire markets to rent space out of the weather to hawk their wares.

While they're at Shop the Shire, Jennifer said she hopes customers will also come into Bloomin' 90 and the other nearby shops to build up Brookshire's local



R. HANS MILLER

Jennifer Cruseturner has opened the Bloomin' 90 gift shop in Brookshire with the help of her father, Gary Cruseturner. Jennifer said owning the store is a dream come true and she is excited to use the business to create fun events for the community.



R. HANS MILLER

Bloomin' 90 in downtown Brookshire along Highway 90 offers a variety of outdoor and indoor décor for shoppers to enjoy. The craft shop's inventory includes planters, patriotic paraphernalia and wreaths to make a home cozier and more welcoming.

businesses.

Jennifer said that weekends are going well with the shop's more unique items being the top attractions for customers. This includes outdoor and home décor items. The store also offers artwork - including 3D paintings of animals - cake platters, jewelry, kitchen-

ware, clothing, satchels and yard decorations.

Jennifer recommends that anyone wanting a lighter crowd come in during the week. Shoppers can also order merchandise online if they'd like through the shop's website. (see sidebar)

Jennifer said she's focused on building the

BLOOMIN' 90 LOCATION & EVENTS

3719 Hwy. 90 E.
Brookshire, TX 77423
713-355-9081
www.bloomin90.com
bloomin90shop@gmail.com
Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Mon. - Sat.

EVENTS

Shop the Shire
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. most
Saturdays

1st Annual Dog Show
July 17 at 1 p.m.
\$25 entry

shop up and has a focus on making sure the "Bloomin'" part of the store's name shines through with their succulent and other plant arrangements.

"We've made (plant) arrangements and we want to be the go-to plant shop for Brookshire," Jennifer said.

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Absence of difficulty
- Preserve a dead body
- Gratitude
- The act of coming together again
- More cushy
- Visionaries
- Fish-eating bird
- Indicates near
- NY Mets legend Tommie
- Icelandic poems
- Pop
- Hammer is one
- Senses of self-esteem
- Trigraph
- Not around
- Electronic data processing
- Driver's licenses and passports
- Snakelike fishes
- Military flyers
- Raincoats
- Type of community
- Feature of worm's anatomy
- In the center
- Laid back
- Jewelled headdress
- In slow tempo
- ___ Falls
- Saying things again
- Periods in history
- Hyphen

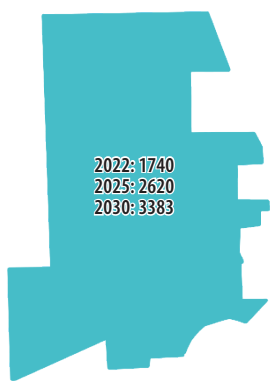
CLUES DOWN

- Body part
- Mimics
- Expel or eject
- Sea eagle
- Subdivision of cenospecies
- Dialect of Chinese
- Mr. T's character on "The A-Team"
- Consumed
- Chinese dynasty
- NFL great Randy
- Ireland
- Palm trees
- Fungal disease
- Willis and Jerry are two
- Affirmative!
- Potato state
- "The First Step"
- A way to develop
- Associations
- Woman (French)
- Sunscreen rating
- Brew
- Mosque prayer leader
- Indigo bush
- Burn with a hot liquid
- Jr.'s father
- Scad genus
- Morning
- Length of a straight line (abbr.)
- Double curve
- Small thin bunch
- Worn by exposure to the weather
- Mars crater
- Humanities
- Of the ears
- "To the ___ degree"
- Residue
- It keeps you cool

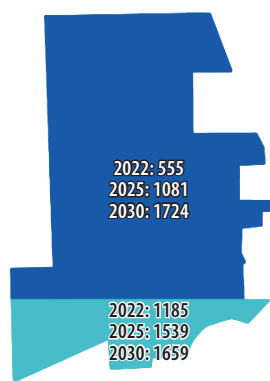
Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

BRYANT ELEMENTARY ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY

CURRENT BOUNDARIES



PROPOSED BOUNDARIES



KATY ISD

Without an attendance boundary modification, current boundaries for Bryant Elementary (bright blue) would put that school's campus population at about 1,700 students for the 2022-23 school year. With the proposed adjustment with Bryant in bright blue and Elementary No. 44 in dark blue, the campus population would only be about 1,200 students according to district staff and Population and Survey Analysts.

KATY ISD

from page 1

The attendance boundary modification is intended to relieve possible overcrowding at Bryant Elementary and provide a shorter commute for students, especially those who reside in Cane Island.

The new elementary will be located at 7400 Innovation Drive which is still under construction, district spokesperson Maria DiPetta said. Innovation Drive will start on Cane Island Parkway just south of the Cane Island Visitors Center and extend west then turn north. The new elementary will be located on the northern side of the road which will border the campus on the south and western sides.

PASA and district officials have been emphasizing for some time that the district needs to plan for the anticipated growth coming to the northwestern portion of the district which has prompted the need for new campuses in the area. Paetow High School opened in 2017 in that portion of the district. Voters approved a bond referendum in May that will allow the district to add its 10th high school at an as-yet-unspecified location, though it is expected to be in the northwestern quadrant of the district as well.

The Paetow attendance boundary modification is only expected to affect a small portion of that campus's population. This will shift some Paetow students to Morton Ranch High School. Details regarding the boundary adjustment for Bryant were

sent to parents of students impacted by the change to request their feedback prior to formalizing the change.

Elementary School No. 44 is expected to open in the fall of 2022, according to information provided by KISD. A final decision on the attendance boundary modifications will be presented at the October 2021 trustees meeting for approval.

Trustees also approved a raise for teachers and staff, whom they acknowledged for their contributions to the district and its students during the pandemic, winter freeze in February and all of the associated challenges with those issues. The 2% pay increase will begin in July 2021 or depending on the staff members' start dates, with a 1% one-time lump sum payment provided in December. Pay increases are calculated based upon the employee's midpoint rates of pay found on the KISD Human Resources website. Regular part-time employees will also receive the increase.

The pay increases are expected to assist with retaining high-quality teachers as well as ensuring classrooms do not become overcrowded as the northwestern portion of the district continues to grow at a rapid pace.

"These minor (attendance boundary) adjustments will ensure efficiency as it relates to campus usage and will balance high school enrollment prior to the opening of High School No. 10 in 2024," added Vierling.

CAMPUS

from page 1

here to the Katy area and partnered with Katy Independent School District."

The new campus will be a part of the HCC West Houston Expansion effort which moves the college from its current location at 1550 Foxlake Drive in the northwestern corner of the intersection of I-10 and Fry Road behind Westgate Marketplace, according to the HCC website. The partnership with UH will mean that students will take their first two years of classes at HCC and possibly obtain an associate degree then complete their bachelor's degree at UH just across the street at 22400 Grand Circle Blvd., Katy.

The new \$53 million campus is expected to bring HCC \$169 million in revenue in its first 25 years of operation, thus paying for itself over time. The sale of the Foxlake campus will also offset costs for construction, according to documentation

from HCC. HCC Northwest College President Zachary Hodges said the project remains on budget and on time for a spring 2022 opening.

The new HCC campus will provide courses in several areas of studies across academia, and students that are enrolled in the engineering and nursing courses will be dual-enrolled in UH so they can take classes at both campuses as needed for their degrees.

"We are committed to a new approach to higher education based on project-based learning and student engagement," Hodges said. "The entire first floor (of the Katy HCC campus) will focus on experiential learning, coaching, mentoring and facilitating student success from the first time a student walks in until they leave with their associate degree or that new high-tech job in our community."

ROYAL ISD

from page 1

With new subdivisions bringing thousands of new homes to the district, additional taxpayers will be added, thus increasing the taxpayer pool, he said.

The RISD Community Advisory Committee is made up of several interested community members who have attended workshops and toured each of the district's campuses. Many have expressed shock in response to the unsafe and worn-down conditions of the

schools there with water damage, poor lighting, asbestos, air conditioning, plumbing and electrical issues being among the top concerns.

In a statement issued by the district, Janda said the district's refinancing of existing debt also shores up the district's bonding position and saves taxpayers about \$2.6 million over time by bringing the debt from 3.5% to 4% interest, depending on the bond terms

to a rate of 1.82%.

"The Royal ISD Board of Trustees is committed to implementing strong financial practices. It is their diligence in careful financial planning that has allowed the district to take advantage of this opportunity to save taxpayer dollars. The recent refunding has resulted in a significant decrease in the future debt service amounts," Janda said.

COUNCIL

from page 1

and another 96 residential lots that are 70 feet wide. The residential builder for the site will be Pulte Homes, which Parkside Capital Executive Vice President Brett Walker said his firm has done business with in the past and trusts to provide high-quality homes to the community.

"Having a quality of residential builder like Pulte who can build something that's a plus and looks nice that is good for all of us," Walker said. "It's good for people that that will be proud to live in those homes in the city of Katy and will have good, viable retail and ... commercial uses around them."

Retail and office developers have not been identified yet, but Walker said Parkside Capital has worked with reputable partners such as HEB in the past and will work with similar groups to ensure similar results for the Katy Court commercial area.

Walker also said Parkside Capital had been working on the project for about 14 months and had paid special attention to drainage because they knew that would be a concern for nearby residents.

Multiple representatives of the project discussed the planning of the new PDD which features oversized detention ponds that exceed the drainage requirements by 70% according to data provided by the development team and confirmed by Steve Wilcox of Costello, Inc., the city's drainage consultant. The drainage plan provides enough drainage capacity for almost 162 acres, drainage engineers said. Each residential lot will drain into the roadway and subsequently into the development's drainage and finally taken under Katy Hockley Cutoff Road into Harris County drainage to the southeast of the development, they said.

Wilcox said that in his opinion as a drainage expert who is paid by the city and has no conflict of interest in the situation, he believes the development will improve drainage in the area, including for residents of Heritage Park West to the south of the new development.

Multiple residents expressed concern regarding traffic in the area considering narrow nearby roads.



JONES & CARTER/CITY OF KATY

The map on the left above shows the current drainage pattern for the property where Katy Court, situated just north of the Heritage Park West subdivision, will be built. The map on the right shows proposed retention ponds and other drainage improvements. The pink bar on the righthand side is a pipeline that would cut across Katy Hockley Cut Off Road into Harris County drainage infrastructure to ensure Katy Court does not cause drainage concerns for Heritage Park West. The portion south of the pond at the top would be residential space while the portion to the north will be light commercial space.

However, City Planner Anas Garfaoui said improvements to nearby roadways were in process with Harris County and other entities, though he did not provide a detailed timeline for those improvements.

Walker also said that commercial development would not proceed until roadway improvements had been made.

Council also approved the sale of \$2.5 million in bonds at 1.49% interest

during the meeting. This is the first sale of \$6 million approved by voters on May 1 for public building and parks improvements.

A change to the contract associated with drainage improvements between the Caloro Lane drainage ditch and Patna Lane and Village Circle Drive was also approved at a cost of about \$215,500. According to documentation provided by the city, a section of 12-inch water line had been

identified for refurbishment there but needs to be replaced instead, adding to the cost of the overall project by 5.68%. The total cost for the contract is now at about \$4.02 million.

Lupe Garcia of Whitley Penn, the city's financial auditor, said the audit of the city's financial records for the last fiscal year which ended September of 2020 had passed fully and that the city's finances were above average.

CORRECTION

Katy Times, June 24, 2021 — Best of Katy 2021: The "Best Law Firm" category was a tie between The Hunt Law Firm and Travers & Travers.

The Katy Times will be closed on
July 2, 2021
in observance of Independence Day.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **July 8 edition** is **5 p.m. on Thursday, July 1.**

Have a safe and happy holiday from The Katy Times staff

Katy Times

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On human trafficking and accuracy

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

In last week's edition of the Katy Times, a story was printed regarding human trafficking. In that story, I discussed a speech on the topic by Debi Tengler, chief relations officer for Arrow Child & Family Ministries.

During her talk, Tengler provided several points of data, including a claim that Katy was the number one city for child sex trafficking in the country. As soon as I heard her say it, I knew that it was inaccurate because I have covered the topic of human trafficking, including child sex trafficking, in the Katy area before. While the tragedy of modern-day slavery does happen in the Katy area, Katy is not number one by a long stretch.

As I wrote the resulting story, I examined my notes and looked for various studies, nonprofits, news stories or other items to confirm or disprove all the data points Tengler provided. I was only able to confirm the average age for victims to be forced into sex trafficking, the amount of money a trafficking victim generates for a trafficker on an annual basis and information relating to an increase in men and boys being victimized.

What I found is that, according to a study conducted by the Houston-based Neal Davis Law Firm, Texas is ranked second among all the states for human trafficking as a whole, whether that involves forced labor or sex trafficking. As a state, only California exceeds us in the severity of the problem.

At the city level, the study – which was released in April of this year – indicated that Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Orlando, Miami and Las Vegas are the top five metros for trafficking.

Neither Katy nor Houston were ranked in the top 10 cities in the Neal Davis study.

To be sure, arrests have been made in Greater Houston, including Katy, for human trafficking. In January of last year, the Harris County Sheriffs Office arrested 32 in a human trafficking sting. In September of 2019, Fort Bend County law enforcement agencies arrested 64 people and rescued seven victims – some in the county's

third precinct. In 2018, the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance – a cooperative effort by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies – reported recovering almost 400 victims of trafficking in the Houston area and arrested 211 perpetrators.

Additionally, the I-10 corridor from Houston to Los Angeles has been designated by the U.S. Department of Justice as one of the top corridors for human trafficking.

To be fair to Tengler, she was trying to raise awareness about an issue that does impact our area and that parents, educators and the general community need to be aware of. Without that awareness, more innocents will be victimized by this horrible crime. Once the misinformation was brought to her attention, Tengler also issued a retraction and indicated that her original information source had pulled the information down from where she'd found it.

"I hope and pray that my statement will not diminish the ongoing work to improve the lives of the residents of Katy, Spring and others, as sex trafficking of children is horrible. 'It happens everywhere, the smallest of towns, the largest of cities,' as stated in the video, 'Be the One,' by Geoff Barr, (Texas) assistant attorney general," Tengler said in her retraction and apology statement.

Being accurate and thorough with the news is a time-consuming process, but it is vitally important. I am glad that I took the time to verify the data points that were included in the story and rejected those I was unable to verify.

That said, last week's story was an overview of a serious issue that deserves ongoing coverage. I have begun reaching out to local law enforcement agencies, nonprofits and government agencies that will be able to provide solid data on how human trafficking impacts the Katy area. Katy Times readers can expect a thorough, fact checked and detailed story in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I encourage readers to have brave conversations with their family members and members of the community about this important and sensitive issue.



Did I really hear Joe Biden say that?

On Wednesday, did I hear the president of the United States say Americans need to get F-15s and nukes if we really want to keep the government in line?

I did hear it. Biden apparently was trying to make fun of us "gun nuts" who say Americans need the protections of the Second Amendment to own firearms in case we have to prevent the government from taking away our liberties.

It was garbled and choppy, because Biden went off the Teleprompter, but he said:

"Those who say the blood of Patriots, you know, and all the stuff about how we're gonna have to move against the government ... if you think you need to have weapons to take on the government, you need F-15s and maybe some nuclear weapons."

Today I'm not sure if I should buy an F-15 or a bomb shelter – or both.

Biden's address on how his administration intends to combat rising gun violence and soaring crime rates in our biggest cities was another big liberal gift to the gun industry.

It was filled with the usual stupid arguments and unchecked "facts" from the gun-control crowd.

Biden talked about responsible hunters knowing you don't need to outfit your deer rifle with 100-round clips – clips that don't exist on this planet.

He talked about how we need to ban AR-15 "assault rifles" (again) to reduce gun violence, even though more Americans are



MICHAEL REAGAN
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

stabbed to death each year than are killed by rifles.

The vast majority of gun homicides – 20,000 last year, the highest in 20 years – are committed in cities with handguns – often stolen ones.

Few of those handguns were sold to the shooters by the rogue dealers whom Biden called "merchants of death" who "are breaking the law for profit."

The idea that an up-and-coming gangbanger in the Latin Kings of Chicago stops by the corner gun store to pick up a new Glock on his way to kill a rival is a liberal myth that will not die.

Gun-control nuts, Biden and the liberal media still think buying a gun over the counter is as easy as buying a six-pack, but that's only because they've never had to buy one.

Here in California, where I live, buying any kind of gun – and ammo – involves a lot of paperwork and a three-day wait for the ATF to do its background check.

My son Cameron and I buy what we need to hunt with all the time at the same gun store.

The owners know exactly who we are, but they aren't the ones who do the background check

each time we buy a box of shotgun shells – it's the government.

The gun store sends the information in and when we're approved we go and pick up the shotgun shells. That's how it works in the real world.

It's pretty clear that people like Biden who are making these decisions have never hunted and never actually had to go out and buy a pistol for protection.

They don't have to buy a gun because the people around them – their bodyguards and private security – do it.

At the end of his address Biden said something about giving high school kids a job instead of a gun when they graduate.

That was a great soundbite, I guess, if you think guns are the main cause of crime.

But what Biden should be calling for is for kids in our cities to be given a proper public education instead of the horrible one they've been getting for half a century.

About 75 percent of black and brown kids in grammar school are reported to be unable to read or do math at their grade level, yet now they're being taught critical race theory and that the country was founded on racism.

Oops, sorry. I've got to stop. The contractor is here to see if I can fix up my garage to fit an F-15.

Michael Reagan, the son of President Ronald Reagan, is an author, speaker and president of the Reagan Legacy Foundation.

Send comments to reagan@caglecartoons.com and follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

Katy Times

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CORRECTIONS:
We strive for accuracy and transparency in our reporting. If you believe that we have made a factual error in reporting, please call 281-391-3141 or email editor@katytimes.com with a link to the story in question, along with information on what you believe is factually incorrect in the reporting. Individual columns in the Katy Times do not necessarily reflect the newspaper's editorial opinion.

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"I miss the lockdown."

KATYTIMES.COM

Q&A with Katy Area EDC President Lance LaCour

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy Area Economic Development Council's motto is "energy grows here" and KAEDC President Lance LaCour and his team are working on several projects to make that motto a reality.



LANCE
LACOUR

LaCour says the goal is to continue to build the economy of the area and bring good jobs for area residents as Katy continues to grow.

Over the past year, the EDC has advocated on multiple occasions for assistance for local businesses as they faced the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to work on projects to build the region from an economic perspective.

LaCour agreed to answer questions related to the current goals for the EDC and talked about why he's decided to stick around instead of retiring as was announced a few months ago.

Q: How many projects does the EDC currently have in the works and what are some highlights of those projects?

Lacour: Currently, Katy Area EDC is working on 43 projects. The present number of projects in the pipeline is one of the highest I remember in my time with the organization.

Manufacturing and industrial sectors comprise a majority of the prospects. With the Katy area's access to affordable acreage and transportation infrastructure, we are well positioned for continued growth in both sectors.

Q: As the EDC moves forward with these projects, what sort of jobs are you trying to bring to the area and what sorts of wages are you hoping workers will receive?

Lacour: Our goal is always to

bring a diverse set of employment opportunities to our community. We have a strong talent pool with a variety of skillsets. From skilled trades to corporate jobs, we work to ensure the Katy area has a broad range of available jobs.

With that, wages vary depending on the job. However, we strive to attract well-paying jobs and continue to grow income levels in the Katy area.

Q: What sort of economic recovery are you seeing in the Katy area after the last year? What specific signs of hope are you seeing?

Lacour: Across industry sectors, we are seeing a strong bounce back from the impacts of COVID-19. In comparison to other areas, we were not initially impacted as strongly due to our highly diversified workforce. Many of our employers had the ability to pivot operations and move employees to remote work without enacting workforce reductions.

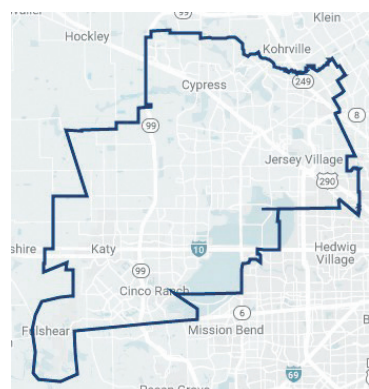
For me, the biggest thing I am excited to see is our restaurants and

entertainment venues full again. The Katy area is well-recognized for its high quality of life, and the ability for our residents to get out and enjoy what our community has to offer is a great thing. With this, we see people spending in our local communities and generating tax revenue.

Q: We had previously heard that you'd planned to retire, but have now decided to stay with the EDC for a while longer. Can you tell us what happened and what you hope to accomplish at the EDC over the next few years?

Lacour: Following my announcement that I would be leaving the organization in 2022, I had further discussions with our Board and we began succession planning. Through these discussions, and as our economic recovery from COVID-19 began to accelerate, we agreed that the best path forward was for me to continue in my role.

The Katy area community, and Katy Area EDC and its members, have given so much to me and my family. When the time does come



SOURCE: KATY AREA EDC

The Katy Area Economic Development Council works to develop the economy of the region shown above. Their coverage area includes Katy, Fulshear, Cinco Ranch, Jersey Village and Cypress and includes the I-10 corridor, FM 529 and The Grand Parkway.

for me to leave this role, I want to make sure the organization and our community is positioned as well as possible for continued success. To that point, I felt now, during the economic recovery, was not the right time to exit my role.

I look forward to continuing in my role and serving the Katy area community.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE
The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, July 21, 2021, At 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2021-02, The Application Of **Thang Tran**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5-2 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **1113 Avenue B**, In The "OKD" Old Katy District. Property Description: Lots 7 And 8 In Block 18, Harris County, Texas.

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance To The Required Off-Street Parking Requirements.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

Ordinance No. 137
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PATTISON ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR FILING WITH THE CITY OF PATTISON PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLATS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUBDIVISIONS WITHIN THE CITY AND WITHIN THE CITY'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING BUILDING DESIGN STANDARDS; REPEALING ORDINANCE # 90 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING ORDINANCE # 90 WITH THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE.

PASSED by a majority vote of the members of the City Council this 2nd day of February 2021.

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

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Ordinance No. 141
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PATTISON, TEXAS DECLARING CERTAIN ACTIONS AND CONDITIONS TO BE A NUISANCE; PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURES AND NOTICES; PROVIDING FOR CHARGING EXPENSES TO OWNER OF THE PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR ASSESSMENT OF EXPENSIVES AS A LIEN ON REAL ESTATE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$2000.00; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

PASSED by a majority vote of the members of the City Council this 16TH day of June 2021.

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DIVISION OF NEW YORK
TARASMATTI NAGESAR 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 NAGESAR; 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 P Nagassar*
Tarasmatti Nagassar

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Nottingham Country M.U.D. in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on July 15, 2021 for **Nottingham Country MUD - Greenbelt Park Trail Lighting Replacement**.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including demolition of existing pedestrian lights and disposal. Addition of new control panel, wiring, light fixtures and concrete pedestals. Patch and repair damage to existing turf and irrigation.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (Form CIQ) and Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Forms are provided with Spec Book)

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each set. **This sum is non-refundable** and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Nottingham Country M.U.D. in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2021, at 2:00 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

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

June 24 Puzzle Answers

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

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE
The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, July 21, 2021, At 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2021-01, The Application Of **Alberto Santana and Mayren Rodriguez**, Present Owners, Under Section 22.5-2 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **2121 Baylor Drive**, In An "R-1" Single Family District. Property Description: Lot 15, Block 11, Town Park Addition, Katy, Harris County, Texas.

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance To The Required Minimum Front Yard Building Setback Of Twenty-Five Feet (25') For The Proposed Encroachment Of A Front Porch Cover By 3'10".

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
The City of Pattison, Waller County has received an allocation from the American Rescue Plan Act program from the U. S. Department of Treasury and is soliciting proposals to provide administration services for the ARP Act eligible projects. Proposals must be received no later than July 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Please electronically submit your proposal in .pdf format via citysecretary@pattison.texas.gov and/or submit your proposal to City of Pattison, Waller County, City Secretary, PO Box 223, Pattison, TX 77466, on a thumb drive to the address provided. It is the responsibility of the submitting firm to ensure that the proposal is received in a timely manner. The City of Pattison, Waller County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Pattison, Waller County of City of Pattison, Waller County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
The City of Pattison/County of Waller, plans to apply for the upcoming Texas Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant(s) from the Texas Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Program of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and/or other sources, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, and/or Flood Mitigation Assistance Accordingly, the City of Pattison, Waller County is seeking to contract with a qualified engineering firm to conduct an engineering study if applicable, determine scope of work and prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections. These services are being solicited to assist the City of Pattison, Waller County, in its pre-award and post-award engineering services of its proposed HMA project(s). Please submit 1 copies of your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to City of Pattison, City Secretary, citysecretary@pattison.texas.gov. Proposals shall be received by the City of Pattison, Waller County no later than July 15, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. to be considered. The City of Pattison, Waller 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. Minority Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Pattison County of Waller is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

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GRANT SERVICES PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF PATTISON/WALLER COUNTY is soliciting service providers for one or more Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants from the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board and/or other sources, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, and/or Flood Mitigation Assistance. Accordingly, the CITY OF PATTISON /WALLER COUNTY seeks to contract with a qualified service provider for pre-award and post-award management of HMA project(s). Please submit 1 copy of your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications to Attn: CITY OF PATTISON/WALLER COUNTY, LORENE HARTFIEL, citysecretary@pattison.texas.gov. Proposals must be received by the City of Pattison/Waller County no later than 5:00 pm on July 15, 2021, to be considered. The CITY OF PATTISON/WALLER COUNTY reserves the right to negotiate with any and all proposers, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit proposals CITY OF PATTISON/WALLER COUNTY is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.



SUMMER PREP: WHAT'S NEXT FOR LOCAL TEAMS



FILE PHOTO BY DENNIS SILVA II

Paetow football coach BJ Gotte talks to his players after their blue-black spring football game on May 18, 2020, at Rhodes stadium. Gotte said he has one expectation for his players at all times – to do their best on and off the field.

Coach Gotte talks summer training for Panther football

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Paetow High School Head Football Coach and Athletic Director William "BJ" Gotte has his student athletes working hard this summer to prepare for the fall football season. He said he is excited about the level of player engagement in

his school's young football program and has them focused on skill development over the summer.

Gotte took time out of his busy practice schedule to answer questions about what he is doing to continue to build up the four-year-old school's football team while making sure each of his players has a chance to excel.

See FOOTBALL, page 8

Seven Lakes' Cataline talks strength, conditioning and the state of the team

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Seven Lakes High School Spartans girls volleyball team rocked their way to a Class 6A state championship this year led by key players like now-graduate senior Ally Battenhorst. Battenhorst is moving on now after being named national player of the year by Gatorade, but Seven Lakes Volleyball Coach Amy Cataline isn't mourning the loss of old players – she's focused on her current round of players and their summertime training.

Cataline sat down and told us a bit about what she's doing to prepare the 2021-22 team for the next season and how the community helps make a championship team.

Q: Seven Lakes had a great volleyball season this last year with seniors like Ally Battenhorst leading the team on a great record. With Battenhorst and her classmates moving on, which players are you looking at to step into leadership roles on the team?

A: We'll have three third-year lettermen that I'm looking to be strong leaders this season. We also have returners in key positions who were impact players this past season that I know will step up as well.



FILE PHOTO BY COLE MCNANNA

Seven Lakes volleyball coach Amy Cataline keeps an eye on her players at the team's Class 6A regional final match against Katy High School on Dec. 4, 2020, at the Merrell Center. Seven Lakes class of 2021 graduate Kayley Bickel said at the time that she'd never seen a coach that cares about her players as much as Cataline does.

Q: Your student-athletes faced challenges with strength and conditioning training last summer due to COVID-19.

See VOLLEYBALL, page 8

RISD SPORTS



COURTESY RISD

Jeremiah Venson signs his commitment letters with the University of Texas at Permian Basin on Feb. 2. Venson earned the football scholarship by working hard on the field over the last four years.

Royal ISD students celebrate signings and scholarships

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Two Royal ISD student athletes had reasons to celebrate during signing days hosted by the district during the 2020-21 school year. Combined, Jeremiah Venson and Madelyn Johnson took home more than \$100,000 worth of full-ride scholarships.

Venson, who earned a full football scholarship with his outstanding performance on the gridiron, has signed with the

University of Texas at Permian Basin. The scholarship is worth an estimated \$84,000 and should see Venson through his college career.

Johnson has committed to play softball for Luna Community College in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Her scholarship, worth about \$28,000, will support her studies there.

Venson and Johnson follow in the footsteps of 2020 RISD graduate Benjamin Ybarra who received an \$80,000 scholarship to Prairie View A&M University where he plays baseball.



COURTESY RISD

Madelyn Johnson became the first softball player in RISD history to sign to play college softball Dec. 12, 2020. Johnson has committed to the Luna Community College in New Mexico. In the photo above, she signs her commitment paperwork while surrounded by supporters.



COURTESY RISD

As RISD's sports program has evolved, it is developing a tradition of students earning scholarships. Here, Benjamin Ybarra signs with Prairie View A&M University for a baseball scholarship before graduating in the spring of 2020.



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VOLLEYBALL

from page 7

With the pandemic winding down, what does your strength and conditioning training look like for the summer of 2021?

A: Most of the female athletes are involved in Strength and Conditioning Camp (SAC) on campus this summer. In SAC, they are continuing to lift and do (plyometrics interval training and) running workouts Monday (through) Thursday. Many of the girls are still playing club and participating in nationals at the end of June.

Q: With a new class of freshmen and additional new student-athletes coming into Seven Lakes, what are you looking for as you consider new players to join your volleyball squad at the junior varsity and varsity levels?

A: I'm looking for players that know and love the game, work hard, and have a positive team-first attitude.

Q: No team can make it to a state championship without the support of parents and teachers that help the players maintain their athletic and academic success. What would you like to say to those parents and teachers

that helped your team excel this last season?

A: It's true -- it takes a village to help any student-athlete be successful both on and off the court. Our district leaders, school administrators, teachers, parents and community all played an integral part in our success! It was a challenging year for everyone, and so many went above and beyond to keep the athletes safe and allowed us to still have a season. We are forever grateful for the village that helped us. We wouldn't be state champs without everyone listed!

Q: As your graduating seniors move on to college-level competition, what are your hopes for them during their ongoing athletic and academic careers?

A: My hopes are that they will continue to love the game, embrace their leadership role as a student athlete on their campus, and excel on and off the court. It's an honor to be able to play at the next level and I hope they never take for granted the opportunity they earned.



FILE PHOTO BY RAY BORCHERT/RAYBORCHERTPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM

Seven Lakes volleyball coach Amy Cataline talks with her team during their Class 6A state semifinal match against San Antonio Reagan on Dec. 7 at the Merrell Center. The team went on to take home the state championship after a lot of hard work and determination that players say was inspired by Cataline.

FOOTBALL

from page 7

Q: Paetow's football program is still young but has made great progress since it started. What do you feel has been the team's biggest area of progress on the field since the campus opened in 2017?

A: The biggest factor that has contributed to our early success here at Paetow High has been the player and parent buy-in to our football program. The kids and parents have bought into what we are teaching, and their trust in us as a staff has allowed us to maximize our potential as a team.

Q: What area of play are you planning on focusing your training program on over the summer and what are you expecting from your players over the summer?

A: During the summer we focus on a few areas. During our sports-specific skill session, we have a tiered approach

that begins with a three-week phase where we focus on position-specific fundamentals. For the next four weeks, we turn our attention to the re-installation of our offensive and defensive schemes. During all seven weeks, we take time during each skills session to work on various special teams' skills as well.

The second half of our summer preparations happen during our summer strength and conditioning camp (also known as SAC). This is a seven-week program where our athletes are preparing their bodies for the physical, mental, and emotional challenges that a football season will present to them.

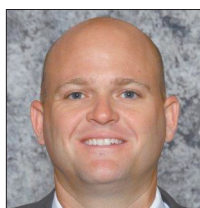
Q: As new players try out to represent the Panthers on the field, what are you looking for in terms of leadership skills and athletic ability in freshmen or players transferring in from other schools?

A: The expectations we have in our program are simple - do your best. Do your best in the classroom, do your best on the field, and do your best in the community. Every player in our program whether it is a senior who has

been part of our team from the beginning, or a freshman/transfer who has just stepped on our campus for the first time is held to the same standard. It is my job as head coach and my staff's job as coaches and educators to help each kid reach their fullest potential to be the best version of themselves on and off the field. We feel our schemes in all three phases of the game are flexible enough to maximize the strengths of each group as a whole and every athlete individually as they work through our program.

Q: As you move into this summer's strength and conditioning program, what does a typical week look like for a Paetow athlete as they work toward the fall football season?

A: We are on a four-day workweek, and we begin the day with 10th-12th-grade sport-specific skills from 6:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. After our skills session, our athletes transition to 9th-12th-grade summer strength and conditioning from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. Once summer strength and conditioning have concluded, our incoming ninth graders complete their sport-specific skills from 9:45 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.



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WILLIAM "BJ" GOTTE

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