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VOLUME 109, ISSUE 30

THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ [katytimes.com](http://katytimes.com)

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

## EDUCATION



R. HANS MILLER

As students return to Katy area campuses such as Seven Lakes High School in mid-August, many of them will be receiving additional instruction in areas of learning loss caused by the learning challenges brought about by the pandemic. Officials in both Katy and Royal ISDs said students' State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness – or STAAR – test results had dropped, though not as badly as the statewide average. Additionally, a new law requiring additional tutoring to help students catch up will go into effect when school begins.

# Schools work to address STAAR testing shortfalls

*Additional instruction will be provided to help students succeed*

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Both Katy ISD and Royal ISD officials said during their respective district's most recent trustee meeting that they had expected a decline in State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness – or STAAR – test scores. However, both also announced that they were pleased to see their students had performed better than the statewide average with minimal drops their faculties will be addressing over the next school year.

"With an understanding of all the disruptions last year, we looked at these (STAAR) scores with a new perspective," KISD Director of assessment Accountability and Research Natalie Martinez said. "Studies

showed that we would experience a decline. When we met with principals, we suggested that they draw a line between or at (a) negative four change. If an area declined by four points or less, we would consider that a reason to celebrate."

### Katy ISD

In most instances, Martinez's guideline of a negative four point change from the raw score from 2019 – the last year STAAR testing was conducted in Texas before the 2020-21 school year – to the current year's score led to that proverbial celebration. Most of the district's results showed a minimal reduction in student performance, though Martinez did say there were areas of concern that would need to be addressed.

Reading results for seventh-grade students reflected a drop of 15 points in student results across the district, according to data provided by the district. In 2018-19, 81% of students scored an Approaches or better score on the test, the minimum required to be considered passing, Martinez said. However, in 2020-21, only 66% of students met those same guidelines. KISD did perform better than the

statewide result of 74% in 2018-19 with a 19 point reduction to 54% in 2020-21.

Martinez also said Algebra I scores and seventh-grade math scores would need to be addressed with those students scoring low receiving assistance in making up for the shortfall during the next school year.

New laws will require 30 hours of tutoring in a small group environment to help students that are struggling catch up, said KISD Chief Academic Officer Christine Caskey. Plans to meet those requirements and Katy ISD's goals to help students are still in development and should be finalized soon, she said.

"There have been several meetings that we've had. We've worked very closely with the curriculum team, with the Department of School Administration on what that looks like, and right now we're working through what those details are and what that looks like on each campus," Caskey said.

### Royal ISD

Royal ISD Associate Superintendent Kendra Strange said she and her

See **TESTING**, page A3

## KATY ISD

# District saves more than \$4 million in energy expenses

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD officials said Monday that 24 of the district's campuses have earned Energy Star Certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In a press release, the district

said more than \$4 million had been saved by the district through a coordinated effort with Cenergistic, a Texas-based company focusing on helping schools save energy.

"Through approved

See **ENERGY**, page A3



R. HANS MILLER

Katy ISD has earned recognition for the district's efforts to conserve energy which have saved the district more than \$4 million to date at existing campuses. The solar panels shown above reflect the district's ongoing energy conservation at a new campus, Haskett Junior High School, which is set to open this fall. The new \$65.6 million school will see about half of its electricity provided by this solar farm which lies on the campus's eastern side.

## CRIME

# KPD arrests vehicle burglary suspects

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy Police Department announced the morning of July 22 that Ronald Pierre and Mister Mackey, Jr. along with an unidenti-

fied male minor have been arrested in connection with a series of vehicle burglaries at a hotel near Katy Mills.

"Two adult males and one juvenile male, all from

See **ARRESTS**, page A3



COURTESY KATY PD

Katy Police Department investigators confiscated the two firearms pictured above when they arrested Ronald Pierre, Mister Mackey, Jr. and an unnamed minor in association with vehicle burglaries near Katy Mills on July 21. Drug paraphernalia was also seized during the arrest.

## HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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## BACK TO SCHOOL

# School prepares to restart as student registration begins

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy and Royal ISDs are getting ready to have students back in classrooms on Aug. 18 and Aug. 19, respectively. Registration is currently underway for students as both districts ramp up for teachers to return for prep days in early August.

### Katy ISD

According to a Katy ISD press release, enrollment opened for the district on July 26 and the district's annual student update begins Aug. 2. The district is expecting more than 85,000 students to be included in its student body for the 2021-22 school year.

Enrollment is for students that are new to the district and are just beginning their KISD academic experience. These new students will need to be registered online and parents should expect to have proof of residence – a utility bill, purchasing paperwork or lease agreement for their home, birth certificate or passport of each student being enrolled, their own government-issued identification,

See **REGISTRATION**, page A3



R. HANS MILLER

McElwain Elementary School Principal Euberta Lucas spends time with a student on the first day of in-person school for the 2020-21 school year Sept. 9, 2020. Last school year was a roller coaster for many students as parents navigated safety concerns amid the first pandemic in more than a generation while trying to master the art of digital schooling, remote working and social distancing.

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AUGUST 2021 KATY AREA EVENTS

JULY 30

ENRIQUE INFANTE LIVE AT KOKAI SUSHI AND LOUNGE

If you like music, Enrique Infante will have a live show every Friday in Aug. from 6:30-10 p.m. at Kokai Sushi and Lounge located at 2404 Texmati Drive, Ste. 101 in Katy. Anyone who dines at the restaurant will be able to enjoy the music at no additional charge. For more information on the artist, visit <https://enriqueinfante.com/>.

JULY 31

WOOD & STEEL OUTLAW COUNTRY/ROOTS-ROCK

Music for your ears, Wood & Steel solo will be at Southland Bar & Grill at 5990 Stockdick Road in Katy starting at 6 p.m. Attendees can enjoy a good meal and live music with Texas roots as Kenny Karr and Sarah Cass take the stage. Free admission. Meal and drink prices vary.

AUG. 2

STEAK AND KARAOKE NIGHT

Grab a steak to brace yourself before grabbing a mic and singing your heart out at Mo's Place located at 21940 Kingsland Blvd. in Katy. Full steak dinner comes with a steak cooked to order and seasonal sides. Steak dinner: \$15.50. Free admission. Karaoke begins at 9:30 p.m.

AUG. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

LAUGH IT UP AT KATY VIBES

Katy Vibes in association with Laughing Hearts Comedy is launching comedy night every Tuesday evening from 9 p.m. until close. The open mic night is held at 24757 I-10 in Katy with food and drink available. Adult beverages are available to those 21 and older. No cover. 832-437-2807. [www.katyvibes.com](http://www.katyvibes.com).

AUG. 5

MUSIC BINGO AT THE SOCIAL PUB AND GRILL

For all music and bingo lovers, now's your chance to shine with Music Bingo night at the Social Pub and Grill at 1721 Spring Green Blvd. Ste. 700 in Katy. The game combines favorite tunes through the decades with the fun of a board game. Bingo is free to play and runs 7-9 p.m. and Texas-distilled spirits and beers are on special for those 21 and up to enjoy.

AUG. 7

BACK TO SCHOOL AND VENDOR MARKET EVENT

A vendor market event held at Shop the Shire Farmers & Artisans Market, 3719 Highway 90, Brookshire, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the first Saturday

in Aug.. There will be more than 40 vendors offering an assortment of goods along with games for adults and children to enjoy. To sign up, visit <https://bit.ly/3wTPfmb>.

AUG. 12

STATE OF HEALTHCARE

A panel and presentation about healthcare, covering mental health and chronic disease management, among other topics. It will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Embassy Suites by Hilton Houston West at 16435 I-10, Houston. Visit <https://bit.ly/3Bvp1dh> to register for the event. Half Day Member Ticket, \$40.00; Half Day Non Member Ticket, \$60.00. Full day tickets also available.

AUG. 12, 19 & 26

LAUGHTER YOGA

Head out to Willow Fork Drainage District's Central Green Park at LaCenterra for Laughter Yoga. This free event is open to anyone interested in yoga and fitness at any experience level. Bring a mat to stretch out on and learn a new and relaxing skill. Class runs 9-10 a.m. 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy.

NEAL MCCOY LIVE AT MO'S PLACE

With 10 studio albums and 34 singles in country radio, Neal McCoy will be performing live at Mo's Place at 21940 Kingsland Blvd. in Katy. Don't miss this opportunity for live music and a fun time. <https://bit.ly/3zsn7sl> Doors open at 7 p.m. and live music begins at 10 p.m. \$20 advanced tickets. \$25 day of show/door. 281-392-3499 for reserved seating.

AUG. 14

HAIR METAL MELTDOWN

The Crue and Guns N' Texas will perform live at The Wildcatter Saloon, 26913 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494. Rock out to 80s classics at the Wildcatter Saloon from 6-11 p.m. for a fantastic, action-filled performance. Tickets cost between \$10-15, and are available at <https://bit.ly/2TqF9M2>. Food prices vary. Adult beverages are available for those 21 and older.

AUG. 20

FRAMING HANLEY AT WILDCATTER SALOON

Framing Hanley with special guests Ratchet Dolls and Red Iris will be performing at Wildcatter Saloon, 26913 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494. This event will be 21 and up, and the gates will open at 6 p.m. Pre-sale tickets will be sold at [wildcattersaloon.com](http://wildcattersaloon.com)



for \$10.00 and the tickets will be \$15.00 at the door. Table reservations available for an additional \$25.

Sponsor. \$50 Prospective Members. \$25 Members. <https://bit.ly/3x1o2yh>

THE CAPITOL LIVE AT CENTRAL GREEN

Get out for an evening of live music at Central Green Park at LaCenterra at 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. in Katy. The band's style is a tribute to the funk of the 1970s when Earth Wind & Fire and Tower of Power were at their heyday. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. and goes until 9:30 p.m. Free admission. Family friendly.

AUG. 21

KATY MARKET DAY

Head out to downtown Katy for Katy Market Day, a craft fair loaded with vendors, food trucks and an opportunity to explore the antique shops and boutiques in the Old Town Katy District. This free community event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located at the intersection of Second Street and Avenue B in downtown Katy. [www.katymarketday.com](http://www.katymarketday.com). [info@katymarketday.com](mailto:info@katymarketday.com). 281-391-1993.

AUG. 26

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE YOUR GOOGLE RANKING

As the economy continues to recover, being easy to find is important for local businesses. By improving your ranking in search engines, businesses can leverage their online presence to recover more quickly. Learn the ins and outs of search engine optimization and improving social media practices at this event hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. 814 East Ave., Ste. H, Katy. \$300 Title

AUG. 27

LEE GREENWOOD IN CONCERT

Come and listen to the Grammy award-winning country musician Lee Greenwood at Central Green Park. Greenwood, who is known for his song "God Bless the U.S.A." will be performing live at the LaCenterra park in a rescheduled show that was cancelled last year due to the pandemic. Music runs 7:30-9 p.m. Katy Christian Ministries will be at the show, accepting canned goods for a charity drive. No alcohol, glass, balls or pets are allowed in the park. <https://www.centralgreenpark.com/event/lee-greenwood-in-concert/>



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Tim is a Katy-based expert on how to de-risk your retirement portfolio and assure your retirement will be guaranteed.

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know that Medicare does not cover Long-Term Care costs. According to the DHHS, possibly 70% of Americans age 65 and up may need some long-term care service or support at some point. Monthly median cost for a semi-private room in a nursing home in the U.S. was \$7,500 per month. For a private room, the cost jumps to \$8,500 per month. In-home care costs for homemaker services and for a home health aide can reach over \$4,000 a month.

Like I say, the Devil is in the details!

**Tim Davis** is a member of *Syndicated Columnists*, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management.

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SUDOKU

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

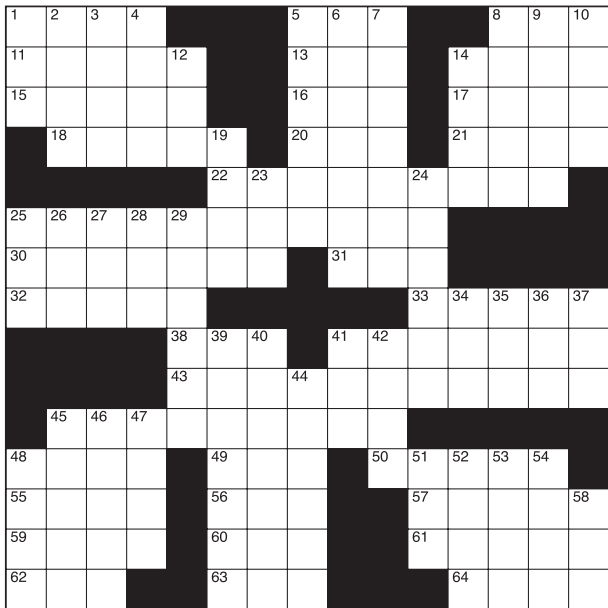
CLUES ACROSS

- Language group with Iranian influence
- No seats available
- Health insurance organization
- Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- Defunct European economic organization
- Dutch word for "language"
- Hard to penetrate
- When you'll get there
- Iranian city
- Small fishes
- Dry white wine drink
- Turkish city
- U.S.-born people
- Synthetic resin
- Major nerve in human body
- Type of recording
- Small drum
- Alters
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Venezuelan capital
- Free of deceit
- Member of Ancient Hebrew nation
- Competition
- Launch an attack on
- Cavalry sword
- Spiritual leader

- One point east of due south
- Afflicted
- Database management system
- Snake-like fish
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Small drink
- Not wet
- Impudence

CLUES DOWN

- Father
- Performed perfectly
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Thin, compact object
- One attempting to find something
- No longer working
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
- Book of Genesis character
- Volcanic craters
- Brand of American automobile (slang)
- Hip hop icon Kool Moe \_
- Bangladeshi monetary unit
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Family of genes
- Et \_; indicates further
- Pacific Standard Time
- S. American wood sorrel
- Women's \_ movement
- Chinese hoopster Ming
- Layers of rock



- Patriotic women's group
- Solid water
- Shade of brown
- Very fast airplane
- Put clothes on
- Quality of one's character
- Time zone
- Primates
- Pleasantly

- Metrical feet
- Rogue
- German river
- Relieves from
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Those who resist authority
- Criticize

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.



## REGISTRATION DESTINATION

Parents can use the resources below to ensure their children are properly registered for the 2021-22 school year. Even children who have previously attended Katy and Royal ISDs may need to update their registration information.

### Katy ISD:

#### Academic Calendar:

<https://bit.ly/3iT1f2y>

#### Registration info:

<https://bit.ly/3f2JJrm>

#### Vaccination requirements:

<https://bit.ly/3yb6Asi>

*\*Note: KISD is not requiring COVID-19 vaccinations.*

### Royal ISD:

#### Academic Calendar:

<https://bit.ly/3BP4VLt>

#### Registration info:

<https://bit.ly/3BNhTt2>

#### Registration Portal:

<https://bit.ly/3f5Briq>

#### Vaccination requirements:

[www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize)

*\*Note: RISD is not requiring COVID-19 vaccinations.*

## REGISTRATION

from page A1

each child's immunization records and a report card or transcript from each child's most recently attended school.

The annual process refreshes registration information for learners who have already attended KISD and need to bring their information current, the press release said.

"This process will allow parents and guardians the opportunity to electronically review, update, and sign all documentation for their child in one spot. All parents are required to update their student's information before the start of each school year," the district's registration website says.

To amend their child's registration, parents should visit the district's Home Access Center (<https://bit.ly/3eZKNwo>) and have all of their students' information available when logging in. The portal will allow

parents to update their children's vaccination records, address if they have moved within the district and other information that is required to serve the student's needs.

Neither Katy ISD nor Royal ISD are requiring COVID-19 vaccinations at this time. However, several vaccinations are required per state law. See the sidebar on page A3 for a link to required vaccinations for each district.

### Royal ISD

New students in Royal ISD must register no later than Aug. 13. After that time, registration will be placed on hold until 1 p.m. on Aug. 19, according to the district's website.

Before registering, parents are encouraged to have proof of residency such as a deed, RISD property tax statement, lease, or current utility bill available. Addi-

tionally, proof of required vaccinations, a social security card or similar document, birth certificate and record from the child's most recently attended school should be easily at hand for reference, per the district's registration instructions.

Kindergarten students should reach the age of 5 before Sept. 1 and Pre-Kindergarten students should be 4 years of age before that date to register for their respective grades.

Returning students will also need to register with RISD to update their academic file and show that they have met the requirements for their age and grade. This may include vaccinations and academic milestones. Parents should have their student's information available and visit the RISD Student registration portal at <https://bit.ly/3f3AIUu>.

## ARRESTS

from page A1

Louisiana, have been arrested and charged with multiple offenses, including several counts of burglary of a motor vehicle, possession of drug paraphernalia, and engaging in organized criminal activity," the KPD press release said.

Katy PD investigators had located a vehicle with three subjects in it that matched the description of individuals and a vehicle that had been observed via video cameras at nearby businesses.

The burglaries had occurred earlier in the day and the suspects were apprehended at about 2:40 p.m. Multiple weapons were seized during the arrests along with drug paraphernalia, burglary tools and clothing matching that worn by the suspects during the robberies.

At least one of the firearms had been reported as stolen in Louisiana.

Harris County Jail records indicate that Pierre remains in custody as of July 27 with bond being denied because he is an out-of-state fugitive. Two court appearances took place on July 26 and 27, and a third is set for Nov. 30.

Mackey is being held at the Harris County Jail as well with bond set at \$15,000 – an increase from the original \$2,500 bond set by the court shortly after his arrest. An expected court appearance is set for Nov. 30.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the Katy area have said that burglary of motor vehicles is one of the most common crimes impacting the region. Residents are advised to exercise caution by locking vehicles at all times, placing valuables out of sight and ensuring firearms aren't stored in vehicles overnight.

"We want the community to know that the Katy Police Department will continue to work vigorously to identify and apprehend dangerous criminals that come into our City and attempt to prey on our unsuspecting citizens, businesses, and visitors. We also ask that everyone be mindful in securing your vehicles and taking valuables with you whenever practical," the KPD statement said.



**RONALD  
PIERRE**



**MISTER  
MACKEY, JR.**

## TESTING

from page A1

staff were pleased with the results of the STAAR test. The district looks at test results as more of a reflection on teacher performance than student excellence, she said. Overall, while test scores declined for Royal students, the decline was less than those throughout Texas.

"In most of (the testing) areas, we had smaller drops than the state or the region," Royal Elementary School Principal Aronda Green said.

Representatives for the district's four campuses – elementary, junior high, STEM Academy and high school – spoke regarding their school's performance in the STAAR test for 2020-21.

Green said Spanish-language instruction in reading would need to improve, along with reading and math for most students.

Royal Junior High School students maintained their performance in reading and math, school officials said. Scores on the STAAR test either were better than or on par with reading and math score changes across the state. Similar situations were noted at both the Royal STEM Academy and the district's high school.

To address the drops in scores, Strange said the district would identify students who were not at the appropriate level for specific tests and provide them with tutoring. That supple-

mental instruction will come for some students in the form of an additional school period which she said would not increase the length of the school day. Small portions of time will be trimmed from the other class periods throughout the day in order to create time for a short additional period of tutoring.

Strange said she and the leadership team at the district had looked at the drop and compared it to the statewide averages, not to focus on the negative side, but to identify growth areas and compare themselves across the state. From a high view, she said, Royal outperformed most of the state, but she acknowledged that the district will have to work



In most years, students must pass the STAAR test in order to move on to the next grade and districts are evaluated with an A-F rating based upon student – and thus teacher – performance. However, those requirements and ratings were suspended for the 2020-21 school year due to the pandemic.

hard to regain the successes it had seen in prior years.

"I want to go into the school year with the notion that we've got to roll our sleeves up and get back to work with the work we know we have to do (to improve scores)," Strange said.

## ENERGY

from page A1

bond projects, the Katy ISD Operations Division has been able to install new equipment that is both energy-efficient and more reliable for campuses and District facilities," KISD Chief Operations Officer Ted Vierling said.

A district press release said the district has prioritized energy conservation for electricity, gas and water in order to utilize funds in more direct classroom activities that help students and teachers. The joint effort with Cenergistic has helped the district establish best practices such as fine-tuning air conditioning run times, identifying AC and lighting

schedules, overnight equipment checks, updated technology and other protocols.

The district has also committed to sustaining its efforts into future campuses and remodeled campuses. During a tour of Winborn Elementary, staff indicated that improving efficiency in both the use of space and energy was a part of the desired outcome for the district's \$676.2 million bond package passed in May. Additionally, incorporating LED lighting, efficient water fixtures and a massive solar array at Haskett Junior High, the district's newest campus expected to open this fall, are ways the district is looking to

be more efficient from an energy and environmental perspective. The solar array is expected to meet about half of Haskett's electrical needs.

Vierling said that making simple changes and being aware of best practices help the district save money which is good for the environment and the district's proverbial pocket-book.

"Small changes such as upgrading lighting from old technology to light-emitting diode to larger adjustments such as replacing boilers and chillers have improved efficiency for both energy and water consumption," Vierling said.

## ENERGY SAVERS

The campuses below have been awarded the Energy Star Certification by the federal government in recognition of efforts at each campus to conserve energy.



Alexander Elementary  
Bear Creek Elementary  
Cimarron Elementary  
Creech Elementary  
Davidson Elementary  
Fielder Elementary  
Golbow Elementary  
Griffin Elementary  
Hayes Elementary  
Jenks Elementary  
Leonard Elementary  
McDonald Jr. High

McMeans Jr. High  
McRoberts Elementary  
Memorial Parkway Jr. High  
Randolph Elementary  
Shafer Elementary  
Sundown Elementary  
Tays Jr. High  
Tompkins High  
Williams Elementary  
Wilson Elementary  
Wolfe Elementary  
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# Fun in the sun could mean problems later

Summer is now upon us and many of us are looking forward to enjoying some “fun in the sun”. Spending time outside is a great way to be physically active, reduce stress, and spend time with loved ones. However, without properly protecting your skin from the sun, you are inadvertently increasing your risk of skin cancer. And let’s not forget about those other undesirable physical signs of sun damage: wrinkles, discoloration, and leathery appearing skin. Remember, your skin is the largest organ in your body. Show it some love!

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States, affecting 1 in 5 people during their lifetime. The incidence of melanoma skin cancer, the most fatal form of skin cancer, is increasing faster than any other potentially preventable cancer in the US. So, it is important to understand that most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light. UV rays come from the sun as well as tanning beds and directly cause damage to skin cells. Sun damage occurs with each unprotected sun exposure and accumulates over the course of a lifetime. It is this progressive accumulation of sun exposure that increases the risk of skin cancer. It’s quite simple: if we can prevent sun damage to the skin, then we can prevent most skin cancers. But have no worries, you can still protect yourself from the sun’s damaging effects while still enjoying yourself outdoors.

The immediate danger of too much sun is a sunburn which results in the dreaded and painful first-degree burns that many of us are all too familiar with. Often, folks will use just enough SPF to avoid sunburn, but protection from sunburn is not the most important reason for wearing sunscreen. Your skin can be harmed from continued sun exposure whether you see a burn or not.



DR. GENNA LUBRANO

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Therefore everyone, despite the individual’s tendency to burn, should be protecting themselves from UV rays. Also, it is important that this is done all year, not just during the summer. UV rays can reach you even on cloudiest or coolest of days and can reflect off surfaces such as water and snow.

Staying out of the sun completely is the best way to avoid sun damage; however, for most of us this is not practical. So, if you plan on going outside, you should take these precautions:

- Always wear sunscreen. Apply it on your skin every day. Make it a habit just as you do with brushing your teeth. Use a minimum SPF 30. Be sure to cover all exposed areas, and don’t forget your ears, eyelids, lips, and back of your hands. Apply every 2 hours while you are outdoors. Apply more frequently if you perspire or get wet.
- Avoid sun in the middle of the day, from about 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The ultraviolet rays which cause skin damage are strongest during this time.
- Wear protective clothing when you do go outdoors for long periods. For example, a long-sleeved shirt, pants, and a wide-brimmed hat will protect your body against the sun’s harmful effects.

Daily skin protection from the sun is an imperative component of a healthy, skin cancer-free lifestyle. So, show your skin some love by incorporating the above precautions into your daily routine.

**Genna Lubrano, MD is a native Houstonian with the OakBend Medical Group. To request an appointment to see Dr. Lubrano call 281-497-0296.**

# OPINION



## Keep Austin's doughnuts weird

Austin, Texas, is a city of paradoxes. It’s the capital of one of the most conservative states in the country – a state where you’ll probably feel out of place in some localities if you don’t conceal a firearm in your undergarments, yet Austin is a city widely known for its ultra-liberal social mores that allow some folks to feel comfortable strolling (or staggering) around downtown wearing nothing BUT their undergarments – if that much.

Speaking of downtown Austin, I recently accompanied a friend of mine to the state capitol, ostensibly to help him relocate the contents of an office, but it was really just an excuse for us to find new ways to commit acts of insurrection against our waistbands.

Our food tour started on Austin’s famous 6th street, known for its bars, clubs, restaurants, and various bodily fluids. In fact, this fair avenue has echoes (and aromas) of upper Bourbon Street in New Orleans, but with less professional nudity.

Due to the recent mass shooting there, I was somewhat reluctant to go traipsing around “Dirty 6th” – even at 10:00 a.m. – but since my friend is a former Army medic with biceps as big around as my torso, I figured we’d be all right. Besides, our first objective was doughnuts, and no national crime wave was going to stand between us and the dear leader of fried carbohydrates.

Specifically, we were headed to Voodoo Doughnut, a mashup of a gourmet doughnut shop, a punk rock concert and a psychedelic cartoon. Sticking out like a sore thumb wearing bright pink nail polish, the



JASE GRAVES

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Voodoo Doughnut storefront was partially obscured by the official 6th Street welcoming committee of several half-naked panhandlers (or possibly hungover University of Texas students). Either way, none of them accepted credit cards.

Since I had previously sampled the unconventional delights of the Voodoo Doughnut location on Colfax Avenue in Denver, Colorado, I knew exactly how to punish my pancreas in this place. I ordered the Grape Ape (a vanilla glazed doughnut with a dusting of what tastes like a purple Pixie Stick), the O Captain, My Captain (a vanilla glazed doughnut festooned with Crunch Berries cereal), and the Voodoo Doll (a humanoid-shaped chocolate glazed doughnut filled with raspberry “blood” and featuring a pretzel stick for a stake). In the spirit of Austin’s progressive attitude toward indecent exposure, I may or may not have taken a dare and also purchased an off-menu body-part-shaped doughnut that only a junior high delinquent (or two grown man-type persons) would find funny.

My friend is currently on a strict dieting program, so he limited his order to a Voodoo Doll and a

Maple Bacon Bar (a maple-frosted bar topped with two massive strips of bacon). Our arteries still aren’t speaking to us.

After our office-moving job, we decided to identify as hungry again for lunch at the legendary Hula Hut on Lake Austin. This Hawaiian-themed Tex-Mex joint has several open-air dining areas offering us fantastic views of the water and lakeside homes that cost even more than a school-clothes shopping trip with my three teen daughters. I decided to eat light this time, so I had the Chicken and Guacamole Tubular Taco that was roughly the size of my right leg, served by a cordial but beleaguered bartender who appeared to have spent the previous evening on 6th street and may very well have had Voodoo Doughnut’s Maple Blazer Blunt for breakfast.

We spent the drive back to Northeast Texas vigorously (and loudly) digesting while rocking out to 1980’s hair bands. We made only one stop—at the world-renowned Round Rock Donuts for some of their unique and delectable orange/yellow glazed donuts because . . . donuts.

When I arrived home, I needed a hot shower, a 50-gallon drum of Pepto Bismol, and a marathon prayer meeting. It was a good day with a great friend and some delicious, death-hastening cuisine.

If you get the chance, go down to Austin and sample the weirdness yourself. After an appointment with your gastroenterologist and your local pastor, you’ll be back to feeling normal in no time.

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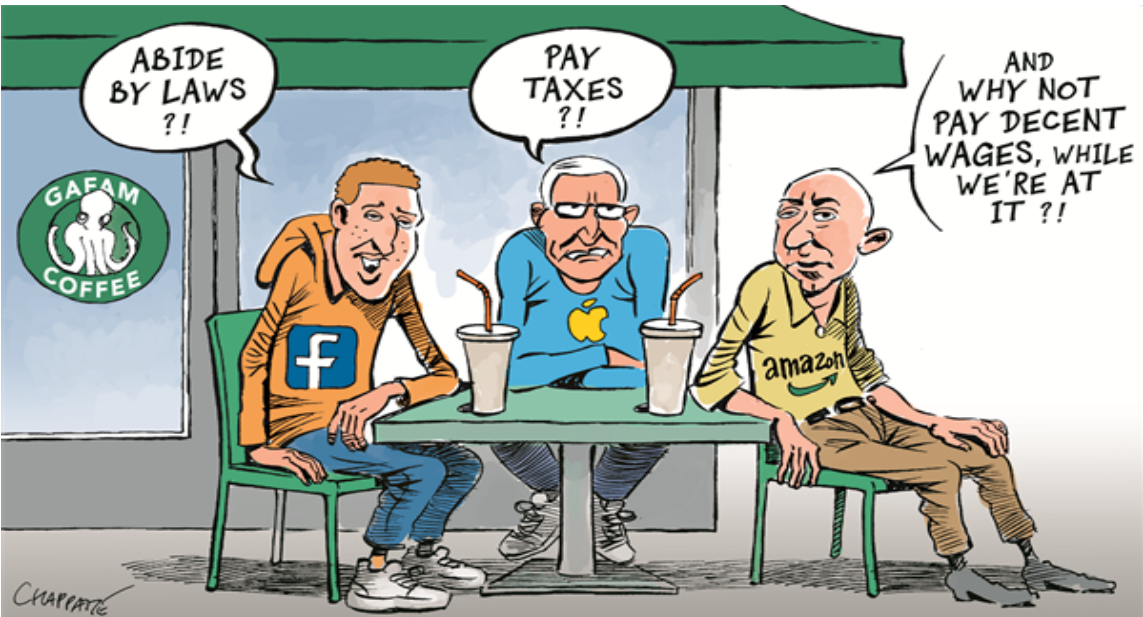
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KATYTIMES.COM

# Katy welcomes newest ice cream shop

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

A hot day, with hundreds of people standing outside in the Texas sun—it couldn't have been a better day to open an ice cream store in the Katy area. And sure enough, such a store did.

Howdy Homemade Ice Cream at 20920 I-10 in Katy is known not just for the 18 flavors of ice cream it sells to the public. It is also known for hiring workers with special needs.

One of those employees is Trey Brandt, 25, who was born with Down Syndrome. The condition, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, is genetic and causes physical and developmental issues which can range from mild to severe.

Brandt said he has been with Howdy Homemade for a while after learning of it from his brother's best friend. And while the store is known for employing those with special needs, friendliness and many smiles were what stood out at Thursday's opening.

"I love it," Brandt said. "I've made friends with a lot of people."

The store opened with a rope cutting, befitting its membership in the Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner did the honors.

Turner said he "had to attend" the opening when he thought of how a store such as Howdy Homemade employs people with special needs. He said he hoped that the Katy-area location would be the first of many such locations in the Southeast Texas region.

The Katy area location is the third of three locations in the United States. The other two are in Dallas, which is the corporate headquarters, and Asheville, N.C.

The opening drew a large crowd not only because of the ice cream and who was serving it, but also because of one of the store's supporters. Houston rap artist Trae the Truth has supported the business, among other charitable causes. Many fans attending the opening had their chance to meet and pose for photos with him.

Local realtor Tracy King's firm, The Howdy Group, served as a sponsor. She said she contacted store owner Rodrick Batson a few weeks ago and asked if there was something her firm might do to help.

The sponsorship took a "Howdy helping Howdy" theme where The Howdy Group donated a dollar for each scoop of ice cream sold Thursday.

"I worked in special needs in my previous career, and absolutely loved it," King said. "We love the



PHOTO COURTESY GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Houston rap artist Trae the Truth poses with a youngster, whose father told the rapper that the child was named in Trae's honor.

company; we love their view and everything. We're super-excited to be a part of it any way we can."

King said she hoped to try the Dr Pepper Chocolate Chip ice cream. The HEB grocery store chain is expected to carry the flavor later this year on its shelves, Batson said.

Katy City Council Member Gina Hicks also attended the ceremony.

"I think it's great. It's a great turnout. I really love their mission. I have a couple of friends who are heroes here," Hicks said, referring to the shop's employees.

Hicks enjoyed a small cup of the Cold Brew and Cookies ice cream. The store features 18 flavors for customers to enjoy.

"It's homemade daily, and you can't beat that," Hicks said.

Brandt spoke for his colleagues when looking at the many who came for ice cream.

"I think this opening is perfect," Brandt said. "I love it. It's Howdy Homemade. Welcome to Howdy, and come on in."



PHOTO COURTESY GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner enjoys some cinnamon ice cream at Howdy Homemade Ice Cream. He said the ice cream looked good and tasted even better.



The Howdy Homemade Ice Cream store menu, which features a variety of flavors to enjoy.

PHOTO COURTESY  
GEORGE SLAUGHTER



PHOTO COURTESY HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE PCT. 5

Harris County Constable for Precinct 5 Ted Heap poses with staff at Howdy Homemade Ice Cream. Heap is a long-time supporter of those with developmental disabilities and coaches Special Olympics athletes.

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# U.S. Rice Producers Assn. names new CEO

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Board of Directors of the U.S. Rice Producers Association has named Marcela Garcia as the new president and CEO of the organization, replacing Dwight Roberts, whose tenure ends Aug. 1. Garcia has previously served as the chief operating officer for the organization and as the director of the Rice Market & Technology Convention for about a decade.

"Several years ago, Marcela assumed a number of leadership roles for the USRPA, and her extensive knowledge and rice trade relationships throughout the Western Hemisphere will serve our rice farmers extremely well," Roberts said. The USRPA is an association of rice producers in

Texas, Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Missouri and is the only national rice producers organization made up of producers in all six rice-producing states, according to a USRPA press release.

The organization also elected new officers. East Texas rice farmer Neal Stoesser of Dayton, Texas will serve as vice-chairman while Alex Clark of Poplar Bluff, Missouri was elected chairman. Dustin Watkins

from Welsh, Louisiana is now secretary-treasurer. "We have young, talented rice farmers coming onto our board of directors with our new generation of staff talent, USRPA is ready to lean into the future," said Roberts, who had served at the head of the association for 23 years.



MARCELA GARCIA  
CEO, U.S. Rice Producers Association

## SUSPECT SOUGHT



BROOKSHIRE PD

The Brookshire Police Department announced via social media that Brando Vontrae Burr is wanted for multiple felony counts after a two-month investigation led to a search warrant being issued for his residence at 3203 Fourth Street in Brookshire. During the search, officers discovered 8 grams of crack cocaine, 28 grams of PCP — also known as phencyclidine — 9 grams of hydroponic marijuana and a stolen 9 millimeter pistol. Anyone with information related to Burr's whereabouts should contact the Brookshire Police Department at 281-375-5000.

## CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

BY GARY BORDERS  
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Texas Workforce Commission released June employment figures that showed Texas employers added nearly 56,000 jobs in June, while the unemployment rate dropped to 6.5%.

"The Texas economy is booming," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement. "Businesses are investing in the Lone Star State at a record pace because we've built a framework that allows free enterprise to flourish and hardworking Texans to prosper."

TWC's latest statistics show that the leisure and hospitality industry led all others in job growth, adding more than 19,000 jobs. Education and health services employment ranked second, adding 9,500 jobs in June.



STOCK PHOTO BY ANDREA PIACQUADIO/PEXELS

Job numbers at the state level indicate a rise in employment with 56,000 jobs added to the Texas economy in June with more than 19,000 of those jobs in the hospitality industry as restaurants and similar businesses find ways to entice employees to come work for them.

the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University along with 190 deaths, flat compared to the previous week. However, hospitalizations continue to spike, with DSHS reporting 4,137 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas, up more than 30 percent from the previous week.

The number of Texans fully vaccinated rose slightly to 12.51 million, about 43 percent of the state's population. As the delta variant spreads, the state's positivity rate has exceeded 10% for the first time since February.

### 1 As cases rise, new pop-up vaccine sites announced

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise again in Texas, largely spurred by the highly contagious delta variant. The Texas Department of State Health Services is again hitting the road to encourage folks to get vaccinated.

Rates of those who are fully inoculated continue to lag, particularly in younger populations. DSHS will hold 18 pop-up events at Walmart locations across the state to talk with parents and families about the importance of vaccination for younger Texans as they prepare for next school year and as the Delta variant spreads more widely in Texas. The DSHS pop-ups last four hours each day and will travel around the state through the first week of August. The events feature a 16-foot video wall, a "Take the Shot" basketball game, and free frozen treats.

COVID-19 cases the past week in Texas continue to rise sharply, up 60% from the previous week, when cases nearly doubled. A total of 36,451 cases were reported by

### 2 PUC, ERCOT update consumers on grid reliability

In a joint press conference last Thursday, the chairman of the Public Utility Commission and the interim CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas outlined steps their organizations are taking to improve electric grid reliability during the dog days of summer.

The PUC oversees ERCOT, which is responsible for maintaining the electric grid. ERCOT has drawn heat after the widespread blackouts during the February winter storm, and subsequently pleading for less energy consumption during an early summer heat wave.

## Workforce commission announces job surge, and 3 other Texas issues

"We expect there is sufficient generation to meet summer 2021 electric demand; however, there may be times when we will call on customers to conserve just as other grid operators across the country and around the world do. It's just another tool in the toolbox," Brad Jones, ERCOT interim CEO, said. "In response to a conservation notice, Texans may need to take some simple steps for a limited duration — such as doing laundry in the morning or running the pool pump at night instead of the afternoon — to ensure grid reliability."

Abbott recently issued executive orders directing the PUC and ERCOT to improve grid reliability. Critics say the measures passed in the last regular session to address the issue fall short of what is needed to ensure another grid failure doesn't occur.

### 3 Texas Democrats still holed up in D.C.

More than 50 Texas Democratic legislators remain holed up in a Washington, D.C. hotel, blocking an effort by Republicans to pass more restrictive voting laws during the present special session since state law requires at least 100 reps to have a quorum.

The legislators have been meeting with national Democratic leaders, such as Vice President Kamala Harris, but also dealing with an outbreak of COVID-19 among its members, according to KUT. At least a half dozen legislators, who say they were already vaccinated, have tested positive for the virus while in the nation's capital.

The legislators are pushing for federal voting legislation, called the For the People Act, which has already passed the U.S. House but remains bottled up in the Senate. Without changes to the Senate filibuster rule, passage seems unlikely. The special session in Austin ends Aug. 7, but Abbott has vowed to call another one if the Democrats remain absent, effectively stopping any legislation from passing.

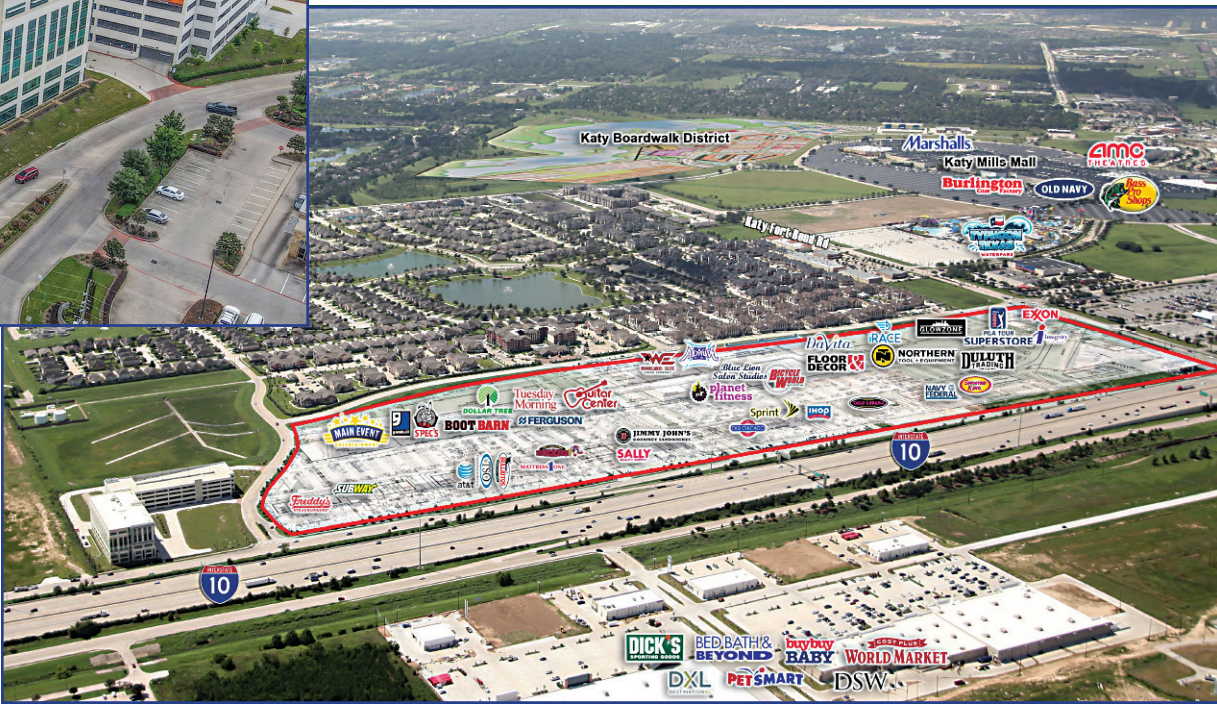
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## Katy's Brome ready for next step with Red Raiders

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The recruitment process wasn't always easy for Ryan Brome.

Despite having over a .400 batting average his junior year, he was not getting recruited like he expected going into his senior season.

"I had been hitting really well going all the way back to the summer after my sophomore year," Brome said. "I had the numbers but the exposure didn't really come. A lot of that has to do with COVID-19 and no one being able to come out and see people in person. I had to stay patient, keep a good mindset and hope something would

come along."

The 6-foot 2-inch 202 pound Katy High graduate had a strong senior season, where he hit .442 and had 35 RBIs and six home runs. But hadn't received the attention he thought he deserved from power five programs. He held off on signing with any school going into the summer and played the waiting game.

That patience finally paid off, as Brome signed to play at Texas Tech University in Lubbock on July 16.

"It was a really good feeling when they offered me a scholarship," Brome said. "They stayed true to their word. They had told me that after the draft they wanted me up for an official visit,

and they called me the night of the last round of the draft. I was in California and had plans to go to Disneyland, but I immediately canceled so I could get there."

The Red Raiders and head coach Tim Tadlock had been courting Brome since the beginning of the season, offering him a walk-on opportunity earlier in the year. After the MLB draft scholarships opened up they invited him for an official visit and offered him a scholarship.

Brome, who had been verbally committed to Alvin Junior College, jumped at the opportunity.

"Everything there was so awesome,"

See **BROME**, page B6



Katy High seniors Ryan Brome and Caleb Matthews pose for a portrait after a win over Cinco Ranch on March 16.

KATY TIMES FILE PHOTO



A young soccer player takes a shot in a practice at Pure Soccer Katy.

PHOTO COURTESY ERIC HERRERA

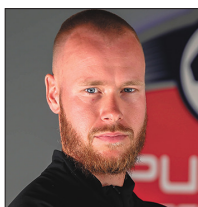
## Pure Soccer Katy playing role in promoting soccer locally

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Two Europeans-turned-Texans are helping soccer become more popular in Katy.

Everick Stoelwinder and Stuart McKenzie are both from Europe. Stoelwinder is from the Netherlands, where he said there is a strong interest in soccer. Many academies exist there where people can learn to play the game.

McKenzie is from Scotland. He is a fan of Rangers Football Club of the Scottish



EVERICK  
STOELWINDER



STUART  
MCKENZIE

Premier League. The Rangers have won more trophies than any other professional soccer club. He also follows Liverpool

Football Club of the English Premier League.

Like so many others, Stoelwinder and McKenzie came to Katy as part of the oil and gas industry. An economic downturn found them wondering what to do for and McKenzie found what he called a "Plan B."

Both men have a passion for soccer, they saw its growing popularity. People follow their favorite foreign teams on television. McKenzie believes in the next five

See **PURE SOCCER**, page B5

## Carpentier steps in as Royal cross country, basketball coach

BY MELANI ALANIS  
EDITORIAL INTERN

Royal High School will be experiencing changes within its Athletics Department for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

One notable change that Royal ISD will be implementing is the replacement of the retiring cross country coach, Robert Weber, with a new coach, David Carpentier.

"When you do something that long, 36 years, you're going to miss it," Weber said. "I'm going to miss the kids, the meets, the workouts, and most of all being around them and trying to make them better," Weber said.

See **ROYAL**, page B3



MELANI ALANIS

RISD Cross Country and Basketball Head Coach David Carpentier

## Registration underway for Katy Youth Soccer Club fall season



Katy youth soccer players congratulate each other after a match. Officials said the Katy Youth Soccer Club is seeking volunteer coaches to lead teams and referees to officiate matches.

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

For Katy youth soccer enthusiasts, it's easy to see the excitement for the upcoming season. But predicting the number of kids signing up to play is another matter.

"It has been hard to predict since the start of the Fall 2020 season," Katy Youth Soccer Club president Rhaylyn Fisher said. "We haven't gotten back up to the numbers we had pre-COVID-19, but we have steadily grown every season in numbers."

Fisher said Katy Youth Soccer Club's biggest goal was to give kids a chance to play soccer. But as has been the case everywhere else, the pandemic affected things.

"By following STYSA (South Texas Youth Soccer Association) and the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines, we were able to start back up in the Fall 2020 season with some restrictions and policies in place," Fisher said. "It was a challenge as a board to make sure that we created a safe environment for the players and their families, but I believe that we were able to achieve this."

For 2021, officials continue to recommend that coaches and players bring and use their own hand sanitizer. Officials also continue to recommend social distancing this season.

Fisher said team sideline areas must be clean after each game. She said coaches should have an

assistant coach or a team parent help with these tasks.

Players must bring their own water or drinks, as drink sharing is discouraged. Coaches or parents must clean team balls and equipment after practices and games.

Registrations are being accepted both online at the website <http://www.katyouthsoccer.com> and in-person.

When registering online, families must create a new family account, from which it can add each of its players.

One walk-up registration session took place earlier this month. Another walk-up registration

See **YOUTH SOCCER**, page B2

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# Lawmakers file bill to block UT from leaving Big 12

BY HEIDI PÉREZ-MORENO  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

A group of Texas lawmakers filed legislation Friday that would prohibit Texas public colleges and universities from switching their affiliations with collegiate athletic conferences without approval from the Legislature.

The move is in response to reports that the University of Texas and the University of Oklahoma are preparing to exit the Big 12 in a bid to join the Southeastern Conference.

House Bill 298 — filed by Rep. Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock — has more than 30 co-authors but is effectively a symbolic move to express the lawmakers' displeasure. The bill is unrelated to any of the topics placed on Gov. Greg Abbott's special session agenda, which means it's ineligible to be passed into law.

Even if Abbott, a UT alumnus, added the football legislation to the special session call, it would likely be fruitless as the Legislature has been ground to a halt because Democrats absconded to Washington, D.C., 11 days ago to break the House quorum and block a GOP voting bill.

Burrows, who received his law degree and MBA from Texas Tech, said in a press release that Texas universities play a significant role in the economic development, tourism and overall prominence of their respective regions.

"A decision to switch to a different athletic conference affects the opportunity and stability of our publicly-funded universities across the state and must be fully vetted in the most transparent and comprehensive manner possible,"



PHOTO BY EDDIE GASPAR/THE DAILY TEXAN

The University of Texas and University of Oklahoma notified the Big 12 that they did not intend to renew its grant of media rights that expire in 2025.

he said.

Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, a Baylor University alumnus, also signed on to the bill. Leach was among a small group of lawmakers who met with Abbott's office Thursday to discuss objections to the move. Abbott's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Leach said in a statement Friday that decisions related to conference realignments could "potentially have monumental impacts on the entire State of Texas."

"The effects could be devastating," Leach wrote. "Such important

decisions must not be made by a select few behind closed doors, nor should they be unduly impacted by out-of-state interests who have little care or concern for the people of Texas."

Burrows also said there would be companion legislation filed in the Senate by Sens. Brian Birdwell, a Lamar University alumnus; Lois Kolkhorst, a former Texas Christian University athlete; and Charles Perry, a Texas Tech graduate.

"The exceptionalism of the great state of Texas must not be left in the hands of a few but is a

responsibility to be shared by all," Burrows said.

Burrows did not respond to requests for comment Friday.

If UT and OU were to leave the Big 12, it would have drastic effects on the remaining Texas schools that are part of the conference, such as TCU, Baylor and Texas Tech.

The size and scope of the two schools' football programs help drive television revenue and interest for all of the teams in the conference. SEC paid participating schools \$44.6 million last year from television rights fees, and the

Big 12 paid \$38.3 million, according to reporting from the Houston Chronicle.

This isn't the first time UT has pondered leaving the Big 12. It happened 11 years ago when it considered leaving alongside Texas A&M for the Pac-12 conference, until the Big 12 offered a bigger league payout.

Texas A&M left in 2011 for the SEC. Texas A&M athletic director Ross Bjork told the Chronicle on Wednesday that the Aggies' stance is clear: A&M wants to be the only program from the SEC in the state of Texas.

"A&M is a flagship university, and with the size and scale of our place, we should have our own stand-alone identity in our own conference," he said.

If UT and OU were to join, 16 schools would be part of the SEC and make it the first national super-conference.

Cassandra Pollock contributed to this report.

Disclosure: Baylor University, Lamar University and Texas Christian University have been financial supporters of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune's journalism. Find a complete list of them here.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/07/23/texas-legislature-ut-big-12-sec/>. The Texas Tribune is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at [texastribune.org](http://texastribune.org).



PHOTO COURTESY RHAYLYN FISHER

A Katy girls soccer team celebrates its 2020 championship. The Katy Youth Soccer Club offers chances for kids ages 5-19 to learn and play the sport.

***"I was able to have conversations with a lot of different families about their struggles and triumphs throughout the pandemic and observe them relax just a little while they were able to watch their children play."***

RHAYLYN FISHER, KATY YOUTH SOCCER CLUB PRESIDENT



KATY YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

Katy youth soccer clubs play a match. The Katy Youth Soccer Club is accepting registrations for its fall season.

## YOUTH SOCCER

from page B1

session is set for 10-11 a.m. Saturday at Pure Soccer Katy, 25730 Westheimer Pkwy.

Pure Soccer Katy co-owner Stuart McKenzie said it has tried to collaborate with Katy Youth Soccer.

"We've always had a good relationship, and it works both ways," McKenzie said.

Online registration closes Aug. 1. Coaches will notify players by Aug. 29. First games are set for Sept. 11.

Registration fees range from \$110-\$140, depending on the age of the player.

### Coaches and referees sought

Fisher said Katy Youth Soccer Club relies on volunteer coaches to lead teams.

"We are always looking for coaches, for all age groups," Fisher said. "I have always loved this because it really creates a more family environment."

Coaches, managers, and team officials must register and pass a background check. They must also complete SafeSport training modules and CDC Heads-Up Concussion Awareness training.

"A perk of becoming a coach is that you are able to decide when and where the team's practices are being held," Fisher said. "This is an incentive for a lot of our coaches. I also want to say that you do not need to have soccer experience to be able to coach your son

or daughter's team. We are looking for coaches that are enthusiastic and help us foster a love of the game."

The club is also seeking referees. Fisher said it can be a rewarding experience. It could also help players and adults make some extra spending money.

"It's the best seat in the house," Fisher said. "You do have to be certified, so this will involve taking a certification class with a field component, but it is something that a lot of our players, age 13 and over, take advantage of. One plus for players that become referees is that they expand their knowledge of the game."

The best part of youth soccer is the chance it gives families to make memories. Fisher has her memories from last season.

"I was able to have conversations with a lot of different families about their struggles and triumphs throughout the pandemic and observe them relax just a little while they were able to watch their children play," Fisher said. "It truly is an honor and privilege to be a part of this club. To be allowed the opportunity to become a small part of these players journeys and to watch them grow season after season has been truly special."

For more information and to register online, visit the website <http://www.katyouthsoccer.com>.

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# Houston athletes ready for Olympic Games

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Five athletes who attend or have attended The University of Houston will compete in Tokyo at the Olympic Games. The games

take place July 23- Aug. 8. It will be the first Olympics for all five of Brianne Bethel, Tristan Evelyn, Mario Burke, Shaun Maswanganyi and Micaela Bouter. Bethel and Evelyn will compete for the Bahamas.

Bethel qualified in the 200-meter dash and 1600-meter relay. She won two American Athletic Conference Titles and eared the women's most valuable performance at the AAC meet. Evelyn will compete in the 100-meter dash.

Evelyn helped the UH women score their first points at the NCAA Championships since 2012 as part of the 400-meter relay team. Burke will compete in both the 100 and 200-meter dash for Barbados; he is a

10-time all American and NCAA Champion in the 400-meter relay. Maswanganyi and Bouter will represent South Africa. Maswanganyi, who earned three All-America honors as a freshman this

year, will compete in the 100 and 200-meter dash as well as the 400-meter relay. Bouter will compete in the 3-Meter springboard; she was the 2016-17 American Athletic Conference Most Outstanding Diver.

## ROYAL

from page B1

Carpentier, who is also taking over as the head boys basketball coach, is coming over from Travis High School in Fort Bend and is new to the district.

"The new coach is a basketball coach, and it'll be his first year as a cross country coach, but I think that he'll do a good job and that he'll also bring in some basketball players to this sport," said Assistant Cross Country Coach Craig Rollins.

Weber or 'Webdog,' as the student-athletes like to call him, is currently training and helping out as much as he can before he decides to retire.

"We come out here and do our warm-up and show him what we usually do, run a mile, do the active stretching, we do the same routine every day, we don't change the warm-up routine and then we go straight to our workout," Weber said. "We've been putting in some mileage, but it's more intense this month so we go hard one day, easy, hard one day, easy, we try to mix it up, so I try to help coach as much as I can with that," Weber said.

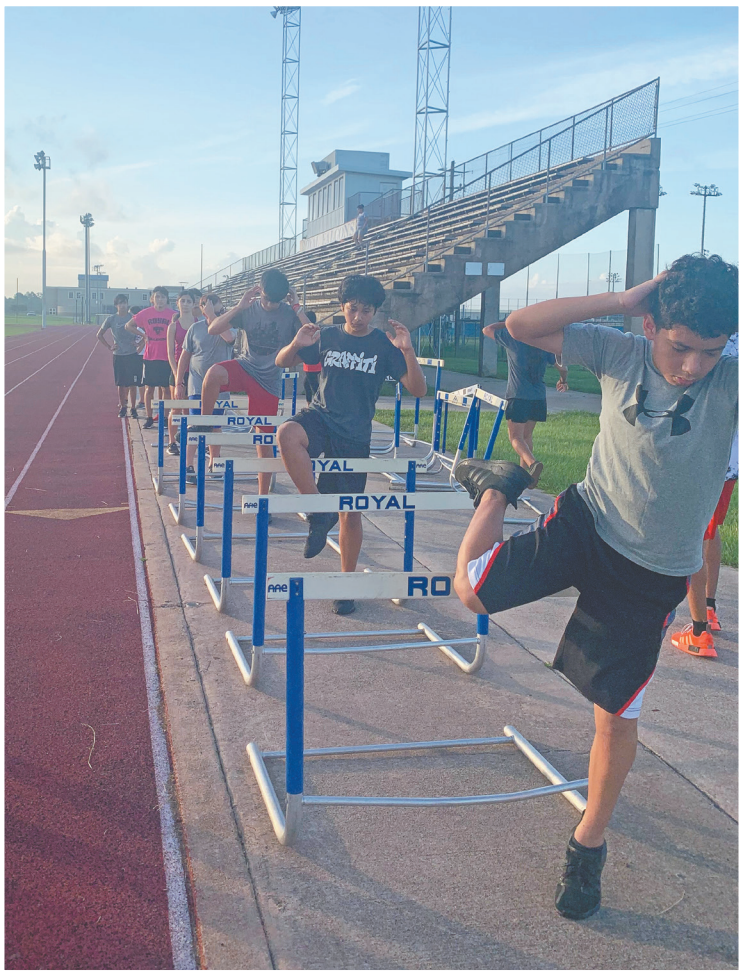
Coach Carpentier is anticipating the arrival of the cross country season and from practice, he said that the athletes to look out for are sophomore Miguel Hernandez and junior Vladimir Moreno.

"They've been out here working hard every day getting up early," Coach Carpentier said. "The goal is just to get better each day so that by the time that the district meet rolls around they perform to the best of their abilities."

The student-athletes will miss Weber but are looking forward to the season.

"Cross country is a really fun but rigorous sport, and Coach Weber always tells us that it's the hardest sport out there but that's why it's so much fun," Vladimir said.

While the replacement cross country coach is new



***"The new coach is a basketball coach, and it'll be his first year as a cross country coach, but I think that he'll do a good job and that he'll also bring in some basketball players to this sport."***

CRAIG ROLLINS, ASSISTANT CROSS COUNTRY COACH

to coaching the sport, Weber is confident that he'll get used to it and enjoy getting to know the students.

"I think he's going to do a good job, and with him being the head basketball coach, he is very competitive, and I know that he'll do the same here," Weber said. The athletes have been

putting in the work and are anxious to see how the cross country season will look.

"The kids are a good group of kids, they work hard, that's all you can ask for," Carpentier said. "For them to work hard and show up every day and to push themselves and that's what they've been doing."



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MELANI ALANIS

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Becky L. McGrew  
City Secretary  
City of Katy, Texas

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN **ORDINANCE NO. 2995** BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON JULY 12, 2021:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, AMENDING ARTICLE 3.02 "TECHNICAL CODES AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS" OF CHAPTER 3 "BUILDING REGULATIONS", OF THE CITY OF KATY CODE OF ORDINANCES; CREATING A NEW "DIVISION 11 STRUCTURES LOCATED IN KATY HERITAGE PARK"; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL TODAY! 281-391-3141

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

Sale to be held ONLINE AUCTION [Storagetreasures.com](http://Storagetreasures.com).

The facility Bear Creek Mini Storage is located at, 17730 Keith Harrow Blvd, Houston, TX 77084 Bidding will open at 10:00 am on July 29, 2021 and end at 12:00 pm on August 19, 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: Tebria Reich, Jessica Lee Black, Christopher Page, Craig Roberts, Octavia Pradia, Jose Navarrete, Rowan & Jon Hirst, Michael Aregawi, Baldemar Benavides.

CITY OF PATTISON, TX  
INCORPORATED 1972

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](mailto:citysecretary@pattison.texas.gov). Proposals must be received by the City of Pattison/Waller County no later than 5:00 pm on August 5, 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 petición.

SUBSCRIBE! 281-391-3141

COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE  
INVITATION TO BID

The County of Waller proposes to enter into contract for the following items on competitive bid:

Hot-Mix Asphaltic Concrete Pavement  
(HMAC) Installation

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., August 16, 2021 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. August 18, 2021, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on August 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.

A contract shall not be awarded to a bidder who is not the lowest dollar bidder meeting specifications unless, before the award, each lower bidder is given notice of the proposed award, and is given an opportunity to appear before the Commissioners' Court and present evidence concerning the lower bidder's responsibility.

Bid award shall be based on either unit price or lump sum as indicated on the BID SHEET.

Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County.

Bid Forms may be downloaded from the  
Waller County web site at  
<https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/BidsAndProposalRequests>.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN **ORDINANCE NO. 2987** BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON JUNE 28, 2021:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS ORDINANCE NO. 621; CREATING "KATY COURT" PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, APPROXIMATELY 110 ACRES, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND RESTRICTED COMMERCIAL USE DEVELOPMENT LOCATED SOUTH OF CLAY ROAD, JUST WEST OF KATY-HOCKLEY CUT-OFF ROAD IN THE CITY OF KATY; ALLOWING FOR FUTURE SUBDIVISION OF TRACTS OF LAND WITHIN THE "KATY COURT" PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT; PROVIDING A PENALTY OF \$2,000 FOR EACH DAY OF VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

Visit us online at [KatyTimes.com](http://KatyTimes.com)

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Willow Fork Drainage District, Attention: Ms. Wendy Duncan, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:00 a.m., Local Time, Thursday, August 5, 2021, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the 2019 Hurricane Harvey Erosion Repairs on Va1, Va9, and Va12 for Willow Fork Drainage District, Fort Bend County, Texas". Bidders may elect to submit bids electronically via <https://bids.lja.com>. Due to the pandemic and Federal guidelines of not gathering in groups of more than 10 people, people of the public who wish to attend the Bid Opening must do so by telephone. The telephone number for the Bid Opening is 713.358.8400, Access Code 0917176.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Repairing various slope failures in the District's Channel Network.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory audio/web pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, July 29, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time. To attend the web-format non-mandatory pre-bid conference, go to <https://micollabuca.ljaeng.com/call/0937122>. To attend the audio format non-mandatory pre-bid conference, dial 713.358.8400, Access Code 0937122.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided, and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or at <https://bids.lja.com>.

A Bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and bid securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and bid securities must be submitted through <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register and obtain bidding documents on this website for the required payment amount (if any) to submit an electronic bid.

By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

Willow Fork Drainage District

July 22  
Puzzle  
Answers

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9	5	4	8	6	7	2	3	1
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# Sarkisian aiming for consistency with Longhorns

BY ZACH SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

What's happened over the last few seasons at Texas is truly in the past for first-year head coach Steve Sarkisian.

"Winning is hard," he said at Big 12 Media Days last week.

While that sentiment is undeniably true, it's one that the Texas fanbase had heard before. Tom Herman said the same thing after beginning the 2018 season with a loss to Maryland and a seven-point win over Tulsa.

The difference is Sarkisian himself, who comes to Austin after guiding Alabama to a National Championship last season as offensive coordinator. Before that, he turned a winless Washington program into a national contender in his first head coaching job.

Sarkisian has coached in four national championship games and won two of them.

That three of Texas' losses last season came by a combined 13 points helps the case that the Longhorns are primed to contend for a Big 12 title immediately.

"Ultimately, success is our style of play and who we are as a program, and the consistency we do it with," Sarkisian said. "It's easy to (say) winning a championship is successful. That's the easy part. For me as a coach, I'm looking at it on a daily basis. When we start to answer the why it starts to resonate how we do on the field."

Running back Bijan Robinson is a legit Heisman candidate. He had 704 yards and four touchdowns last season, highlighted by a 172-yard, three-touchdown performance in the lopsided win against Kansas State.

Defensive lineman Keondre Coburn anchors the defense and is a finalist for the Chuck Bednarik Award, given annually to the best player in college football.

Sarkisian said the quarterback battle is still up in the air. Casey Thompson threw for four touchdowns in Texas' win over Colorado in the Alamo Bowl, while Hudson Card's dual-threat ability mirrors Sam Ehlinger.

Those players are embracing his 'All Gas, No Brakes' mantra.

"A lot of great things have been happening this offseason," Robinson said. "As a personality and a brand coming in and changing the

***"It's easy to (say) winning a championship is successful. That's the easy part. For me as a coach, I'm looking at it on a daily basis. When we start to answer the why it starts to resonate how we do on the field."***

STEVE SARKISIAN, TEXAS LONGHORNS  
HEAD COACH

culture of this team that we might not have had last year is pretty cool to see. I think it'll have a huge effect on the season."

Sarkisian is the third Texas football coach in eight seasons. The pressure from the fans and alumni is on to deliver a team that can compete for a Big 12 and National Championship.

That fact is not lost on Sarkisian. "When you accept a job, you accept all of the job," he said. "This is my third go-around at this head coaching thing. At the University of Texas, the expectations are very high. You have to embrace it and understand what they are."

Even if recent results haven't been the best, Texas is still one of the best programs in the country. The Longhorns are regularly in the Top 10 in recruiting rankings, while the facilities are top-notch.

Sarkisian said with six transfers and 26 new faces, there are a lot of new faces that need to help with the shifting mentality of a squad loaded with talent and potential.

"(We want) our team to be the more mentally, physically tough football team that's committed, disciplined and has a real level of accountability to the program first, to the team first," Sarkisian said. "Not getting up for one game or getting up for two games, but that's who we are on a weekly basis."



PHOTO COURTESY LIZ PARKE/BIG 12 CONFERENCE

Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian speaks to ESPN during Big 12 Football Media Days at AT&T Stadium.



Seven Lakes was ranked No. 1 in the Class 6A Texas Girls Coaches Association preseason poll released Monday.

## Seven Lakes tops preseason volleyball poll

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes led the way in the Texas Girls Coaches Association preseason volleyball poll, coming in at No. 1 in Class 6A.

Klein, San Antonio Reagan, Flower Mound and V.R. Eaton rounded out the top five in the 6A poll.

The Spartans finished last season with a 25-1 record and as state champions, winning three sets to one over Klein.

Seven Lakes lost ten seniors to graduation after last season, but does return three three-year letterman.

Along with Klein, other Houston area teams included The Woodlands, which was ranked

No. 10 in Class 6A; Fulshear, which was ranked No. 2 in Class 5A and Friendswood, ranked No. 9 in 5A.

The Spartans will start practice Aug. 2, with their first match on Aug. 10 at Clear Springs. Seven Lakes will open District 19-6A play against Katy High on Sept. 10 in a rematch of last year's Class 6A Region III final.

## PURE SOCCER

from page B1

years, soccer will become the second-most played sport in the United States.

"It's become very fashionable," McKenzie said.

The men created Pure Soccer Katy, a shop and training facility that serves players, coaches and clubs.

"Like all good ideas, this came over a few beers," McKenzie said. "One thing led to another, and before we knew it, we were opening on July 1, 2019."

McKenzie believes one reason soccer is becoming more popular is its accessibility. For youngsters wanting to try soccer, it's easy enough to register for the Katy Youth Soccer Club, a recreational soccer league. Families can register their players online at katyyouth-soccer.com, or at an upcoming in-person registration event. The first in-person event took place earlier this month. The second and last in-person event is from 10-11 a.m. Saturday at Pure Soccer Katy.

Online registration closes Aug. 1. Coaches will reach out to players by Aug. 29. First games are set for Sept. 11, according to the Katy Youth Soccer website.

Registration fees range from \$110-\$140, depending on the player's age, which range from 5-19 years.

"We've tried to collaborate with Katy Youth Soccer," McKenzie said. "We've always had a good relationship, and it works both ways."

Pure Soccer Katy gives players of all skill levels a chance to learn and improve their skills. It offers skills camps and indoor and outdoor fields for practice.

One such activity is TOCA training. A small machine "fires" size 3 soccer balls, smaller than regulation, towards a player. The purpose is to develop and improve skills and technique.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC HERRERA

Autographed jerseys from professional soccer players can be seen on the wall at Pure Soccer Katy. In the foreground is a jersey from Clint Dempsey, who grew up in Texas and went on to play for several English Premier League teams.

Training is important both to improve skills and learn the game better. There is more to soccer than chasing and kicking a ball. McKenzie said some parents have a lack of education about the pathway that a young player might follow to reach the next level.

Stoelwinder shared a quote from the late Johan Cruyff, a respected Dutch soccer player and coach. Stoelwinder said Cruyff felt one's level of play depended not on what he does with the ball, but what he does without the ball. A soccer match lasts 90 minutes, with a player actually touching the ball for six of those minutes.

Stoelwinder said Cruyff felt that the remaining 84 minutes, when a player isn't touching the ball, determines the kind of player he is.

"In soccer, you have four moments," Stoelwinder said. "You have offense, defense, transition from offense to defense, and transition from defense to offense. In two of those moments, you don't have the ball. In the other two, you do, but only one player has the ball."

Stoelwinder said position-

ing, and the mental approach to the game, are important.

"Your feet are just the tools," Stoelwinder said. "It's way more than just using your feet."

McKenzie said training sessions also involve working with volunteer coaches and referees. It's about educating the parents as much as the kids.

"It's really invaluable," McKenzie said. "You have parents who are trying to do right by their kids."

Pure Soccer Katy sells soccer jerseys, shorts, shin guards, socks and footwear for local clubs. But it is not a pro shop in that it sells replica jerseys or other souvenirs from professional soccer teams. The autographed jerseys on the wall are for decorative purposes.

McKenzie said some advanced players don't like to disclose their visits on social media. He said this is because they fear they might lose their competitive advantage.

Pure Soccer Katy will hold a 3-on-3 tournament from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Aug. 7. For more information, visit the Pure Soccer Katy website at puresoccerkaty.com.

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# Katy Times



BROME  
from page B1

he said. “You can’t go to Texas Tech and walk around that campus and that field and not fall in love with it. It’s just awesome. Everything from the trainers to the coaches to the weight room was just top notch.”

Brome appreciated that Tadlock had kept in contact with him since the beginning of the season.

“It was tough but I wouldn’t change anything,” Brome said. “This is where I want to be and I’m so happy it turned out the way it did. Texas Tech is legit.”

He was drawn to the program by its success on the diamond and with sending players to the next level. Texas Tech has made the College World Series four out of the past six years and had nine players and four commits selected in this year’s MLB draft.

“That’s exactly why I wanted to go to Tech, that’s exactly what I want,” Brome said. “They compete everyday and that’s the type of environment I want to be in. I wouldn’t be going there if I didn’t want to play at the next level.”

With so many departures from the program this year, it opens the door for Brome, who can play both first base and in the outfield, to potentially get playing time as a freshman.

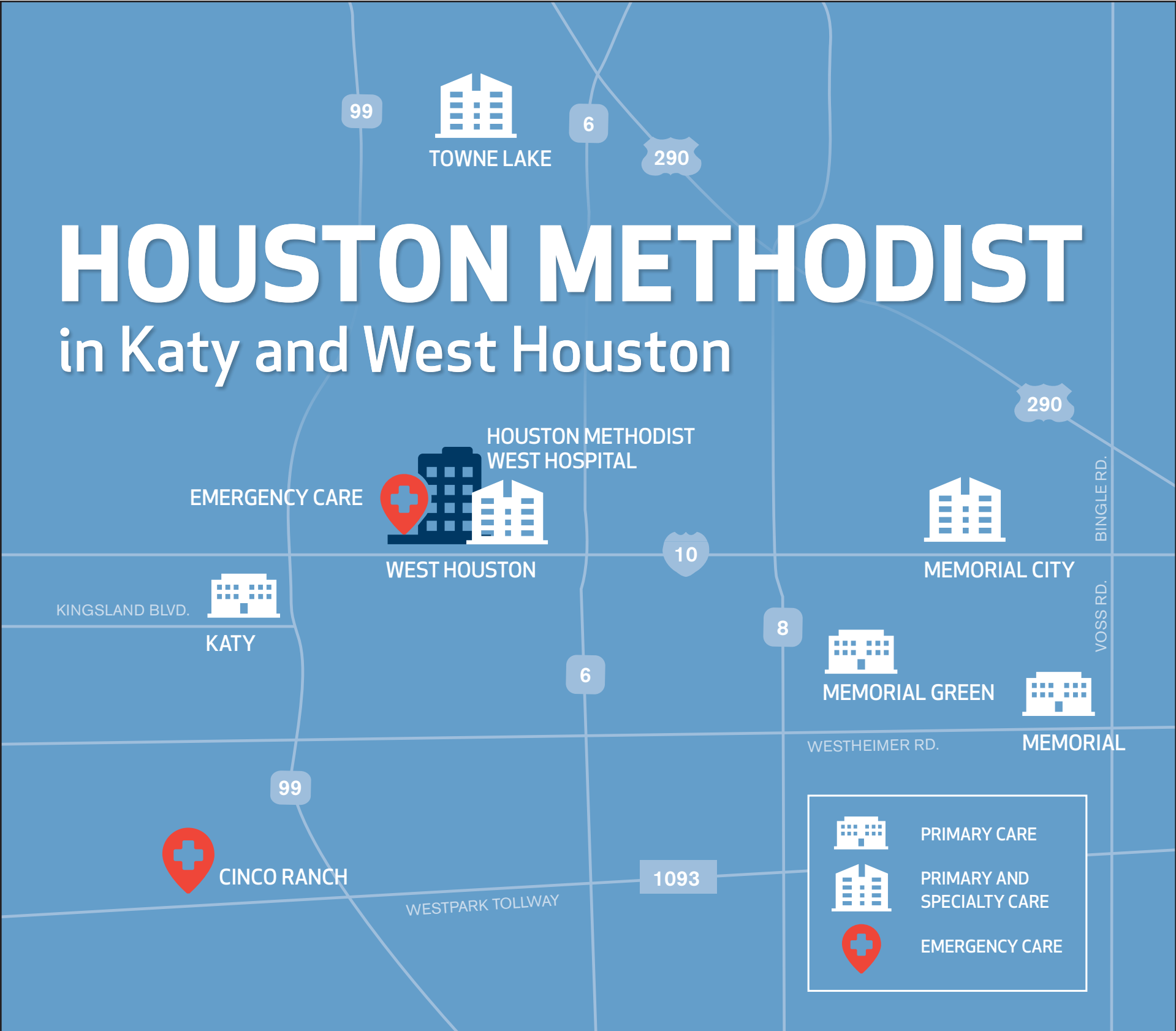
“They play the best guys on the team, I just have to show them that I can be one of those,” he said. “If I can get in there and hit the 98-99 mile an hour fastballs that they are going to be throwing in intrasquad scrimmages and get stronger and faster then I think I have a shot to play. But I know it’s going to be a lot of work. It’s all superstars that play there, it’s

not like high school anymore.”

Brome, who moved to Texas from Washington before the start of his freshman year, feels that his time at Katy High has prepared him for the next step.

“Coach Mac (Tom McPherson) does a really good job of getting us ready. A lot of people have a love hate relationship with him but over my four years here I really learned to love him. He’s a great coach, you just have to figure out how he coaches. Once I did, he took my game to a new level and made me excel on the diamond and on the mental side too. It did a lot for me.”

KATY ISD PHOTO  
Katy High graduate Ryan Brome has signed to play baseball at Texas Tech University.



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